

Q: Who's a historical woman that you admire?

A: This might be stretching the definition of 'historical' but my answer is Ginger Rogers. There is a well-known quote: 'Sure (Fred Astaire) was great, but don't forget that Ginger Rogers did everything he did...backwards and in high heels' and the older I get the more this rings true. I think that the legal profession is full of exceptionally talented women who are not only leading the way in their chosen careers, but also taking the lead in the domestic sphere. We are all too familiar with the concept of the 'mental load' and the idea that the demands of children, domestic administration and housework still fall disproportionately on women. And of course, this then feeds into the comparative progress of women in their careers, whether that be due to women taking career breaks or lacking confidence in putting themselves forward for promotions, unlike their male counterparts. So, it is important that we remind ourselves that just doing what we are doing (in high heels or otherwise) is already impressive.

Q: What do you love about your job?

A: Meeting different people. Finding out about their lives. Trying to find solutions to their problems. Variety is important. I like doing a mixture of work – finance and children. I also like acting as a private FDR Judge and mediator. I think that the move towards us trying to resolve cases outside of court can only be a good thing. Playing my part in that is satisfying.

Q: What career achievement are you most proud of?

A: Getting up in the morning! I've been doing this job for nearly 20 years, and I am proud of the fact that I'm still doing it and able to strike some sort of balance between my work and my family life. Not always perfectly, but most days keeping most of the plates spinning which is an achievement in itself. I also like to think that I am someone who gets on well with those around me and who can share a moment of humanity (and humour) with my clients and opponents. This is not only a more pleasant way to live, but it is also constructive. A large part of my job is diffusing high conflict and high stress situations. In order to find a constructive way through. And the ability to do that is an achievement that should be celebrated.



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Katherine advises and acts in all areas of matrimonial finance and has experience in dealing with complex cases involving high net worth and high-profile individuals. She advises and acts in relation to claims brought under Sch 1 of the Children Act 1989. She also practices in all areas of private law children work where she has experience in dealing with complex cases involving internal and external relocation and intractable contact disputes.

WOMEN'S DAY





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Q: What does success mean to you?

A: This is a difficult question to answer. It has meant different things to me at different stages of my career. There are external markers: whether I have a busy diary; whether I'm ranked in the legal directories; whether I take silk. But increasingly the way I measure my success is more personal: Did my client seem happier when they concluded their case than when I first met them? Was I able to make my instructing solicitor's day a little bit easier by drafting that document for them? Did I make it home in time to put my children to bed? Was I able to engage with at least some of the messages which pinged up on the school WhatsApp group today? Did I still have enough energy at the end of my day to ask my husband how his day was?

Q: What's a small thing everyone can do to embrace equity?

A: As women, we need to be more supportive of each other. A very simple thing that we can all do is to take the time each day to ask another woman how she is doing and to listen to the answer. So often, women spend their time making sure that everyone else is ok and fixing everyone else's problems. They put themselves last and sometimes they get overlooked as a result. In recent times I have actively sought out the advice and community of women. The ability to chat through my day or a particular problem with another female barrister or solicitor has helped me to realise that we all have the same worries and insecurities from time to time and that is empowering. It is only by normalising those feelings and supporting each other in our professional and personal endeavours and providing strong female role models and mentors that we can address the inequalities that still exist.

