



Mike Powell

LLB, 1999 and LPC, 2001

Employment solicitor, Scott-Moncrieff & Associates LLP

A change of direction

Many people see their work as just a job, not a career. This was the situation Mike Powell found himself in after working in IT for 20 years. *“I left school with just O-levels and began working in IT. Despite having worked with some major companies, towards the end I didn’t find my work fulfilling any more. I knew that I needed to make a change and although I wasn’t sure what to do, I had always been interested in law.”*

It is this passion for the law that shines through and makes it easy to see why Mike took the plunge and left his full-time role to undertake a two-year accelerated law degree. Initially though, it wasn’t necessarily with the idea of a complete career change in mind. *“The benefits of the two-year course were that it meant I wasn’t without a salary for too long and also that if I had a change of heart, two years later I could still return to my old career if I wanted to.”*

Study skills

Starting at university as a mature student was slightly daunting but Mike approached his course as a 9 – 5 job, albeit one with great holidays! During his LLB, he was able to get work experience with both the Crown

Prosecution Service (CPS) and various high street firms, one of which then gave Mike his training contract, and enabled him to train as a Witness Service Volunteer.

After completing his LLB Mike decided to qualify as a solicitor, and carried on with his studies by taking his Legal Practice Course (LPC) part time whilst working, with the hands-on experience being a huge benefit to his studies. Specialising in employment law, Mike has now been practicing for over ten years and hasn’t looked back.

A life in law

For those thinking of taking the plunge and re-training, Mike would advise thinking about it seriously. *“Changing career isn’t without risk and so it is something that should be considered from different angles. Having said that, I find working in the legal profession really fulfilling and I don’t regret my decision at all.”*

Even ten years after qualifying, Mike still finds his career interesting and stresses that the diversity of law means that there is an area to suit everyone. *“There are so many areas of law, and so it’s likely that there will be a specific area of interest that you’ll want to specialise in.”*



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