

Quiz – Should you be a lawyer?

1. Alarm

You sleep through your alarm and, at best, can only arrive at work two hours late. Do you:

- (a) Make haste and tell your supervisor you had to lodge your articles papers at the Supreme Court, hence your tardiness;
- (b) Call in sick and go back to sleep;
- (c) Get to work ASAP and then stay in the office two hours later than usual to make up for lost time; or
- (d) Put some music on, make some toast and have a longer shower than usual. Heck, you're already late, what's the use in rushing.

2. Research memo

You have written a research memo. On the day you are due to hand it to your supervisor, the High Court passes down a judgment on point. The upshot of the decision is that your memo is now total rubbish. Do you:

- (a) Whinge to your supervisor about how thoughtless and selfish the High Court are, and that if there were more women on the Bench this kind of thing would not happen;
- (b) Hand your supervisor the memo and hope he/she doesn't notice;
- (c) Frankly explain your position to your supervisor and spend the next 18 hours frantically re-writing the memo; or
- (d) Think, "What does the High Court know about the Corps Act?" and hand it to your supervisor unamended.

3. Email disaster

You send an email that was intended for your partner to your Partner. You used pet names. Do you:

- (a) Send a follow-up email apologising profusely;
- (b) Pretend nothing ever happened and see if he/she brings it up;
- (c) Feel your anxiety levels rising and call as many friends as possible to ask them what you should do; or
- (d) Make light of it and start calling your Partner by the pet name whilst winking.

4. Supervisor

Your supervisor hasn't spoken to you for a week. Do you think:

- (a) Oh God, s/he knows how much time I've spent on the Internet – I'm being frozen out;

- (b) Lawyers have absolutely no social skills;
- (c) He/she must be really busy – I should see if there is something I can help with; or
- (d) Good – I've done nothing wrong.

5. Secretary

Your secretary always puts your work at the bottom of her/his pile. Do you:

- (a) Do it yourself – secretaries have enough on their plate;
- (b) Go straight to his/her superior and snitch about how lazy your secretary has become;
- (c) Approach her/him and ask kindly that your work be done; or
- (d) Tell him/her who's boss and demand that she/he start taking you seriously.

6. Ethics question

You are asked by a rather scary Partner to attend a settlement. The Partner asks that you ensure that the client signs and dates each execution page. Three months later you pick the bundle of documents up off your floor to review before returning them to the client. To your abiding horror you realise that a number of the execution pages are unsigned and undated. Do you:

- (a) Swallow your pride, draft your resignation letter and go and approach the scary Partner;
- (b) Do absolutely nothing. Who cares?;
- (c) Fill in the date, leave the execution clauses blank and send the documents back to the client – hoping that you will be long gone if and when they become the subject of litigation; or
- (d) Spend a couple of minutes trying to find a pen with similar ink to that used by your client and then fill in the blanks.

7. Social butterfly

You are required to attend your firm's 25th birthday party, which your supervisor has stressed is an excellent opportunity for you and the firm to attract more clients.

- (a) Casually chat to a small number of potential clients, and occasionally let yourself get fired up by opposing view points;
- (b) Guzzle the free alcohol and launch into your best party tricks, David Brent style;



- (c) Sidle up to unsuspecting victims and pontificate on the High Court's most recent decision; or
- (d) Case out the room and target people you think might be interested in investing in your latest venture.

8. What not to wear

Your new section has introduced corporate casual Fridays. Do you:

- (a) Wear your most political T-shirt – you can use this opportunity to get some more air time for your cause;
- (b) Dress head to toe in Collingwood Footy Club gear;
- (c) Wear your suit regardless – investment bankers wear suits, why shouldn't you?; or
- (d) Wear what you'd wear on the weekend; if it's inappropriate, let them tell you.

9. Uninspiring tasks

Your boss asks you to sit in a data room and watch an accountant inspect documents all day. Do you:

- (a) Strangely relish in the idea of getting your billables back on track with minimum effort, and then wonder what that says about you;
- (b) Disobey your boss and bring in reading material and spend a boring but not unpleasant day;
- (c) Read the documents the accountant has finished with; if you have to sit here you may as well have a thorough understanding of the matter; or
- (d) Flirt with the (kind of hot) accountant and tell your best accountant jokes: What's the difference between an accountant and a lawyer? The accountant knows he's boring.

10. Dead boring

You are in a mediation with your senior partner, the client, a judge and the opposing lawyers and start to fall asleep. Do you:

- (a) Excuse yourself to go to the bathroom, and take a power nap by resting your head on the toilet paper roll;
- (b) Call client services and order coffee for everyone;
- (c) Wait for your supervising Partner to nudge you awake and later threaten to "cut your throat"; or
- (d) Yell "Objection!" and hope for the best.

11. Work/life balance

You have a dinner date with your hot new friend from Saturday night. You know you only have one chance with this person, and it's tonight or never. At 5pm you are told you are required to work all night. Do you:

- (a) Ring the hot date and explain that being a lawyer means constant disappointment in this regard and that this must be understood and respected;
- (b) Cry, scream, rant and rave;
- (c) Say nothing, do nothing, and miss the perfect date. You always put your career first; or
- (d) Forget about the date – another one will come along next Saturday night.

12. Constructive criticism

Your Partner deletes the entire letter you have slaved over and re-writes it with you under the cover of "constructive criticism". Do you think:

- (a) I'm never going to stay at work until 11pm for this person again;
- (b) So this is how lawyers make so much money, they just charge clients to redo something that was perfectly adequate in the first place;
- (c) This is a great opportunity to improve my writing skills; or
- (d) If the partner gave clear instructions, this little "lesson" wouldn't be necessary.

13. Written off

Your senior associate/supervisor has written off all your time on a matter and bumped up their own. Do you:

- (a) Sigh – you won't make budget now despite how hard you've worked;
- (b) Smile; you've resigned and you just don't care;
- (c) Dob them in to the partner – you're a lawyer, you're supposed to create disputes; or
- (d) Bribe your secretary to change it back.

Results:

Mostly a's – LEGAL AID LAWYER: You respect the law but feel your skills and abilities are not being developed to their full potential. You maintain a level head but are exasperated by many aspects of the current legal system. Consider throwing yourself in the deep end, if you are not there already.

Mostly b's – GO BACK TO UNI: You are clearly not interested in the legal profession, ethics or working as a lawyer. Reassess your skill set and your career choice.

Mostly c's – JUDGE: You are so confident in your abilities you are not sure why you haven't been elected to the bench yet (despite being a young lawyer). While you have supreme dedication to the law you still have a lot to learn. Like people skills...

Mostly d's – TAX MAN: You consider the law a "guide" only, and find it convoluted and dull. Your agenda is elsewhere – i.e. the Cayman Islands.

We recommend the Myers-Briggs personality testing for an accurate assessment of your personality type.

