

Staff Profile: Kiren Chitkara

Kiren works in Morrows Legal as a Lawyer. Here she reflects on her experiences with Morrows, her previous roles and other interests:



What brought you to Morrows, and what were your first impressions?

I moved to Melbourne from Canberra because my husband was put on a long term project in Melbourne while we were living in Canberra which meant we hardly saw one another; not cool. When considering potential new employers I was keen to look for a legal role that offered me a chance to develop an expertise in superannuation because I think it's a really exciting space so I was very pleased when I saw an opportunity come up at Morrows.

As I researched Morrows more and more I was really impressed with the vision of the firm as an holistic private wealth offering for clients, as that is exactly what I had been discussing with my mentor at my previous role in Canberra.

My first impressions of Morrows were that everyone was so nice and welcoming, and that there was a really good team spirit throughout the office. This was further highlighted to me by the Yarrowonga event.

As I started to work on client matters I really liked the fact that the systems were so organised and how easy MYOB is to use. I have been used to using multiple databases at any one time to work on client matters, therefore having everything on one easy to use system was really great!

What is your professional background and what do you enjoy about your work?

My professional background is law. I completed my law degree and a corporate and commercial Master of Laws in the UK and since coming to Australia I have completed the Legal Practitioner's admission board qualifications allowing me to be admitted in Australia. I have worked in large corporate law firms in both UK and Australia including Baker & McKenzie LLP and Norton Rose Fulbright and my most recent role before coming here was with Perpetual Trustees where I developed a keen interest and expertise in wills, probate and estate planning.

I enjoy working as a lawyer because I love interacting with clients to draft documents that allow them to achieve their legal objectives. I really enjoy the process of drafting where you have to keep thinking about all eventualities and all possible outcomes for a client. The fact that the law keeps changing also makes it exciting and means you really have to stay ahead of your game, so I think the profession is an interesting, rewarding and challenging one.

What's the best thing you like about Melbourne, since you've moved here?

I think Melbourne is pretty cool as there always seems to be something going on here. You can't really get bored, particularly if you have fairly easy access into the city.

This may sound rather strange but I quite enjoy the walk to and from the office from Flinders Street as it's nice to hear someone busking in the morning, or when you walk home someone is putting on a magic show. Random things like that make the commute quite pleasant, at least that part of the commute!

I am also a bit of a foodie so I love all the food events that happen here. Also as Melbourne is so huge it's great to discover a new café, bar or restaurant in a suburb that you had not previously been to (and then rave about it to your friends). As there are so many suburbs it feels like the discovery process will continue for some time. ☺

If you could witness any event, past, present or future, what would it be?

I would love to witness a period in time when people had to actively fight for a cause or where there was a major social change occurring in society that they were an active part of. For example the age of Enlightenment in Europe would have been a fascinating time to have experienced, in my opinion, as it really challenged the way societies thought and behaved.

It would be amazing to meet some of the great thinkers like Voltaire, Rousseau or Montesquieu and to hear first-hand their experiences and their beliefs and to just have an opportunity to sit and talk to them and learn from them.

Favourite book, movie or play?

I'm Indian and I love to watch a mix of Hollywood and Bollywood movies. I don't really have any favourites, but there are some "go-to" movies which I can just watch again and again. For example I love the *Ocean's 11, 12, 13* movies (any movie with George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Matt Damon can't be bad in my opinion!). In Bollywood, I love the romantic comedies, *Jab ne Met* is an easy one to watch again and again. Recently I saw *The Butler* and *Diana* on the flight back from Japan and I enjoyed watching both of those.

Do you have a favourite quote?

I have a few, but some of the ones I really like are set out below. Anything that keeps me positive, moving forward and keeps the creativity going has got to be good!

“Be the change you want to see in the world.”

“Actions speak louder than words.”

“Make each day a masterpiece.”