



To be good at this job, there are no shortcuts. You have to be committed, you have to work very hard and you have to put in the hours.”

— Ms. Brenda Lehmann

# BRENDA LEHMANN

BY ALICIA RESNIK |

Brenda Lehmann, an attorney who joined Beesmont Law Limited in 2012, has over 25 years of experience and practices corporate and commercial law. Her practice has an emphasis on banking and secured transactions but, she also has a wealth of experience in mergers & acquisitions, aircraft registration & financing, construction projects and commercial real estate financing and restructuring work. She has worked for Beesmont since October of 2012.

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“You don’t walk out of law school knowing how to be a lawyer,” says Ms. Lehmann. “To be good at this job you have to understand the fundamentals of law. You need to exercise common sense and good judgement. You have to be able to find practical solutions to real issues. Figure out who is really good at it and learn from them. The law

is ever changing so you don’t get to sit back and rely on your past knowledge. Every day you learn something – or push the boundaries of what you already know.”

Originally from Calgary, Alberta Canada, Ms. Lehman came to Bermuda in 2000 to work as a Senior Corporate Attorney for Mello Jones & Martin. She’s a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada (Ontario Bar) and the Bermuda Bar.

Ms. Lehmann says she didn’t set out to be a lawyer. “I always debated between being a doctor or a lawyer. I was given the ‘gift of gab’ and always liked to debate. I enrolled in the science program at St. Francis Xavier University with the intention of pursuing medicine. But it quickly became clear that if I pursued that route, there was no avoiding calculus. So I switched faculties, obtained an undergraduate Honors degree in Political

Science and headed to the University of Ottawa where I went on to get my LLB.”

Called to the Ontario Bar in 1990, Ms. Lehmann articulated with the “seven sister” Canadian law firm of Blake, Cassels & Graydon (Blakes), where she became an associate in 1990 and a partner in 1996.

In addition to being an attorney, Ms. Lehmann is active in the community. She’s been involved with Pathways Bermuda (formally Caron Bermuda) since its inception and became the Chairman of the Board in December 2015. She’s coached soccer, and baseball. She was the President and Secretary of the Y.A.O. Baseball Bermuda for 9 years. She enjoys traveling which she often does to see her son David who plays varsity baseball for the University of Western Ontario and, played summer AAA baseball with the St. Thomas Tomcats.

### What first brought you to Bermuda?

“Golf! I came to Bermuda with friends to play golf and got a job offer. It was a 3 year contract – 16 years later I’m still here. And no – I’m not a good golfer.”

### Do you have any advice for women who’d like to go into law?

“You have to be committed. It’s not an easy process. You have to be organized. The first few years – which are so

critical to get the solid foundation you need to be a successful lawyer – are a real grind. If you have a family, or outside interests, it becomes a real juggling act. It is doable – but it takes sacrifices.”

### Do you feel it’s harder for women than men in the field of law?

“It can be harder for a woman, particularly if she has a family, but I think it’s a much more even playing field then it used to be. Today there is a more equal sharing of parental responsibilities. You have to put your family first - this doesn’t mean not working hard, it means knowing your limits, and organizing yourself – maybe you have to work after the kids have gone to bed or you have to get up early.”

### Tips for success?

“Be confident! Figure out what your strengths are and capitalize on them. Recognize your weaknesses and either work on them or choose options where your weakness won’t be a detriment. You also have to learn how to say ‘no’. There must be balance in everything. You have to recognize that sometimes ‘no’ is the right answer. Don’t set yourself up to fail – but if you take something on then do it well.”

“You also need to take time for yourself. You are useless to everyone else if you don’t take care of yourself.”



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