

# SHARON A. BEESLEY

“I think it’s fair to say that I didn’t take a wholly conventional path to where I am today,” says Ms. Sharon Beesley speaking of the law firm she helped co-found. She’s a Director and the Chief Executive Officer of BeesMont Law Limited, which was established in April 2008 by Ms. Beesley and Mr. Marco Montarsolo. | BY ALICIA RESNIK

**M**s. Beesley Was Born In windsor, Ontario Canada and raised from an early age in Leicestershire, England. She attended Cambridge University and received her undergraduate law degree from the University of Westminster. “I decided I wanted to be a lawyer whilst studying for my A’ Levels and through hard work, determination and some great opportunities I was able to fulfill that wish,” she says.

Ms. Beesley arrived in Bermuda in 1992 to work in private practice after a short stint working for Denys Reitz in South Africa. She was familiar with Bermuda as an offshore jurisdiction from her time in the Hong Kong and London offices of Linklaters.

After 8 years working with Linklaters, Ms. Beesley took a sabbatical for a couple of years which included cycling from England through West-

ern and Eastern Europe to the Near East. During this trip, she worked with a small non-profit group in Romania, who assisted handicapped and other disadvantaged children discarded by the old communist regime and placed in orphanages which were very basic and often inhumane. Her time spent working with these children was the impetus for the concept behind the original ISIS Group which comprised a legal consultancy (due to local practice restrictions at that time) and management business and the then named ISIS Foundation (now Adara) a charity which worked to assist with improving the lives of children in Nepal and Uganda. The intent was for the business to finance to the extent feasible the funding of the charity’s administration and some project costs.

Another Bermuda charity Ms. Beesley’s been involved with for many years is KATKiDS, which is a volunteer group whose mission is to use the time, expertise and passion of its volunteers to raise money for projects supporting children in

Nepal, Southern Africa and Bermuda. The staff of the BeesMont Group, which includes BeesMont Corporate Services Limited, and BeesMont Special Solutions Limited, are also encouraged to be active in various industry committees and in supporting various Bermuda non-profits with the principal ones being supported Summerhaven, Pathways Bermuda (formally Caron) and the End to End.

In addition to cofounding a law practice and a charity, Ms. Beesley has developed a recognised investment fund practice and has advised on a wide range of corporate transactions that includes mergers and acquisitions and general corporate governance issues. She has throughout her 24 years in Bermuda been







active on various industry committees and is currently a member of the Asset Management Group (a committee of the Bermuda Business Development Agency), a Director of the Bermuda Monetary Authority and a member of the BSX Listing Committee. In her spare time, Ms. Beesley enjoys equestrian activities, cycling, skiing, reading and travelling.

**Was it difficult to advance, as a woman, in the field of law?**

“Well when I first applied for articles in my home town of Leicester I was rejected in favour of a male candidate but then I passed all my professional exams and he didn’t and the law firm didn’t hesitate to take me on instead! Since then and after several decades as a lawyer I’ve been fortunate not to experience any overt discrimination as a woman. But I was equally fortunate to have the opportunity to work for a great international law firm where gender was not an issue, I

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didn’t follow a conventional path with the former ISIS Group and then I was lucky to be able to find a great male business partner but then again Marco does have exceptional females in his life with his wife and 2 girls! Our law firm tends to be evenly split between female and male lawyers and having a son and 2 step-sons has also given me some insight into the difficulties faced by young males of the 21st century! Until men bear children, there will always be additional pressures on woman. I went back to work when my son Jean-Jacques was two months old. I haven’t stopped working since.”

**What advice would you offer to women wanting a law career?**

“It’s important to aim high and not be deterred by potential obstacles. Successful law firms want people who are good at their job, energetic and committed. And never be afraid to take chances in business opportunities.”