

Meet the team

Sally Arnold

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Meet the team - Sally Arnold

What do you do at Outset and how do you support our clients?

I am a corporate support lawyer in the corporate/commercial team. I am heavily involved with preparing due diligence reports, drafting a variety of commercial agreements and managing the support team. It's busy and varied, it requires patience and understanding and a well-honed ability to juggle a million things at once! Clients are incredibly busy and don't like getting bogged down in detail. They rely on us to filter through a huge amount of information and pick out the crucial points. I have a practical, problem-solving mind and communicate clearly and in as few words as possible (not something we lawyers are renowned for...) which helps to resolve things in a quick and commercial fashion!

Give us a brief timeline of your career so far

My journey is not the most traditional. I started in a big city law firm in London, moved in-house for a few years and then decided to give it all up for a glittering career in hairdressing! I have always been creative and when law wasn't doing it for me anymore, I took the plunge with a drastic career change. And loved it! Ten years on and I am practising again, thoroughly happy with the move back to law. When the time came, I knew it would have to be a special type of place with special people to entice me back – and luckily, I found Outset.



What has been your biggest challenge in your role?

Working full-time and being a single parent. Hugely challenging and stressful at times – you wonder if you are doing either job properly! But with every challenge comes huge rewards, and I am an incredibly proud mum to a fantastic little boy and manage to enjoy my job as well as being quite good at it too. So I must be doing something right.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I love the satisfaction of working hard, pulling something together as a team and delivering brilliant results. I am a real perfectionist and take massive pride in knowing I have not just met, but exceeded expectations. This of course is only possible with superb colleagues and support, and at Outset the people I work with make it all worthwhile.

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What do you think sets Outset apart?

The ethos is so different from a typical law firm. The quality of work is top-notch – but the values, the team spirit, the emphasis on work-life balance and supporting one another is something I haven't seen anywhere else. There is a positive spirit and a togetherness, which, when coupled with delivering brilliant, commercial advice for clients, makes Outset a special place to be.

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A fireman. But my eyesight is appalling so that was knocked on the head quite early on.

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What do you wish someone had told you when you started out? Or what piece of advice were you given early on that has stuck with you?

You don't have to do your job for life! Less so these days, but when I was starting out there was an expectation that you stayed with your career, through thick and thin. And if you were academic, there was an expectation that you shouldn't waste the opportunity you were lucky enough to have been born with. Actually, if you can do what makes you happy and fulfilled, you have achieved far more than doing what everyone expects you to do.



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What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

Punching and kicking the living daylights out of a punch bag – my best lockdown purchase by far! Keeping fit, hanging out with my son, cooking, creative interiors and design, dancing, gin and tonics and buying WAY too many outrageous and flamboyant vintage clothes. I already have a giant walk-in wardrobe but it is almost at capacity.

Who inspires you most and why?

Very tricky. I tend to admire those who forge their own style and identity, aren't afraid to stick their necks out and inspire others to take a risk or to feel confident in themselves. A collection of characteristics from people like Vidal Sassoon (creative genius who changed an entire industry), Martin Luther King (passion and commitment to equality), David Bowie (musical legend and inspirer to many so-called "misfits"), Kelly Holmes (fitness, grit and hard work personified), Jo Malone (built a multi-million pound business from humble beginnings with graft and determination) would be a good place to start. Oh, and whoever invented lycra – literally couldn't live without you.



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What piece of advice would you give someone in business?

I am, since lockdown, a convert to virtual meetings - having been a thorough cynic and slave to old school communication methods. Be approachable, open and keep your friends, colleagues and employees in sight and in mind. Showing an interest and keeping in touch goes a long way!

And finally... What is one thing you've learnt during lockdown?

That fitness is for life, not just for lockdown. I am, a changed woman! For the better.



Sally Arnold

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Scan the QR code below to save Sally's contact details

