



for women to go to the Bar as a natural career path in the same way there is for men. Many women who might consider joining the Bar are psyched out of it either by those around them or themselves. Concepts of self-doubt are magnified and encouragement and support is not generally given in the way it is for men. For women to break out of this mould requires them to seize the opportunity and take that all important first step.



Kerry says that a supportive partner has been a key to her success as well as managing her life outside of the law well. She sees respecting your client and the work you produce as key in the goldfish bowl that is the Northern Territory. For longevity's sake if no other, it is better to produce good work on fewer briefs than average work on many.



Life at the Bar is not easy, especially in the early start-up phase, but it invariably brings great rewards to those who take on the challenge and persist with it. If the success and approaches of these three women is anything to go by, the future for women at the Territory Bar is an extremely bright one. ●

Sally Ozolins

Practice Manager/ Crown Prosecutor, ODPP

'My mate Sal'

By: Nigel Browne
Solicitor

Sally or 'Sal' to her friends and colleagues, came to Darwin with her family in 1981 when she was seven years old. I am reasonably informed that she brought with her an impressive dolls house collection from 'The Big Rocking Horse' at Gumeracha in the Adelaide Hills.

Sal completed all her schooling in Darwin, attending primary and secondary schools in the local rural area. Following a student exchange to Brazil, Sal continued her studies at the Northern Territory University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1997, and a Bachelor of Laws in 2001.

Sal entered into Articles of Clerkship at the Northern Territory Attorney-General's Department (now the Department of Justice) in 2001 and commenced work with the ODPP as a legal officer soon after her admission in February 2002.

Sal currently practises as a Crown Prosecutor with the ODPP, with the added responsibility of Practice Manager for the Office. Apart from her work as a prosecutor Sal has also worked as Complaints Manager with the Health Professions Licensing Authority, and has sat on various boards and committees including her current role as rotating chairperson of the NTFL Tribunal, for which no 'off the ball' incident goes unnoticed.



Born of strong Latvian stock, Sal's dedication to her profession and her practise is a reflection of the positive upbringing she and her sisters received from their parents Karl and Kathy. In an age where commonsense seems a less common virtue, Sal executes her duties with a level of pragmatism, balance, and (as the name suggests) grace that has earned her the respect of her peers and seniors on both sides of the adversarial fence.

Being a local girl it is of course not all work and no play. Living on a 'tranquil' rural block with her partner Simon, the pair raise their own brood of three boys and two girls. Whilst the law takes up a fair portion of her working week Sal still manages to act as coach, driver, sponsor, and spectator at many junior football, soccer, cricket, and basketball matches.

With a sharp wit and a keen sense of humour to match, Sal represents that group of legal practitioners who have built long term work and family lives here in Darwin, those who are mindful that their everyday decisions have real consequences for the communities in which they live. At any level of the law Sal's contribution to the legal profession will continue to grow, as will her investment in the Darwin community. She is an advocate, a mother, a partner, a role model, and a dear friend. ●