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## EXECUTIVE WOMEN IN BUSINESS

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# Personal success is not simply a matter of where you work, but also whether you enjoy your work

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Company: Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP

Type of Company: Environmental and Energy Law Firm

Location: Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Education: Villanova University School of Law, JD

Western Connecticut State University, Ancell School of Business, BBA

Favorite Book: Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini

Favorite Movie: West Side Story

Favorite Restaurant: Nectar, Berwyn



### Tell us about your current position:

I am a partner at a boutique environmental and energy law firm. My practice focuses primarily on litigation of environmental claims arising pursuant to both common law and federal or state statutes.

### Why did you choose the field/profession you are in today?

Unlike many of my lawyer friends, I did not have inspirations of being a lawyer from early childhood. In fact, early aspirations included: meteorologist, teacher, personnel director and architect before settling on pursuing an undergraduate degree in business administration. My interest in the law developed after taking an employment/labor law class my sophomore year of college. The class exposed me to the thrill of debating complex issues and how the law has such a significant influence on so many aspects

of our lives. Twelve years into the practice, and I am happy to find myself still enjoying the thrill of debate.

### What was the most defining moment for you as a woman in the profession you are currently in?

Early in my career, I appeared as counsel for a witness at a deposition and was asked to step out of the room while the "attorneys" discussed some controversial documents. My confusion cleared moments later when the male court reporter appeared and my adversaries realized their incorrect assumption and apologized for falling prey to stereotypes. I realized then that while women may still run into old stereotypes in pursuing their careers, it is better to use it as an opportunity to prove your abilities so that others may not face similar stereotypes in the future.

### What is the secret to your success?

Out of law school, I thought

success meant landing a job at a big name law firm. I've come to realize, however, that for me personal success is not simply a matter of where you work, but also whether you enjoy your work. I feel I've achieved success on both fronts working at Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, where I work with great clients and incredibly talented colleagues on important matters, yet have enough flexibility to maintain a balanced life.

### Most important lesson learned in life:

Losing my father-in-law to pancreatic cancer reminded me to always try to make time with family, friends and loved ones as meaningful as possible. Memories can never be taken away.

### What inspiring word of advice would you give to a young woman about to go into the field of commercial real estate or your allied field?

Stay true to yourself. Learning to actually "practice law" can be very challenging on so many fronts for a new lawyer. I would encourage young women lawyers to seek out mentors for "how to" advice, but remind them to stay true to themselves in how they implement such advice. For example, one common misconception that comes to mind is that a lawyer has to be very aggressive to be

successful. In reality, I've seen a variety of lawyering styles work successfully, and even the most aggressive lawyers outmaneuvered by the more reserved and clever lawyer. I think it is more important to perfect a lawyering style within your comfort zone that exudes confidence, rather than to try to portray a style that doesn't fit.

### Who has been your best supporter?

My husband and best friend, Tom Moshang, III. As an attorney himself, he understands the demands of the profession and has always supported and encouraged me in both my career and as a working mother.

### Tell us a little about your family?

My husband Tom is an attorney with the Office of General Counsel, Social Security Administration. We have two amazing children, Kaitlyn (age 7) and Jake (age 4).

### Person most interested in meeting (Past or Present) and why?

My Grandmother. She passed away when my mother was only fourteen and I think she must have been an incredible woman to have taught my mother so much in such a short time. I have always wondered about the type of person she was—as both a mother and friend.

### What business and or social clubs or affiliations are you involved in?

I am Co-Chair on the Board of Directors of the Society of Women Environmental Professionals of Greater Philadelphia ("SWEP"). SWEP is a national non-profit professional association of women involved or interested in environmental law, science, business, and policy, which serves as a resource for members in the Philadelphia region, providing opportunities for professional development through educational programming, social events, mentoring, and public service.

### What is your motto?

Giving people the benefit of the doubt may prove less stressful in the long run. I have a long commute to and from work and used to get frustrated with aggressive and inconsiderate drivers rushing home at the end of the day. A few years ago, I was late to pick up my children from day care and could not get any car to allow me to merge into the lane of traffic. At that point, I vowed to always let those drivers in a rush ahead of me since they too could be on their way to pick up a sick or waiting child. I know that might not always be the case, but giving people the "benefit of the doubt" has resulted in less stress for me. ■