

# Shining Bright

**Niche chat with Parvien Akhtar who has been shortlisted in the Solicitor of the year category by the Leicestershire Law Society. Parvien tells us about her journey and how she's been put in the spotlight with her nomination**



Parvien says she always knew she was going to be a lawyer one day. Leicester born and bred as a teenager she often battled with those in authority on behalf of people in her local community. Her first litigation experience came at the age of 14 when she took on an insurance company who refused to settle her elderly neighbour's claim for storm damage. When the insurance company paid out in full there was cause for celebration.

She completed her secondary education at all girls' school where girls sadly were not really encouraged to pursue their dreams. "My careers advice teacher tried to steer me into totally different career path saying law was not for girls and especially not for someone like me but I refused to listen. In fact, this made me even more determined to pursue it, my heart was set."

Completing her training in London, Parvien qualified as a solicitor in 1998 and then moved back to Leicester: "It was a great job but with limited prospects and I knew that was not for me. I had already set up my property

investment business at the time, so I was no stranger to the world of business.

"I was prepared to put in the graft and decided to set up my own law firm as soon as I had the necessary three years post qualification experience. I didn't prepare any business plan."

Parvien's entrepreneurial spirit drives her not just to succeed but to excel at everything she does. Setting up Queens Solicitors in 2002, which was initially based on Queens Road the firm then moved to Uppingham Road area where it remained until 2010. In 2010, Parvien joined a regional practice as a partner when the firm merged.

However, in 2013 she jumped ship and set up her second law practice Bright Legal Solicitors: "I really did miss running my own business when I joined the other firm."

Parvien says her success comes from having a positive mindset, understanding her clients' needs and providing a quick response.

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This approach is one of the reasons she has such a large client following. It is her passion and determination in the face of obstacles that make her the successful litigation lawyer that she is today. In between all of that Parvien has raised her children and says the business world is tough but you have to be tougher, keep calm and carry on.

Bright Legal is based in the city centre and is a full service law firm. "These are exciting times for our firm as we are expanding and seeking to move to new premises in the near future.

"Looking back on the 20 years I have been qualified I really don't know where the time has gone. I can say however that I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment and for me it can't get better than that!"

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