

2009
OUTSTANDING
Women
IN BUSINESS

Anu R. Mullikin Devine Millimet & Branch

'Decide what is really important. If it is success in your career, then the next step is to define what success means.'



PHOTO BY JOHN HESSION

Attorney Anu Mullikin grew up watching both parents balance demanding medical careers while raising children. Today, Mullikin herself balances the joy and demands of raising her own two children alongside her husband with a successful law career at Devine Millimet & Branch, where she is a shareholder and chair of the firm's Trusts and Estates Practice Group and member of the firm's board of directors.

Committed to the professional development of

women, Mullikin serves as a mentor to many young women attorneys and paralegals and has developed a referral network of professional women.

Currently vice chair of the advisory board of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's Manchester region, Mullikin is also involved with the New Hampshire Estate Planning Council and is a member of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

Q. What made you decide to go into this type of work?

A. At about age 5, I just decided I wanted to be an attorney. In undergraduate school I took an accounting class and liked the numbers, so I majored in accounting. I was very interested in tax as well. I took several tax-related courses in law school and also took a class on wills and trusts, which really clicked with me.

I like the fact that my practice involves helping families. I get to know my clients and their families on a very personal level, and I can be the problem resolver that really puts their minds at ease.

Q. Have you found a difference in how women are accepted as successful in their chosen careers as compared to their male counterparts?

A. There are far fewer women partners in larger law firms than men, and therefore fewer women in leadership roles within those firms. So sometimes when women do find themselves in a leadership role, they have to work harder in that position.

Q. What was your biggest mistake and what did you learn from it?

A. My biggest mistake continues to be taking on too much. I have trouble saying no, whether it is to client demands, firm tasks or family commitments. In the workplace, I am able to delegate a lot to my team, which alleviates that to some degree, so I suppose I am slowly correcting this bad habit.

Q. Who has been most instrumental in your success and why?

A. My husband John, my parents and I are a team in taking care of my children. This allows me to be able to do what I do in my profession. My mother practiced medicine for 30 years, so being a full-time working professional mother is something I was used to seeing, and something supported by my family. Without that support, I couldn't put what it takes into being successful in my profession.

Q. What advice would you give to young women just starting their careers?

A. First decide what is really important. If it is success in your career, then the next step is to define what success means. Success in a career has different meanings to different people. No matter how much "equality" we have, women will always face choices when it comes to career vs. family. Women can have very successful careers, and can do it the same way men do it, or they can find other ways to make it work. The options these days are endless.

— Tracie Stone

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