IWIRC MEMBER PROFILE FOR NEWSLETTER

About you



Photo

Name: Debbie King

Company: AlixPartners

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Occupation: Restructuring Director

Education: University of Leeds

Qualifications: ACA, JIEB, BA (Hons)

Years in Profession: Over 20 years

Questions:

1. What attracted you to restructuring and insolvency?

   Whilst at university I knew I wanted to train as an accountant, but the traditional route of doing so whilst in audit practice was not for me. When I was offered an opportunity to train within a corporate recovery practice, I was immediately attracted to the more commercial and diverse work that it offered.

2. What do you like most about this type of work?

   The people. Whether in our own team, the advisors we work alongside or the clients we support, it is frequently inspiring to be part of a group using their creativity and passion to deliver a solution in often challenging circumstances. Just as importantly, some of those work contacts have in time become good friends which I really value.

3. Which case that you've handled do you consider to be the most important so far in your career?

   Supporting a member of my family as their business was restructured, taught me some valuable lessons about what it is like to be on the 'receiving' side of our work. Our roles in a restructuring are often intense with long hours, but experiencing the additional personal and emotional dimensions from a client's perspective has made me more aware of the personal impact of corporate financial challenges and how our

approach can affect the people we are working with - and consequently the success of the project.

4. What do you find the most challenging aspect of your work?

   Balancing the often competing demands of work and home, with technology and time zones both helping and hindering. Flexible working plays an important part in making that (mostly) successful and I appreciate the ongoing support that AlixPartners offers to make that possible.

5. What in your view are the biggest challenges facing the industry or the market just now?

   In recent years several jurisdictions have introduced marked change into their restructuring legislation to include more rescue orientated, debtor-led proceedings. These offer some interesting opportunities but to be effective they need to be used by experienced restructuring experts and judiciary. One of the challenges for us all is how we not only use these new tools for our clients' benefit, but also how we share our experience to support their maturity. I recently presented to a group of Saudi judges who through INSOL and the World Bank were keen to learn about the English (and others) approach to restructuring. The cultural differences made for a dynamic and interesting dialogue that made me reevaluate some aspects of our own insolvency framework.

6. What big changes would you like to see in the industry in the next year, 5 years, decade?

   Success in restructuring is often the result of innovation around old challenges, as well as effective team work. A substantial widening of diversity in our profession would not only positively contribute to the development of new ideas, it would make our daily work environment more enjoyable.