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1. Why did you go to law school?

I'd actually wanted to be a lawyer since 7th grade! My dad was an entrepreneur when I was in growing up, and I didn't really understand what he did other than that he was selling products or involved in imports and exports and working out of warehouses. Then, I went with a next-door neighbor (a father) to his law office for a take-a-kid-to-work day of some sort. I recall little other than that I fell asleep during a meeting and was impressed by the trappings of a Century City law office. I also remember him explaining to me on the drive how bankruptcy law is recession-proof. Somehow, I was left with a lasting impression that I wanted to be a lawyer, and this embryonic inspiration shaped my high school and college years. I was president of the speech & debate team, I was interested in politics, I took a pre-law curriculum in college, knowing from the outset that I planned to go to law school. I was attracted to the image of the profession, to the prestige, to the field of law generally, to the settings, to the nature of the problems. I never really considered alternatives and, in retrospect, was later surprised to learn how others found jobs after college.

2. When did you first think about leaving the practice of law or decide to quit law school?

Two years into my career at a boutique environmental firm in L.A., two things happened: My mom passed away and the partner for whom I was doing 95% of my work left to another firm. I reassessed. My mother's passing prompted overall reflection. Then, while I was very engaged before the partner left, I realized after he left that most of my engagement and enjoyment came from the pleasure of working with him. He was charismatic, smart, passionate, successful, and I thoroughly enjoyed working for him. Afterwards, I did work for several partners at once and wasn't nearly as excited. Eventually, I realized: - The future pressure of developing a client base was distastefully daunting - I didn't want to keep track of my time in 6 minutes increments for the rest of my life - Most successful partners I knew (1) loved serving their clients and (2) thought of legal problems as fun puzzles to solve. I shared neither the service mentality nor the enthusiasm at solving legal puzzles - At the end of the day, I didn't feel like I was producing anything. Legal costs were a cost center to my clients, one they wanted to minimize. I found their producing activities much more interesting.

3. What thought, experience or event first inspired your current career choice?

Once I decided to make a change because of the "push" away from the law, I concerned other traditional fields of professions: business, medicine. I don't like blood, so that ruled out medicine. And business seemed a logical choice. I looked into consulting firms that hired non-business professionals. But I realized after a time that I really didn't have any business knowledge or skills! I didn't even know what the array of options were. I decided to try to go to business school to make a transition. I didn't know where else to start.

4. What was the very first action you took when you decided to switch careers?

First, I started researching professional consulting firms. Second, once I realized I needed/wanted more education, I started research the business school application process, started studying for the GMAT and started applying.

5. What resources (people, books, money) assisted you most during your transition?

In the business school application process, I relied on Business Week's guide to business schools, along with a few others.

6. How did you handle fear and/or uncertainty during your transition?

I didn't really feel like I had that much to lose. I knew that my current life was not sustainable and that I was unhappy. I had to make a change. I invested heavily into trying to get into a top-notch school -- and succeeded. I poured effort into my experience there.

7. What skills from law school or your legal career have proven most useful in your new career?

Communication - written & verbal Logical thinking

8. What advice would you give to someone trying to make the leap from law into your field?

Do it for the right reasons. Running from law is not as good as running towards something you like better.

9. Any final words of wisdom? How has living your passion impacted your life?

Living my passion? When did I say that! I'm glad I left the law, although I miss the salary I would have now. I'm much happier to be in business. I don't think it's too late, but I think entrepreneurial adventures are next for me!