

Philippos Aristotelous

The freelance Legal Business Strategist on why he was not afraid to change direction after a 15-year career in law, how he now spends his working day and his leisure time, and what makes him happy with his life.



“I get up around 6.30am. It all depends on my three kids (aged five, three and six months) and if they wake up, so do I! Every morning I will take the elder two to kindergarten and then go to a place where I can work – an office, a cafe or at home: I communicate with clients or prospects, work on my public speeches and come up with ideas for social media content writing until lunchtime, when I pick up the kids. In the afternoon, my wife and I spend time with them and, in the evening when everything has settled down, I’ll maybe continue reading, researching and working. This has been my routine for just over a year now. Law was not something I was interested in from an early age. I was planning to go to Medical School but when I saw that my

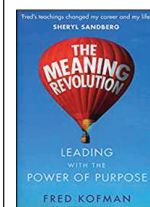
sister was doing it and, at some point, wasn’t entirely happy, I decided that it wasn’t for me either. My parents weren’t very pleased (!) but they gently guided me towards the law option, so I studied at the University of Kent at Canterbury and then at the Inns of Court School of Law in London. Although I have since changed course, I have no regrets about my choice of career. I take the view that, whatever life throws at us is part of a greater journey and we must take it one step at a time. What I liked about being a lawyer was not so much the hard-core legal issues but the peripheral ones: communication, public speaking, presentations. On the other hand, because Cyprus is an International Business Centre, legal matters have a completely different flavour here. The picture of the profession that I had in my mind when I was studying turned out to be very

different from the reality of Cyprus. I’m a creative person and, after 15 years, I felt that my creativity was being suppressed and I needed a change. When I left the law firm, I had no plan. I simply asked myself what I had enjoyed most in my career – mentoring people, coaching, public speaking and training – and on this basis, I reinvented myself! These days, once I’ve finished work, I like to spend time with my wife over a quiet dinner or we invite friends round for a barbecue. Home is my favourite place. I love reading, mainly non-fiction right now, on subjects like management, motivation and leadership. In fact that’s what led me to publish my own book *The Marvel of Engagement*. I can definitely recommend *Start with Why* by Simon Synek and *The Meaning Revolution* by Fred Kofman and Reid Hoffman, both full of incredibly useful and inspiring snippets of knowledge. I also play piano, I write music and some of my songs have been published. I love everything from classical music to progressive metal so I listen to Beethoven, Mahler and Bruckner all the way to Dream Theater, who are fantastically talented songwriters and technically brilliant musicians. My

wife and I like going to the cinema – we can’t do it so often now because of the kids but when we do, we really enjoy it. I love sci-fi movies like *Inception* and *Interstellar*, both directed by Christopher Nolan. We love travel and like to plan trips and holidays around good food. So it’s culinary travel to places like the Maldives, the US and France. Good food and good company! I don’t have a rigid plan or blueprint for the future but I try to apply myself 100% all the time and I have faith that this will help me continue with the same momentum. I believe that if we use our passion, our strengths and our intuition, we can take that leap into the unknown without fear.”



I love this movie



Highly recommended reading



Dream Theater are my favourite band

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