

# THE WORK-LIFE QUIZ CATHERINE GANNON

**What was your first-ever job?**

Chambermaid.

**What was your worst experience as a trainee?**

Managed to skip being a trainee as I had other qualifications before I entered law.

**Where's the best place to go if you want to find out what's really going on in the office?**

Don't have time for office politics.

**What time do you usually leave the office?**

As soon as I can.

**What do you do at weekends?**

The hard work starts as I have two precocious girls.

**What's your favourite restaurant?**

Taman Gang in Park Lane, London W1.

**If you weren't a lawyer what would you have been?**

Journalist writing hilarious tabloid headlines.

**What's your favourite film?**

All films by Pedro Almodóvar.

**What was the first record you ever bought?**

Something by The Bay City Rollers.

**Who's your hero and why?**

Simon Cowell because he's mega-successful and tells it as it is.

**What's the best thing about your job?**

Invoices paid on time, happy clients referring business and watching Gannons go from strength to strength.

**What's the toughest thing about your job?**

Managing many different but important aspects of a business that are all interdependent – being all things to all men all of the time.

**What's your biggest work/career mistake and what did you learn from it?**

I used to think people said what they thought but I now realise life isn't that simple.

**What car do you drive?**

Audi A3 convertible.

**What book are you currently reading?**

Various books on business and marketing.

**What's your favourite children's book?**

*Matilda* by Roald Dahl.

## CV

**Name:** Catherine Gannon

**Firm:** Gannons Solicitors

**Title:** Managing director

**Lives:** North London

**Education:**

1983-86: LLB (Hons),

University of Westminster

1989: Chartered tax adviser

1995: Called to the bar, Lincoln's Inn

2000: Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test

**Work history:**

1987-95: Tax adviser, Littlejohn

1995-2000: Associate, Baker & McKenzie

2000-02: Associate, Osborne Clarke

2002-present: Managing director, Gannons



**What's the most exciting deal/case you've worked on and why?**

There really have been so many I couldn't pick any one. Closing is always a great moment, knowing you've done your best for the client.

**If you were stranded on a desert island, what two**

**luxury items would you take?**

All recordings of *Desert Island Discs* and photos of my children.

**What's the worst partner conference location you've attended and why?**

We don't do partner conferences at Gannons as information is conveyed as it breaks.

**What's the longest you've worked without sleep?**

Twelve hours, but rarely.

**If a movie was being made about your life, which actor would play you and why?**

That's in my dreams so it would be Penelope Cruz because she's smart and sophisticated.

**Who would you least like**

**to be stuck in a lift with and why?**

Anyone snooty.

**Tell us two truths and one lie about yourself (in any order)**

I lose patience quickly; I speak my mind; I'm not straightforward.

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