

From: Glen Ewan
Sent: April 8, 2008 3:51 PM
To: Caroline Nevin
Cc: Bruce McKenzie
Subject: Small Town practise

Caroline

I just finished reading your page in the most recent BarTalk. Thank you for adding your voice to finding a solution to our dilemma.

I have been practising in Golden for 30 years. I have had the good fortune of wonderful staff, partners, juniors and students over the years.

Recently I had the pleasure of speaking at UBC law school about small town life. I was overwhelmed to find that more than thirty students came out during their lunch hour to hear an unknown lawyer from a town most of them had never heard of ("I think I stopped there for gas once" was a typical comment). The Law School Careers Office was instrumental in getting the word out for me.

Everyone was interested in life in the sticks and, eventually, asked about the income level. When I mentioned that some of us actually made a six figure income, there was a deafening silence in the room. They began to tell me about the burdens of their student loans, the costs of moving (again) and the myriad of family adjustments for a relocation out of the Lower Mainland.

Over the years of courting students and lawyers to our clearly better way of life out here, I have found many barriers. The biggest of these is simply the ignorance that city people have of the small town lifestyle. I won't even begin on the jokes like "yes, but what do you do out there?" I was born and raised in Vancouver. If someone had told me before law school that I'd be living and loving it in a little place like Golden, I would just have laughed. My wife and I have no regrets about leaving the city - moving out was the best decision we ever made.

I have watched with interest the "work-life balance" debate. The term is quite meaningless here. Work-life balance is why we are here. It defines our existence. It is why I can walk to work, along a wild river, in a place where there is no rush hour. It is why I can ski at a world class resort all morning and 20 minutes after my last run, be seeing clients in my office.

Keep up the discussion please. Call me if you need to hear more of the sales pitch.

Glen

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