



I started RHS in September 1975. For whatever reason, I soon became averse to academic study and consistently underperformed, despite encouragement of teachers, family and friends. After re-takes (and no revision), I managed to scrape together 6 O' level passes and then left School in early 1980 to join a Firm of Solicitors in Coventry as a Junior Accounts Clerk; earning £30 a week!

I soon realised that I wanted to progress and was encouraged by my Employers to train as a Legal Executive. It was extremely hard; working full time, attending college and studying whilst running my own home before I became a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives, some 8 years after starting the course.

During my time with the Firm, I moved through various Departments and roles and in 2004 I became the Firm's first Practice Manager – which required more study and professional qualifications (in Human Resources and Health & Safety) to enable me to effectively manage around 100 people. I was invited to become an Equity Partner of the Firm in 2010 and, as one of the first 100 Legal Executives to achieve this, I was suitably honoured and delighted to be invited by the Institute to attend a champagne reception at the Houses of Parliament – an experience I will never forget!

We took a business decision to sell the Firm in October 2013 and having spent 33.5 years there, that was a very difficult time. I then moved to another Solicitors' Firm for 2 years but am now enjoying some 'me' time before taking on my next challenge...

Throughout the years, I have remained close friends with a number of my former classmates and we recently held an amazing reunion at the School; still giggling like 12 year olds. My time at RHS taught me some strong core values, which should never be under-estimated. Without doubt, my career could have been a far easier path if I had studied and attended University but, at the time, it was not for me and I am confident I have achieved far more and am very proud of what I have learned in a way which was right for me.

Wendy Lord (née Sandell)