

Member Profile

JESSICA HERNANDEZ

By Laura Evans



In her first six months in San Diego, Jessica Hernandez, executive coach and founder of JLH Coaching and Consulting, has already discovered a wonderful community in Carmel Valley, a social and professional network in Lawyers Club, and a close-knit legal community in which she is excited to work.

Hernandez was born and raised in New Jersey, just twenty minutes outside of Manhattan. After graduating from the University of Vermont and then George Washington Law School,

Hernandez built a successful career practicing in securities, specifically mergers and acquisitions. After over a decade working in that area, she met her husband and moved to Washington, DC. Hernandez took that opportunity to make a career change. "At that point I wasn't happy practicing anymore, and it was important to me to be intentional about what was next," Hernandez said. After much research and self-reflection, Hernandez realized she was passionate about training and mentoring other attorneys.

A career counselor at her law school suggested a professional development role. "Professional development roles in the legal field are in two main environments" said Hernandez, "either counseling students in law schools, or working with attorneys in law firms." Hernandez quickly ended up at Georgetown University advising LLM students. Although she got a lot out of that experience, Hernandez realized that her broad background and expertise would be better suited for a position in a law firm.

Hernandez found her fit with the Attorney Development Group at Morrison Foerster. For the last eight years, she worked as an Attorney Development Manager at the firm, coaching and counseling attorneys at all levels and working on special projects and initiatives, including the firm-wide Women's Strategy Committee.

Certified as an executive coach, Hernandez helps attorneys in a variety of topics. "It really runs the gamut of things that can happen in the work space. Or, even beyond that, things that happen on a personal level."

Her recent move to San Diego has given her the opportunity to pursue a new career. She launched JLH Coaching and Consulting, which provides executive coaching and professional development consulting to individuals and organizations. Hernandez now works with individual attorneys in all environments on a broad range of issues, such as career transitions, effectively handling feedback, work/life matters, and business development. She also consults with organizations on professional development matters such as building effective feedback systems, diversity and women's initiatives, and programs to increase employee morale and productivity.

After moving to San Diego, Hernandez found another thing she loves – Lawyers Club. "I researched the market, came across Lawyers Club and was so impressed with it." Once here, Hernandez attended events, and joined the Professional Advancement Committee and Leadership Development Committee. She recently used her coaching skills to host a workshop about finding your purpose and aligning your values with your career.

Though she has only been here since June, Hernandez is "totally in love with" San Diego. In addition to spending time with her husband and two boys, she loves to run, read, and discover more of Southern California.

PROUST QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

What is your greatest extravagance?

Travel, without a doubt. I am happiest when in discovery mode – learning about different cultures, gaining the satisfaction of figuring things out in unfamiliar territory, enjoying new experiences, and of course, trying all different kinds of food! Now that we are a family of four, it is certainly more extravagant than ever, but watching my kids discover the world along with me is worth it!

What is your most marked characteristic?

Persistence. I don't easily commit to things, but once I do, they happen! However, this trait can be a double-edged sword; I've learned that I need to periodically reassess whether each of my commitments are continuing to work for me. Knowing when to let go is often equally as important.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Eleanor Roosevelt. She persevered through an incredible variety of hardships, marched to the beat of her own drummer, and lived true to her values, while in one of the most historically staid and publicly visible roles imaginable. And she managed to be widely admired for doing so.



Laura Evans is a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego and is a member of Lawyers Club Community Outreach Committee.