

and advocating for many different groups and educating the global team accordingly. If your workplace doesn't offer this, I'd encourage you to seek out an organisation that genuinely focuses on DE&I, and that offers support and education to increase your awareness of equity both in your professional and personal lives.

**DAVID:** What are you most excited about for your role and organisation in 2023?

**ZOË:** What excites me is that Media Monks is disrupting the industry. I've

been at Media Monks for just over 2 and a half years, and it never disappoints. It cuts across so many media disciplines, which means my team are always learning new things (and new things to dissect and understand from a legal perspective). Part of the fun is bridging the gap. The Data team like to think we speak their language (and we do try!), the Creative team are 'creatives', and these different pillars have different needs and risk profiles, not to mention spanning across multiple jurisdictions.

We are also so fortunate to have strong female leadership across the global

legal team, from the General Counsel to regional leads and the wider legal team, which certainly makes for a supportive environment for success.

**DAVID:** What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders in the industry?

**ZOË:** I'd like to be asked this question in another 5-10 years, but to draw on something I was told once and I think about daily - be ambitious, but if you don't practise contentment now, you'll never be content when you get what you want.

## Sarah Stone

Senior Corporate Counsel,  
Optus Satellite & Space Systems

**Antonia Wayne-Boyle**, Intellectual Property and Technology lawyer at Clayton Utz, speaks to **Sarah Stone**, Senior Corporate Counsel at Optus Satellite & Space Systems about what a typical day looks like for a 'space lawyer' and how we can #EmbraceEquity by giving each individual the tools or opportunities they need to succeed.

**ANTONIA WAYNE-BOYLE:** Could you explain your role and what a typical day looks like for you?

**SARAH STONE:** It can be hard to nail down what is a 'typical day', but I'll give it a go!

- Step 1: Wake up – often far too early – to organise kids and get them to school
- Step 2: Have a STRONG coffee. Note the success of completing Step 1 (get kids to school – on time) and the rest of the day's objectives is highly dependent on Step 2!
- Step 3: Check emails, calendar and prioritise the day's activities
- Step 4: Take or make a work call or join a meeting, then circle back to Step 3
- Step 5: Repeat Steps 3 & 4 endlessly
- Step 6: Get to the end of the day and marvel at how it ended up being so different from what I'd planned at the beginning

On a more serious note, my typical day is spent advising Optus' Satellite & Space Systems business on some really exciting and challenging projects. I get to have conversations with incredibly intelligent and talented Optus colleagues about the cutting edge and transformational space programs we have underway, including

the new OPTUS-11 spacecraft that will be in geo-stationary orbit 36,000km from Earth and the Mission Extension Pod we plan to attach to one of our existing satellites to extend its life. I learn something new every day and consider myself incredibly fortunate to be able to call myself a 'space lawyer'.

**ANTONIA:** What developments do you see on the horizon in 2023 for the communications and media law landscape?

**SARAH:** In my area in particular, the increasing focus on commercialisation of space activities is a gamechanger. The laws that apply to space activities are generally a combination of international space treaties made at a time when space exploration was controlled by governments, and national laws that don't necessarily translate well to activities in space. It will be really interesting to see how legal and regulatory frameworks evolve to accommodate this 'new frontier'.

**ANTONIA:** Is there anything you have learned through your career that you would like to give as advice to your younger self?

**SARAH:** Believe in yourself and don't let those feelings of being an 'imposter' take over. I've battled imposter syndrome my whole working life (and still do!). However, I've realised now I need to trust



the angel on my shoulder and not give in to that devil inside my head (...kudos to anyone who recognises the reference to a Kaskade song... EDM rules!)

**ANTONIA:** The 2023 IWD campaign theme is #EmbraceEquity. What does this mean to you and how might that be implemented in our readers' work and personal lives?

**SARAH:** For me, #EmbraceEquity at its very basic level means giving each person a fair go by providing them with the tools or opportunities they (as an individual) need to be successful. It's not enough to treat everyone the same. We need to recognise and celebrate everyone as an individual.

**ANTONIA:** If there is one thing you would celebrate about the legal industry on International Women's Day, what would it be?

**SARAH:** Our willingness to adapt and challenge traditional norms. It can sometimes be hard-going, but each time we do it, we challenge those stereotypes and show that as an industry we can #EmbraceEquity.