



AMBER & NAOMI SHARP
SISTERS
MARQUE LAWYERS AND SIXTH FLOOR
SELBORNE WENTWORTH CHAMBERS SYDNEY



According to sisters Amber and Naomi Sharp, L.A. Law has a lot to answer for. Although Naomi - a barrister at Selborne Wentworth Chambers in Sydney - attempts to attribute her decision to become a lawyer to an interest in politics and a desire to engage with society, Amber - a partner at Marque Lawyers - is quick to point out that the American legal drama was by far the more pertinent influence.

But despite lofty visions of glamour and scandal, the sisters soon found that the corporate legal world is quite different to what they had imagined.

"We suddenly discovered that big commercial law firms don't have glamorous criminal law practices, and that is where it all fell apart," laughs Naomi.

"And you actually have to do work as well! In L.A. Law, it was all about standing by the coffee machine."

After such a shock, it is no surprise that neither sister ended up in a typical commercial law firm. Naomi chose to pursue a career at the bar following a stint as an academic, and now uses her "endless reserves of energy" to maintain a busy and diverse practice, as well as raise two young children.

"[Corporate practice] wasn't my bag. I wanted more autonomy and a more intellectual practice, so I thought the bar would be a good way of doing that," says Naomi.

Amber, on the other hand, stuck with commercial practice for several years before a (very) brief stint as an applicant lawyer drove her straight back into the corporate fold, albeit a somewhat atypical one.

"[The applicant firm] didn't have enough coloured highlighters to support me, and the stationary cupboard was too small. I couldn't take it," jokes Amber.

"I quickly went back to the corporate world. Marque, though, is not your standard law firm."

As one of the "founding mothers" of new-age firm Marque, Amber is delighted with the young firm's success in the market place thus far, and is grateful to have her weekends back so she can spend time with Naomi and the kids (until, she adds, they start to cry or smell funny).

But as much as they like to joke, it is clear the sisters are immensely proud of one another - despite the fact they used

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to beat each other up as children - and the support they give each other in their careers is vital.

"My sister is my best friend. She really is, and she has always been such a support for me," says Naomi.

"I think that success begets success, and we have always supported each other, which has been a nice driver to achieve more."

