

Nicole Garton-Jones

Owner, **Heritage Law**
Age: 38

Nicole Garton-Jones abandoned the high-stress world of corporate law to start her own firm and pursue balance between her work life and personal life.

And then she found out she was pregnant, and, in addition to a baby, **Heritage Law** was born – a boutique firm that leverages technology to employ skilled lawyers who are also moms.

“I’d like to say I had this strategic plan, but it was born out of necessity,” she laughed.

Since its inception in 2005, Heritage Law has grown to include two offices and some 13 staff and lawyers.

Heritage Law employs a central cloud server that allows its lawyers to connect with the office whenever they need to,

allowing them to tailor their schedule so they never miss a soccer game or a school play.

“The firm is wherever your Internet connection happens to be,” she said.

But after five years of hard work, Garton-Jones needs to figure out how large she wants Heritage Law to be – and she believes it could be big.

Every week, she receives resumé’s from female lawyers who want to trade the “lockdown” environment of big firms for something that allows them to have lives beyond the office.

Garton-Jones also said there are more women than ever graduating from law school, but long hours and tough conditions have many of them leaving their careers behind a few years on.

“The profession is not



keeping women in ... it hurts the public because it’s a profession that’s not representative of the public, and the baby boomers are starting to retire so there’s a [human resources] issue ... if we’re losing more than half of our graduates, that’s

a real problem.”

Garton-Jones said now is the time to appreciate what Heritage Law has accomplished, and then she’ll answer the size question.

“The firm will grow. The question is how quickly and how big?” ■

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Birthplace: **Vancouver**
Where do you live now: **West Vancouver**
Highest level of education: **Bachelor of laws, UBC**
Car or chosen mode of transport: **Volkswagen Passat Wagon**
Currently reading: **Breaking Robert’s Rules by Lawrence E. Susskind**
Last CD bought or music downloaded: **The Killers**
Favourite local restaurant: **Bacchus Restaurant and Lounge**
Profession you would most like to try: **Journalist**
Mentor: **Debra Sing**
Toughest business or professional decision: **Starting a solo law firm**
Advice you would give the younger you: **Know yourself and watch the money**
What’s left to do: **Continue to grow Heritage Law, help develop the area of elder and estate mediation, raise healthy and happy children and leave a legacy**



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