



**Kathy Sozou**

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## In what year did you become a registered liquidator?

I became a registered liquidator in 2018.

## Briefly summarise your work history.

I started as a graduate within KPMG's Corporate Recovery practice in the early 2000's and spent 3 years with KPMG in London before returning to McGrathNicol in late 2006. I have worked in the Restructuring industry throughout my entire career and made Partner in 2017.

During the course of my career, in addition to my international secondment, I had a six month secondment into the distressed credit team at a major Australian Bank and have three rounds of maternity leave.

I have served on the Committee of IWIRC (now WINA), am on the ARITA Executive as Vice President of the Board, Chair the ARITA Balance Taskforce and am Deputy Chair of the NSW/ACT Division Committee. I also serve on the McGrathNicol Board.

## What industries do you have experience in?

- Retail
- Insurance
- Renewable energy
- Aged care
- Property
- Manufacturing
- Government and health advisory
- Franchising
- Investment banking

## Which external administration/receivership has been a career highlight for you, and why?

It's a tough question to answer as every engagement seems to have a unique aspect that I think fondly of (with the benefit of hindsight), but one that really sticks with me was actually quite early in my career whilst working in the UK.

I was working on an Administration of a national frozen dessert manufacturer, and I was based on site in a small, working class town in the North of England. The company was one of the largest employers of unskilled labour in town, with multiple generations from the same family often employed. The appointment happened in early December, and it was highly likely that our site was going to be closed, resulting in the loss of jobs in the lead up to Christmas.

We managed to execute a sale agreement at around 5pm on the 24 December, which resulted in all the employees transitioning to the new owners. When the site re-opened after Christmas, the sense of gratitude from staff across the business from the production line to Management is something I will never forget.

It remains the most tangible memory of what a successful restructure can achieve.

# Kathy Sozou

## What is your advice for aspiring registered liquidators?

Put simply – “go for it”. If I think back to my thought processes about whether I wanted to be a partner in a Restructuring firm, and then progress to being an appointment taker, I wasted a fair amount of time and energy coming up with all the reasons why I shouldn’t do it, rather than considering the positives that would come from if I did.

There is no doubt that becoming a registered liquidator and taking formal appointments is a significant career milestone, but it is not something that should be feared. Trust that your skills, experience and achievements to date will all form part of the toolbox that you draw on to be a successful Registered Liquidator.

## What are your other interests?

Outside of work I tend to spend most of my time with my family. Managing three kids across three different schools and various activities feels like another full time job at times.

## TMA Voluntary Code for Equitable Insolvency & Restructuring Appointments (EIRA)

The EIRA is part of a suite of initiatives by the TMA using generous sponsorship from Houlihan Lokey intended to increase the engagement and retention of women in restructuring and turnaround.

Thanks to the TMA Australia member firms who have signed up to this important initiative.

