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Life in Balance: Mallory Fisk refurbishes furniture to escape her hectic schedule

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Mallory Fisk has always kept herself busy and juggled a lot of projects, jobs and extracurricular activities – starting at age 8 when her dad taught her how to use a radial arm saw. As an associate attorney at Summers Compton Wells, that busy schedule hasn't changed. Today, she helps run the firm's cannabis practice, has volunteer office hours at Venture Cafe and is involved on the Young Friends Council of the Missouri Botanical Garden and the board of the St. Louis Sports Commission, among others. As a way to de-stress from her busy schedule, Fisk enjoys finding old pieces of furniture and refinishing or repurposing them for her home in Benton Park.

What kind of law do you practice? Everyday is different. But I am a transactional attorney focusing on the cannabis space. I represent companies seeking licenses to cultivate and manufacture products or dispense marijuana in Missouri. This summer was really busy – leading up to the application deadline. There was a lot of work that went into those applications. My roles here prior to the cannabis space were pretty similar. I help people protect intellectual property, acquire real estate, navigate regulations and none of that has changed because it applies well in cannabis.

Has taking up cannabis law changed your job in any other way? Not exactly – other than the hours being crazy. It's more time intensive, that's for sure. We did some CBD work here before, so we



Mallory Fisk of Summers Compton Wells refurbishes antique furniture in her spare time.

had our foot in the door already. But whether companies sell cannabis or not, they have intellectual property to protect and they have real estate. The difference was learning cannabis law and advising them on tax issues and certain things like that. There's more risk to consider there.

How are you involved with Venture Cafe? Myself and other attorneys here at the firm hold volunteer office hours at Venture Cafe. It's a time that members from the community can come and ask legal questions. We can't always answer everything, but we try to provide guidance as much as we can. It's usually small businesses and startups. There are always a lot of questions about raising capital and real estate. We've been doing that for three years now and go once a month.

Your job sounds stressful. How do you de-compress? For one thing, I like to be as sustainable as possible. I don't like to buy things if I don't have to. And furniture is easy not to buy new because of quality and detail. Old pieces of furniture are solid wood and just beautiful. So I really enjoy finding those old pieces and refinishing or completely repurposing them for my home. My dad had a construction company when I was a kid so I always helped out – it kind of stems from that. Once I bought a house, I really had to be handy. Sometimes the pieces I get are really easy and all I have to do is clean them up and replace the hardware. But sometimes I repurpose them entirely, like turning a door into a table. I have this plant wall with drawers that I turned into shelving.