

Murziline Parchment - Panel Interview Notes

Career History

After completing her bachelor's degree in Law at Southampton University and a Diploma in French Studies Université D'Aix (L'Ecole d'Etrangere), Murziline began her career as a Paralegal for Slaughter and May Solicitors in London in 1987. Whilst at Slaughter and May, a leading international law firm, she completed her bar exam. After qualification she joined the chambers of Michael Fitzgerald Q.C. working as a self employed barrister specialising in public and planning law. After 10 years she joined Denton Wilde Sapte Solicitors as part of the senior leadership team. She continued to practice, though this move allowed her to develop team management and operational skills. She had by this stage developed a particular specialism in regeneration.

In 2000 Murziline was seconded to the Greater London Transition Team (GLATT) as the Interim Head of Law. The GLATT was set up to make arrangements for the establishment of the Greater London Authority (GLA) and to help the Mayor and the Assembly to operate effectively from day one. The Transitions Team comprised 52 temporary staff, of which 17 were on secondment. Within this role Murziline led a team that worked in aspects of the establishment of the GLA and its functional bodies, including the drafting of secondary legislation and devising governance arrangements. She helped to grow the organisation from 3 to 400 before returning to her full time position with Denton Wilde and Sapte.

Murziline returned to the Greater London Authority as Director of Major Projects and Service Delivery in 2003. In this role within the Mayor's first administration, she was responsible for ensuring preparation of new large scale infrastructure projects and services such as the Thames Gateway Bridge, the projected West London Tram, and the London Development Agency's affordable childcare investment programme. She also played a key role in restructuring the GLA and the LDA; taking both organisations on a performance improvement drive and making them better able to respond to the mayor's key priorities.

She was also a Member of the Board of Transport for London, as appointed by the Mayor. Within this delivery role she managed resources and led teams.

The Mayor's London Development Agency is the Regional Development Agency for London. Its Board is appointed by the Mayor. It must have a majority of members with a business background but also has four members from elected local authorities. Corporate management style with multi-discipline teams. Murziline has a very corporate, open door policy in leadership style, described herself as Mayor Trouble-shooter.

Motivation for the role

Murziline remains very committed to the public sector and finds Tower Hamlets to be an exemplary borough, with a fantastic reputation. She is motivated by the challenge of tackling some of the social inequalities, through the implementation of the existing excellent community engagement strategies and community plan.

Technical Summary

Murziline was unable to demonstrate the technical competencies required for this role. Her knowledge of the local government landscape was significantly lower than the rest of the field.

She has less understanding of Tower Hamlets and the challenges it faces. Her expertise was less detailed than the rest of the group.

As a successful barrister Murziline's powers of advocacy and presentation were strong but she was consistently unable to demonstrate the technical skills, gravitas or subject matter knowledge to undertake this role.