

Day in the Life: Chrissy Teske (Past President, Social Committee Chair, Senior Attorney - Commerce Bancshares)

7:00 a.m.: Alarm goes off, no snooze. Snoozing is my total downfall. I also have seven-year-old twins, one of the many perks of them getting older is they no longer wake with the sun.

7:00-8:00 a.m.: First, I log in to review my calendar for meetings and priorities for the day ahead. I wake up the kids and get them breakfast (and if they have in-person school I get their lunches ready). Then it is time to get myself and the kids ready for the day ahead. The morning routine is less stressful, as, like many others, I am currently working remotely every day due to the pandemic.

8:00-8:30 a.m.: I sit down in my home office and get to some emails that are “quick wins” and look at the top three key action items on my list. Today, my first priority is getting ready for a virtual Legal Department meeting that starts at 9:00 a.m. At 8:30 a.m. I leave to take the kids to school.

9:00-11:00 a.m.: I log into my virtual Legal Department meeting. Our legal team is split between St. Louis and Kansas City. This a weekly opportunity for us to come together and discuss our week and any “shareables” we may have. This could be anything from a complicated branch support matter that was escalated to the legal department for guidance, a particularly complex commercial lending transaction and the problem solving that needed to take place to get it closed, consumer related issues, ongoing or proposed litigation, to name a few. We also exchange tips on how to deal with some of the more unique situations we may come across.

11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.: Time to catch up (or at least try to catch up) on priority emails and calls I missed during the meeting. I start to work on a Collateral Release for a commercial lending customer. Exchange emails and calls with our branch support staff related to an issue of guardianship.

12:00-1:00 p.m.: Lunchtime! A quick light lunch and a quick 30-minute workout. A luxury I have now that I am working from home.

1:00-2:00 p.m.: Commerce Bank Super Champions virtual meeting. This team is responsible for bank accountability to our corporate culture. We start off by talking about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion culture at the bank. I currently sit on the bank’s DEI Council and engage in a discussion of what the Council is doing parallel to other bank efforts.

2:00-3:00 p.m.: Virtual meeting with our department’s Corporate Real Estate working group to discuss current forms and their use.

3:00-3:30 pm.: Virtual meeting with the LIBOR working group and outside counsel to discuss changes to necessary bank policies and procedures related to the cessation of the use of LIBOR.

3:30-4:00 p.m.: I answer a few quick emails and leave to pick the kids up from school. While in the pick-up line I take a call from our branch support staff related to a court order presented for access to an account currently subject to a pending litigation.

4:00-4:30 p.m.: Virtual meeting with our Talent Management (Human Resources) Legal Working Group to discuss updates on current employee claims, litigation and change in regulations.

4:30-6:30 p.m.: Catch up on emails, calls, whatever is sitting in my queue that can be dealt with today. I try to make a few calls but “bank hours” are truly “bank hours” and it appears most of the people I need to talk to have called a day. As a result, I leave a series of voicemails that a WAY to long. I revisit my priority list and reprioritize as need for the next day. I start dinner for the family and make sure homework gets done and backpacks are ready for tomorrow.

7:00-10:00 p.m.: Family time!! Then to bed to start fresh the next day!

See how Chrissy supports Diversity and Inclusion at her work:

<https://www.commercebank.com/personal/ideas-and-tips/2020/for-the-greater-good-chrissy-teske-advocates-for-inclusion-and-diversity>