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Day in the Life: Mariana Antcheva

Interviews and Profiles





Mariana Antcheva

General Counsel and Secretary

Lytro, Inc.

Mountain View, CA, USA

6:20 am

The alarm turns on **NPR**. My husband goes jogging, but I stay in bed. Sometimes I check email while I'm horizontal, but not today.

7:20 am

I get up to say goodbye to my 14-year-old daughter and get ready for work. I say, "**Hurry up!**" to my six-year-old son at least 20 times.

8:00 am

We are out the door on our way to the **kindergarten** drop off.

8:45 am

I arrive at work, **triage the accumulated emails** and respond to the urgent or easy ones.

9:15 am

My morning ritual: **A cup of tea and fruit** for breakfast from the cafeteria. My careful fruit peeling and cutting draws comparisons to surgery from my coworkers. I use this time to mentally go over my plan for the day, prioritize tasks and start thinking about some of the more complicated legal issues.

9:30 am

HR has asked me to review updated **compensation documents**. I provide some editorial suggestions, reread my go-to article about 409A and triple-check the 409A-related language in the documents. It always makes me nervous.

10:30 am

I review several draft documents and, after some research, respond to various legal questions by coworkers. The operative word in my title is “general.” Today, in this hour alone, I deal with an **immigration issue, an IP issue and a capitalization issue.**

11:30 am

I go over the headlines in the **ACC Newsstand** every day. This helps me keep up-to-date with relevant legislative and case law developments, as well as learn about rare — but possible — legal issues that I may encounter.

12:00 pm

On busy days I have lunch “al desco,” but **I make an effort to have lunch with my coworkers** most days. It builds trust and rapport. Today’s conversation topic: Best Practices in Relieving Nasal Congestion in Babies.

12:45 pm

I work with the sales team on several distributor agreements. When I need a break, I mentally travel to the countries of the various distributors and imagine what it would be like to buy a Lytro camera there.

2:00 pm

Lytro is a privately held, VC-backed company and over time our capitalization structure has become quite complex. **I periodically audit our capitalization records** to verify that they are accurate and up-to-date. Usually, this is a five-minute process. Today, I notice a discrepancy and it takes me 90 minutes to find the cause and fix it.

3:30 pm

I go over several terms with a prospective consultant in a draft consulting agreement. The agreement has somewhat unusual terms, and it is helpful that the consultant is actively engaged in reviewing it.

4:00 pm

I discuss a proposed patent filing with the product management team. We agree to move forward with the filing, and I contact Lytro’s outside patent counsel with the news.

4:30 pm

I serve as a liaison to our investors. Today, I provide capitalization information to one of them and a quarterly update to another.

5:30 pm

I strategize my approach to a series of **export controls analyses** that we need to perform over the

coming weeks.

6:00 pm

I go home. **My seven-minute commute in Silicon Valley** is the equivalent of winning the lottery.

6:07 pm

Family time! I try to find out how my teenager's day was and have a tenacious negotiation with my kindergartner about the amount of video game time. My husband and I chat about our days. We eat leftovers for dinner and play "Two Truths and a Lie."

9:00 pm

Kids are in bed. I check my work email and respond to a few urgent messages.

9:30 pm

This would be the time to focus on a difficult drafting project or another issue that requires quiet time and intense concentration. Fortunately, no such projects are on the agenda for tonight. Instead, **I read the latest Lee Child novel.** I am a detective novel junkie.

11:00 pm

My husband and I watch the **evening news.**

11:30 pm

Good night.

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