

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2007

Cutting the red tape

Ex-legal investigator organizes her life

By Karen Tina Harrison
Special to amNewYork

The big career switch:
From legal investigator to professional organizer

Who pulled it off:
Ann Sullivan, 45

What she does:
Sullivan runs an organizing and relocation company, Ann Sullivan, Inc. (www.annsullivan.com).

What she used to do:
Sullivan was a pre-trial investigator in family court, investigating the lives of felony suspects.

Why she switched:
"My court career was challenging and exciting but had too much structure and red tape."

How she did it:
"I researched service



Ann Sullivan traffic-manages frantic lives. (Rebecca Staais)

fields and concluded that organizing would suit my personality and goals. After doing both jobs for 18 months, I threw myself into my new career."

What an organizer does:
"Much of my work deals with life transitions like

marriage, divorce, downsizing and relocations."

Who does this job best:
"An organizer must be good at juggling tasks and solving problems. You need a warm, caring personality, but be able to give tough love when nec-

180°

The art of changing paths

essary. And, of course, be flawlessly organized."

How's the dough?

"Times are lean while you build your business. But if your services become in-demand, you can do very well. Passion and good promotion are essential."

What about perks?

"Being a consultant allows you to shape your own destiny. Happy clients make me happy."

What else you should know:

"The variety and human interaction [of my job] keeps me constantly jazzed."

Send your 180° tale to amNY180@aol.com.