



# Laura the lawyer fighting a new corner as she changes career



**True professional:** solicitor Laura Saperstein swapped her executive suit, left, for boxing gloves

A FORMER City solicitor who swapped the boardroom for the boxing ring is to make her professional debut.

Laura Saperstein, 36, was a successful mergers and acquisitions lawyer with the "magic circle" law firm Freshfields earning £75,000 a year.

But Ms Saperstein, from Tottenham, north London, was bitten by the boxing bug three years ago when a boyfriend introduced her to the sport.

She left law to train full time at the London Boxing Academy in Tottenham and won all 10 of her amateur fights and the British lightweight amateur championship two years ago.

She gained her professional licence from the British Boxing Board of Control last year and has her first professional bout against a Swedish opponent at Tooting Leisure Centre in south London on 18 November — with ringside seats going for £50.

Ms Saperstein, originally from Byron Bay in Australia, said: "From the first moment I tried boxing, I

**TIM STEWART**

decided that this was what I wanted to do. My friend kept trying to talk to me but I wasn't listening.

"I was absolutely enthralled by the boxers. I was amazed by the skill and fitness of the fighters and how toned their bodies were. It looked like dancing with violence to me. I thought it was beautiful to watch.

"I grew up on a farm and was always a tearaway child. I loved sparing and was soon addicted to the punches. As there were no other women I had to spar with a 6ft tall guy, who bust my lip early on.

"I fought back the tears and said 'Let's finish the round'. I kept going because I loved it so much. When you box yourself you appreciate it even more as you know the courage and stamina involved in taking punches and still being able to think on your feet.

"Luckily, I've won all my fights without being knocked down or badly hurt."

Ms Saperstein won her first bout in

just one minute. In another fight, her opponent got a standing count from a body shot, started crying and refused to carry on.

She would love to fight for the sport's top promoters like Frank Warren and Frank Maloney. With lesser promoters struggling to get her fights, she launched a website called [boxergirl.net](http://boxergirl.net) two years ago, to build up a database of women boxers.

Ms Saperstein said: "I don't miss the law for a moment. You earn a nice salary but you have to give your life up for your career.

"My first professional fight has been a long time coming and I have been looking forward to this night. My nickname in the ring is Boxergirl and I will probably be coming out to upbeat rock music by The Cult. I can't wait."

Chris Hall, her trainer at London Boxing Academy, said: "Ten years ago, I would not have thought women's boxing would take off but it has and the standard has increased a lot. I prefer training women to the men. They are friendly, articulate, more diligent in their training and

smell nicer. Laura is very good. She is naturally strong and aggressive and we have really polished her technical boxing ability."

The Amateur Boxing Association's southern area coordinator Terri Kelly said there are about 200 women boxing at all levels. She said: "Some women are just as tough

and competitive as the men but boxing is not just about being aggressive. They have to learn technical skills and think how to box clever to win bouts too."

**FOR MORE INFO ►**  
[www.boxergirl.net](http://www.boxergirl.net)

**Cutting fares, not service!**



From London Stansted:

# Munich

twelve times weekly

**NEW!**

In addition Berlin, Dusseldorf, Hanover, Leipzig/Halle, Münster/Osnabrück, Nuremberg, Paderborn/Lippstadt