



PROFILE

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Mid-level Associate
Baker McKenzie

What did your path into this field look like – was it intentional, or did you discover it along the way?

I've always believed that law found me. When I graduated from high school, I wanted to pursue a career in marketing and work with different brands across various industries. Little did I know that I would end up working with many corporate brands, but as an M&A lawyer instead. In 2020, during my articles at a top 5 local firm, my HR graduate recruitment manager, Boipelo Soko encouraged me to select a commercial rotation in M&A and expose myself to the M&A practice group. I researched the practice group and the types of transactions each partner specialised in. Verushca Pillay was one of the few partners at the time who specialised in BEE transactions, and I immediately knew that I wanted to work in her team and practice M&A. True to form, I still work very closely with Verushca at Baker McKenzie.

Can you share a defining moment or turning point in your career so far?

Although my career has been relatively short, with only three years post-admission experience, a defining moment for me was joining Baker McKenzie in 2023. For me, Baker McKenzie represents change, a fresh start, and a new chapter in my career that has been both exciting and challenging. Since joining the firm, I have been exposed to various types of transactions across different industry groups like ICT, industrials, manufacturing, transportation and consumer goods. This exposure has deepened my understanding of business and commercial activity in both the South African and global context. I have gained experience and built my skill set as an M&A lawyer, which I continue to develop daily. Most importantly, I have learnt invaluable

technical and interpersonal skills from the incredible M&A team led by Lydia Shadrach-Razzino and my colleagues from different practice groups and business units.

What advice would you give to your younger self starting out in this field?

- True wisdom begins with knowing what you don't know, so ask questions.
- Never stop learning and building your skillset.
- Stay informed on M&A trends and industry changes.
- Your setbacks will be your biggest motivation to stay in this career.
- Take care of your mental health.

What keeps you motivated on tough days?

God, the support of my family, my community of friends, a song by Cleo Sol titled "Things will get better", and completing each instruction to the best of my ability.

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If you could rewrite one chapter of your journey, what would it be and why?

It would be the beginning of my career. During this period, I couldn't clearly map out the direction of my career and the type of lawyer I wanted to become, which led to self-doubt and a lack of confidence. However, through self-reflection and the guidance of my mentors, sponsors and therapist, I am now able to rewrite my journey, take ownership of my career, and find my own voice in the world. 🎧