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Nashmitha Pillay

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Associate Director | M&A Transaction Services Consulting Services Deloitte Africa

How have you built resilience in a high-pressure, maledominated environment?

I am incredibly fortunate to have a strong support system in place. My family, especially my mother and husband, have played a crucial role in my career, enabling me to focus on the demands of work and to show up as my best self on a daily basis.

I have built resilience by being true to myself and not changing who I am or compromising on my values to succeed; by having mentors and advisors who are invested in my growth, who have provided guidance and support throughout my career; and lastly, by taking time to reflect and having self-awareness.

What does self-care look like for you, and how do you prevent burnout?

For me, self-care isn't necessarily a full spa day (although, I do love spa days!). I try to practice small acts of self-care regularly, including exercising as often as I can, and getting my nails and hair done.

Have your views on work life balance changed over time?

Since becoming a mom, I have been more intentional about integrating work and my personal life, rather than striving for work-life balance. It is important for me to show up for my kids and be a present parent. It is equally important for me to achieve my professional goals. Work-life integration allows me to be flexible in managing both the demands of my career and my personal life.

Did you have any mentors or role models? How did they influence your journey?

I have been fortunate to have a few mentors throughout my career, all of whom have been instrumental in my journey. The best advice

I received from one of my mentors is "perseverance pays profits".

How do you mentor or support other women entering the field?

By being my authentic self and sharing my career journey (ups and downs) with young women starting out in the field. I am transparent about how I manage work, family and personal pursuits, so that other women can feel confident in doing the same. Understanding

the struggles and experiences of my mentors has personally helped me to navigate and persevere through my own challenging times.

What kind of leader are you, and how did you develop your leadership style?

Being a good leader comes with time and experience. I do not believe that there is a one-size-fits-all approach to leadership, and I tend to adapt my leadership style to different situations.

What barriers still need to be broken down for women in M&A or the corporate finance industry?

While M&A has traditionally been maledominated, I think we have come a long way in terms of women taking a seat at the table.

I have been fortunate to have many women come before me, who challenged industry norms and broke through glass ceilings. However, there is always room for more women to hold leadership positions in M&A.

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

I would not change a thing. Hindsight is always 20/20, but I believe that my personal and professional journey, with all its ups and downs, has shaped the woman I am today and where I am in my career.

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