

# What led you to pursue a career in the legal profession?

To be honest, I did not have a profound moment or event that steered me to any particular profession. Since a young age, I have always wanted to be an attorney or businesswoman, and the closer I got to university, the more I realised that law was not only my passion, in terms of understanding and applying the law, but also the problem-solving element, so when I made my selection, I was confident that I was making the right decision.

## What, in your opinion, is the hardest part of being a litigation attorney?

Litigation is often a stressful and uncertain process, and clients may have unrealistic or conflicting goals, demands or fears. A litigation attorney must balance the duty of intense advocacy skills and professionalism, while also communicating effectively and empathically with the clients. A litigation attorney must also be prepared for any possible outcome, and help their clients to understand the risks and benefits of each strategy or decision.

## What is your favourite sector to do a deal in and why?

The Mining and the Oil and Gas sector, because it is a dynamic and complex field that offers many opportunities for professionals who are interested in the legal aspects of energy production, distribution and regulation.

#### Where do YOU think litigation is headed is South Africa given our current political, economic and social climate?

The future of litigation in South Africa is uncertain and complex, given the

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current political, economic and social climate. Litigation is a costly and time-consuming process that may not always provide effective remedies or outcomes for the parties involved. Therefore, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as negotiation, mediation and arbitration should be encouraged and supported. These methods may offer more flexible, accessible and affordable ways of resolving disputes, while also fostering dialogue, cooperation and trust amongst all the relevant stakeholders.

#### What piece of advice would you give a young woman entering the legal profession?

The legal profession is a challenging and rewarding career path, but it can also be a demanding and competitive one. Seek opportunities to gain practical experience and build your portfolio. The legal profession is based on experience and reputation, so you should seek opportunities to apply your skills and knowledge. Be confident and assertive in your career goals and aspirations. You should not let stereotypes, biases or discrimination discourage you or hold you back.

What are some of the challenges you have faced in a profession that has traditionally been male dominated, if any and what advice would you give other women to overcome these challenges?

Women in the legal profession face many challenges and obstacles that hinder their career advancement and success. Some of these hurdles include gender stereotypes, discrimination, harassment, work-life balance issues, lack of mentorship and, sometimes, limited access to leadership opportunities. To overcome these hurdles, women in the legal profession need to advocate for themselves and for each other, seek allies and mentors who can support and guide them, and leverage their unique strengths and skills to demonstrate their value and potential. They also need to challenge the existing norms and structures that perpetuate gender inequality and bias, and demand more accountability and transparency from their employers and colleagues. By doing so, they can create a more diverse and inclusive legal profession that benefits not only women, but also their clients, organisations, and the society at large.

## What do you do to unwind | get away from the stress of work?

I enjoy the outdoors, going to food markets, going on hikes and trying out new restaurants with my family and friends. And, if all else fails, binging on a NETFLIX series.

### FUN FACTS

Favourite Colours: Grey and Navy.

*Current book on your nightstand: Multipliers* by Liz Wiseman.

Dog or cat person: Definitely a dog person!

*Item ticked off your bucket list:* Visiting Santorini.

Preferred holiday destination: Bali.

*Three words that your colleagues would use to describe you:* Resilient, hardworking and funny.

*Your worst trait:* I am an absolute perfectionist, almost to a fault, but I am a Virgo, so it comes with the territory.



