



Simone Bryson

FASKEN

Partner



FASKEN

Q *What are the biggest energy deals you have worked on?*

A I was lucky enough to start my career in project finance working on the peaking power station projects. That experience set me on a path and journey of working on some exciting and interesting energy projects. This includes, thus far, working on some of the bigger renewable deals including Enel Green Power, which is the largest portfolio financing in Africa to date.

Q *Do you think this area of expertise requires any special attributes and if so, what would you say they are?*

A For me, it always comes down to finding the best solutions for all parties involved in the transaction. This includes always being adaptive as there are so many unique situations, as every renewable energy deal is unique. From a team perspective the Fasken team is dynamic, this is a strength of the team despite there being flux in the market. The team is a consistent, stable, strong and collegial team. This is true to Fasken's values and I see these values being lived daily.

Q *Do you find this area of expertise to be an exciting field and if so, why?*

A Every deal is different, and with this comes problem solving. This is why I find this field so exciting. I enjoy problem solving and navigating deal complexities for clients. I enjoy using my drafting and writing skills to help solve problems.

Q *What are notable changes in your work and the industry?*

A From an energy side what we are seeing is that across the industry there is a surge

in the private PPA/energy market. And from a workplace perspective there is less face-to-face time with clients and more engagement virtually through the use of various technology platforms.

Q *Can you share any experience of working on projects in Africa and navigating the unknown?*

A I have had the opportunity to work for The Gambia National Utility regarding the procurement of renewable energy from an IPP. I had the opportunity to visit The Gambia, and I gained a better understanding of the environment and got a feel from a boots-on-the-ground perspective. I got a real understanding of the challenges of a project getting off the ground and the face-time with the client was very valuable. The Gambia is an example of a country in dire need of a sustainable energy source and renewable energy is a viable solution. But to keep things in perspective it took me 27 hours to fly there and I stopped five times passing through Gabon, Nigeria, Togo, Ghana and Guinea.

Q *What advice would you give others who are growing in their careers?*

A I would encourage others to have perseverance, it is a marathon not a race, and always work with consistency.

Q *Do you have any hobbies?*

A I do enjoy dabbling in art and of course spending time in nature, especially off-roading. Although Johannesburg is not known as an outdoor city, if you travel one-hour outside of the city in any direction, there are some fantastic places to get outdoors. ♻️

