

# Q&A

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**Q** *Where did your journey begin and how did you end up where you are today?*

**A** I began my career at KPMG where I transitioned through the Audit, Learning and Development and Corporate Finance departments. In 2018, I took a short sabbatical from the corporate world before joining FTI's Corporate Finance team.

**Q** *What, if any, hurdles did you have to face in an industry that has traditionally been male-dominated?*

**A** The biggest hurdle for me has been finding a balance between my desire to have a successful career and be a fully present wife and mom. I've come to realise that there is never really a balance, but rather a harmony that we need to create ourselves, to be able to lean in as mom-shift, wife-shift or work-shift requires. This journey is different for each woman, not only for males and females.

**Q** *Did you have a mentor and if so, tell us about that person and include the most valuable thing you learnt from them?*

**A** I have been fortunate to have many mentors throughout my career. It is essential to have a tribe of people in your life who you can soundboard things off, debate the hard questions with, celebrate with and learn from. The most valuable thing I have learnt from mentors in my life is to know yourself as best you can (as this is itself a journey!) and align what you do to what matters to you most in that season.

**Q** *Which deal challenged you the most and why?*

**A** Every deal is a challenge as every deal is unique and has its own path to navigate. Working mostly with Owner

Managed and Family-Owned businesses, I often find myself at the 'dining-room table' where many emotions and perspectives come into play. These are the deals I enjoy the most as I believe it's in these deals where we, as advisors, can add the most value.

**Q** *What advice would you give to other women thinking of entering the M&A and Financial Markets industry?*

**A** Each of us have talents and strengths different from the next person. Know what yours are, so you can highlight them in the work you do. We can't and are not expected to do it all and do it all well. Find a team where you can each bring a unique set of strengths and talents to complement the next. This is when the magic happens.

**Q** *Did the COVID-19 pandemic with the various lockdowns, changes in working habits etc. bring about any major changes for you from a work / career perspective?*

**A** The COVID lockdowns have changed the way we work forever. Flexibility and working from places outside of an office building have become normal, whereas before it would have been the exception. Not only has this made life as a working mom more manageable on many levels, but we can now also work more effectively with people in other parts of the country or world. It has opened up a whole new way of doing deals, which we need to openly explore.

**Q** *What qualities would you say are essential for a woman to thrive in the M&A industry?*

**A** Authenticity. As women working in a male-dominated industry, we need to work very hard to stay authentic in who we are and how we work with others. It can

be easy to move away from this when we feel we need to fit into the 'inner circle' to be recognised. However, it is when we are our true selves that we can bring our best to what we do.

**Q** *Who is your female role model and why?*

**A** She is a lady I have known for over a decade and have worked with as a boss and colleague. She created her own leadership role at one of the Big 4 and is mom to three girls. She is brave and shows others how to have the courage to know what you want and go for it unapologetically, while still being true to yourself and others.

**Q** *What is one goal you have set yourself for 2022 and are you on track to reach it?*

**A** I have registered for the Cape Town Marathon in October. I've done a few half marathons, but never a full 42kms, so hopefully 2022 will be the year!

**Q** *What is your favourite quote?*

**A** This changes, depending on the season of life I'm in. At the moment, it is a Maya Angelou quote: "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

**Q** *What is your most effective time saving tip?*

**A** Order your groceries online. Feeding a family of six requires daily assessment of what is in the pantry and fridge as things seem to evaporate overnight. Checkers Sixty60 has changed my life!

**Q** *What book are you reading at the moment?*

**A** The Gifts of Imperfection by Brené Brown. 