



Q&A

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

My path into this field was incidental. I initially studied in an entirely different direction (journalism), and spent five years working at a media company. Only after that did I enter the legal sector, initially advising technology businesses on general commercial and regulatory matters. This quickly led to advising technology (mainly fintech) clients on investments and disposals. Today, I work as a corporate and commercial attorney, focusing on investment transactions and disposals, venture capital, restructurings and general mergers and acquisitions in the technology space. I am very passionate about the sector, and consider myself fortunate to work in a field that I love.

I initially had mixed feelings about the fact that I took a slightly longer and different route to joining the legal world than others. At times I felt like I was 'behind' my peers, since I only started my articles of clerkship in my late twenties. However, today I am extremely thankful for my alternative journey. I learnt a lot during my time in the media sector and consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience a different field.

What was your first deal or transaction like, and what did you take away from it?

The first big transaction I ever worked on was equal parts terrifying and exciting. It taught me how much of a team effort it takes to get a transaction across the line, and it cemented my love for checklists, trackers and to-do lists!

I am a firm believer that a transaction's success lies not only in proper structuring and advice along the way, but also in proper project management. Having a firm grip on all the various moving parts in a transaction means nothing slips through the cracks. Not only does this prevent small (but material) items from getting missed, but it also brings me peace of mind and makes the entire deal experience less stressful.

Have your views on work-life balance changed over time?

Yes, I've learnt that work-life balance does not always mean prioritising both. Some weeks or months, work takes priority. Other times, something else I care about comes first. Thinking about it this way helps me feel grounded, instead of always trying to split my time between both.

I really like the quote that is along the lines of "you can do anything, but not everything at once". Early on in my career I often tried to

do everything at the same time – working hard, advancing my career, setting personal goals, studying part time and more. This inevitably caused burnout and a general sense of failure where you feel like you are not doing anything properly. Now, I am much more measured with what I want to achieve and I try to focus on one or two things at a time instead of five.

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

I would tell myself that it is okay to ask for help, and that nobody starts out knowing everything. A legal career is long and filled with numerous learning moments over the years, and every transaction (no matter how tough) teaches you something new that you can apply in future.

Sometimes there can be more than one right answer to a problem, and the key is figuring out which approach works best in this specific scenario. I would emphasise this, as I think this career has a tendency to attract perfectionists who want everything to fit neatly into a "yes" or "no" box.

What keeps you motivated on tough days?

I remind myself that we have good days and bad days, and that it is okay if not every day is a good one. I also focus on the positives and what I am thankful for – I have a stimulating, fulfilling career. Though it can be demanding, it also comes with immense benefits, including the chance to work with some of the smartest people in many sectors. I may be tired at times, but I have never been bored or unfulfilled. I try not to take this for granted.

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

To me self-care often means saying no to some things, so I can make time for things that help me recharge. I know I function best when I stick to a routine, so I try and keep Sunday evening to Friday afternoon as consistent and routine as possible. This includes going to bed early, sticking to my scheduled workouts, and limiting other distractions during the work week. It allows me to prioritise work during the week, and then I can enjoy my weekends guilt free. I also try and schedule time for just myself during the weekends, instead of filling every hour of the weekend with social and other commitments. I find spending time at home with my husband and two cats doing everyday things like reading, cooking and watching a movie extremely relaxing, and consciously make time for this every weekend. 🐾