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

A I joined ENSafrica's corporate commercial department after university as a candidate attorney. Over the years, I have gained invaluable experience working on matters across a variety of sectors. I find that every few years my practice evolves as trends and clients change and I have at times focused on railway infrastructure, renewable energy, corporate restructures, private equity and venture capital investments and aircraft transactions, to name a few.

I am now a partner with a busy practice focused predominantly on inbound investment. It is important to be flexible and able to change and adapt as the trends change, to be energetic, responsive and solution driven in your approach to work and to always be on the look-out for new opportunities.

Q *Did you have a mentor at some point in your career, and if so, who were they and what did you learn from them?*

A I have had many mentors who have had an impact on my growth and development, some more in relation to technical legal training, others in relation to practice development and others in relation to personal growth and development. I think that it is important to be open to guidance and advice on all fronts. Ultimately, some advice you will use and some you will not. It's important to establish your own identity and determine who you would like to be as a person and as a practitioner and take the advice that will get you there.

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

A Traditionally in law, the men were the lawyers and the women were the support staff! While we are finding that now there are more women entering law than there are men, the vast majority of senior practitioners are still male. The same is the case in business, where the principals and decision-makers are often male. This results in a boys club amongst lawyers and clients that it is difficult for women to penetrate. There is still a tendency to box women into supporting roles and, until COVID-19 sent everybody home, there was very little understanding of the need for mothers to work flexibly. Men also generally have far more confidence than women do in their opinions and it can be difficult for a woman to assert her views when she is (often) the only woman in the room.

Q *What advice would you give to young woman looking to work in M&A?*

A Find a strong group of women to lean on for support and advice, ask for advice from the women who have succeeded before you, stay true to who you are, be confident in your abilities, work hard and keep your clients happy – happy clients will lead to more happy clients. Look after and, very importantly, stand up for yourself and what you deserve and mentor other women!

Q *How do you juggle family and a busy legal practice?*

A During the course of my career, I got married and had two children. Trying to juggle family and a busy legal

practice is difficult. Some days I win at one and not the other, some days I win at both and some days I don't win at either. It is important to decide who you want to be as a wife, a mother and a lawyer and then determine a plan of action for how to achieve your goals. Try and find someone who has achieved what you are seeking to achieve and ask for their advice on how to get there. One of the most important things is to establish a great support team at home and at work, who can pick up for you when you can't be there

Q *What were the defining deals in your career?*

A I can identify three defining deals in my career. The first was a series B funding round for Zoono. This was one of my first clients that I attracted alone and it was a big deal that I managed from start to finish and the independence and learning was incredible.

The second was the acquisition of Compuscan by Experian. This was a huge deal that lasted more than a year and involved a number of complexities. It was short listed for DealMakers' Private Equity Deal of the Year. The experience and learning in this deal, from the beginning of the due diligence to the final closing, was invaluable.

The third is an inbound investment deal that I am currently working on, which is for an inspiring client and involves so many different facets that it is incredibly stimulating and rewarding. Something that I have learnt is that there is very little utility in worrying about how your practice will develop. If you work hard, stay true to yourself and grab opportunities, things will fall into place. 🙌