



Q&A

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What initially drew you to a career in M&A or corporate finance?

My first rotation during my articles was in the corporate team, and from that point on, I was hooked. From my view, it appeared the M&A team was always at the centre of the magic, holding the pen on the transaction documents and steering the deal in collaboration with various specialist teams and corporate advisors. Each deal has its key deal points and considerations, and no two deals are the same.

During my second rotation in a litigation team, I realised I missed the corporate work, so I signed up for the advanced company law class at WITS just to survive my time in litigation. As a corporate lawyer, I still feel like I'm at the centre of the magic.

What's the hardest lesson you've learnt, and how did it shape you?

A rude awakening for me was realising that *no one owes you anything*. You are responsible for your own career, and you need to take ownership of your work and career growth. Having moved past the initial fear and the need for external validation, I have learnt to embrace the unknown and discomfort of impostor syndrome, and to push through it to gain more experience and better my own skill set. That being said, I have greatly appreciated the time and training received from mentors and, understanding that they didn't owe me their time, it meant so much more when they did invest their time in me.

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

Running has become my escape and is my "me-time". I wish I had started running sooner in my career, but I love hitting the road,

and even better as part of a running club. As a lawyer, it's difficult to manage your own time, and work pressures are often driven by deal flow. But when I manage to stick to my running schedule where I can, I get that much-needed "me-time".

How do you mentor or support other women entering the field?

I like to lead by example and show other women that they can succeed in a corporate career. The playing field has been levelled, and you succeed by working hard and being a good person. I am also a firm believer in paying it forward so, where I can, I offer guidance and training to juniors.

What keeps you motivated on tough days?

A clichéd response, but I often go back to my "why". I wanted to become a lawyer because, initially, a family member said I shouldn't do it (my rebellious act of youth). Over time, that reason has developed into a truly rewarding career where I get to make a difference for my clients. It's not all roses and sunshine every day, but it's been an incredibly rewarding experience that continues to challenge me.

Are there any emerging trends in M&A that you find particularly exciting or challenging?

This is not limited to M&A, but the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and the client approach is making law firms take notice. We need to navigate how best to use AI while continuing to showcase our value to clients and maintain a competitive edge. I certainly don't think the robots will take over our jobs, but we are standing at a crossroads, and risk taking a wrong turn if we don't embrace the AI wave. 🤖

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