



# Q&A

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### What initially drew you to a career in M&A and shaped your path in this field?

My path into M&A and corporate finance was a blend of intentional steps and discovery. My interest in business, M&A and dealmaking was piqued during my training as a Chartered Accountant (CA (SA)), where I was exposed to various facets of financial analysis, strategy and business operations. I've always been passionate about understanding the "why" behind business decisions, and M&A offered a dynamic environment where financial analysis intersects with strategic thinking. Qualifying as a CA provided a solid technical foundation, but it was through exposure to diverse clients, industries and deal environments during my early career that I discovered a strong affinity for transactions.

As I gained more experience, I realised how much I enjoyed the strategic depth, analytical challenge, and fast-paced and collaborative nature of M&A; being involved in the end-to-end lifecycle of a deal, from initial strategy and due diligence through to execution and post deal completion. So, what really drew me into M&A transaction services and corporate finance was the opportunity to support clients through pivotal business transformations. There's something incredibly fulfilling about supporting clients through such transformative milestones and seeing the long-term impact of those decisions.

### Can you share a defining moment or turning point in your career so far?

A defining moment in my career was my transition into the Deloitte M&A Transaction Services team, which was a deliberate move that aligned with my evolving interests. Once I was immersed in the M&A space (with a focus on the deal execution phase), I had an opportunity to go on secondment to the Deloitte London M&A Sale and Purchase Agreements specialist team in 2019, and it was then that I knew I had found my niche.

Being a part of this specialised team on a global stage allowed me to focus on what truly excited me: negotiating, strategic thinking, and problem-solving under pressure. What makes this work exciting is the dynamic, high-impact nature of each deal. Every transaction is unique, requiring a blend of technical expertise, strategic thinking, and problem-solving. Being part of the end-to-end deal process – where real business transformations happen – means constantly learning, collaborating, and helping clients make critical decisions that shape their future. It's fast-paced, intellectually stimulating, and incredibly rewarding to see your input directly influence successful outcomes.

Being admitted into the Deloitte Africa partnership as a fellow Partner was a key milestone that validated years of commitment, learning and resilience.

### Have you faced any gender-based challenges or biases in your career? If so, how did you navigate them?

Like many women in M&A, I've occasionally encountered subtle biases, whether it's assumptions about assertiveness or being underestimated in male-dominated boardrooms. I navigated these by focusing on excellence and consistency. I also learnt to use my voice, stand firm in my technical expertise, and create space for others who might feel unseen. It's about showing up authentically and setting high standards, not only for yourself, but also for the culture you want to influence.

### How have you balanced your personal life with the demands of a career in finance?

Work-life balance has evolved for me, and I now look at it more as work-life integration. This, especially in a demanding field like M&A, is less about perfect balance and more about intentional blending. Over time, I've learnt to integrate my professional and personal priorities in a way that allows both to coexist meaningfully. This means setting boundaries when needed, being present in the moments that matter, and recognising that some seasons are more intense than others.

Supportive leadership, a collaborative team, and a clear sense of purpose have all helped make integration more sustainable. I've also found that self-awareness, planning, and building in time to recharge (by travelling) are critical to showing up at my best, both at work and at home. Ultimately, it's about designing a life where success doesn't come at the expense of well-being, but rather alongside it.

### Did you have any mentors or role models? How did they influence your journey?

Absolutely. Mentorship has played a powerful role in my journey. I've had mentors, both formal and informal, who've encouraged me to pursue leadership roles and who have shared their own journeys candidly. Having role models who looked like me, especially women in senior positions, made a huge difference. It showed me what's possible and helped me navigate challenges with greater confidence.

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

I'd tell my younger self: "Trust your journey." You don't need to have all the answers on day one. Be curious, stay grounded in your values, and be brave enough to take up space. Build meaningful relationships, invest in your learning, and don't be afraid to ask for help. Your authenticity is your strength – lean into it. 🌱

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