



Q&A

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

My first deal as a junior was a landmark transaction that involved amending certain provisions of the South African Banks Act. My initial thinking was to zone in on the technical aspects, but I quickly learnt that being a good lawyer involves more than knowing the law. It is about building and fostering relationships, being practical, asking questions, managing expectations, being solution-orientated, and paying impeccable attention to detail!

Observing my senior team members during negotiations was intriguing, and I immediately knew that I had made the correct career choice. I remember the excitement of watching everything come together. It taught me about the pace and pressure of being a lawyer, but also the reward of being part of something big. It gave me a strong foundation to start my career, and a deep appreciation for the human side of corporate law.

Did you have any mentors or role models? How did they influence your journey? What kind of leader are you, and how did you develop your leadership style?

The impact of positive mentors and role models is invaluable. These individuals often set the tone for one's career. I am fortunate to work with colleagues who are not only brilliant legal minds, but also down-to-earth human beings who have supported (and continue to support) me throughout my legal career and personal journey. They are my template for success, demonstrating that one should lead from a place of kindness, compassion and mutual respect.

I strive to incorporate their example in my leadership style by living the values that have been instilled in me; to be supportive, collaborative, exceptional and bold. It is important that my team

members are (and feel) valued, not only from a work perspective, but also in their general wellbeing. Feeling valued and appreciated yields higher performance and helps realise full potential.

What advice would you give to anyone starting out in this field?

I would relay the advice that was given to me, which is to be indispensable. Be willing to learn and step out of your comfort zone; be proactive, reliable and responsive. Be known as the team member who makes things easier, not more difficult. It's important

to build and guard your reputation and character intentionally – treat everyone with respect, and take pride in your work.

What keeps you motivated on tough days?

While tough days are opportunities to build resilience, they're also a time to reflect and focus on the big picture. I feel a deep sense of purpose in both my roles – as a mother and as a lawyer – and I remind myself that I work not just to close a deal, but to set an example for my child about resilience, integrity and ambition. It helps to remember that there is power in knowing that balance does not always equate to perfection; it means being present where it matters the most at a particular time.

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Support from my family and friends makes a huge impact. Being able to talk things through or even share a moment of humour helps keep perspective. It is also important to recognise when it is time to hit the pause button. Being a lawyer involves high stakes, long hours and pressure, making it vital to create space to reset and stay grounded. Prioritising mental health is not a luxury – it is a necessity, vital for longevity and leading with sound judgement under pressure. 🙌