



Elzaan du Preez

Executive PSG Capital

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

Growing up in an adventurous family in the Northern Cape instilled in me a deep curiosity and a constant drive to explore the belief that "there must be more." After completing my BCom and LLB degrees at the University of the Free State, I had the privilege of working at leading law firms alongside some of the country's legal experts.

One question I'm often asked is whether it's possible to transition from law into corporate finance. The answer is a resounding yes, but don't wait too long. Life is meant for bold, decisive moves.

Practicing law taught me that your confidence will be tested repeatedly. Corporate life, on the other hand, is teaching me the value of continuous learning, resilience, and navigating challenges with both grit and grace. You may not always feel ready, but with determination, you will "land the plane, no matter the turbulence".

At PSG Capital, I'm surrounded by brilliant minds and exceptional people who remind me daily: "If it was easy, everyone would do it."

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

Working relentlessly and obsessing over every detail can gradually narrow your sense of self. In high-performance environments, it's easy to fall into the trap of seeing each meeting, boardroom discussion, or client interaction as yet another test, another moment to prove your worth. But when we fall short, we must remind ourselves that we haven't failed. Striving for excellence is essential, but even when outcomes don't align perfectly with our expectations - that's okay. Growth often comes from those very moments.

I've had to learn, and continue to learn, that going all-in doesn't necessarily make you a better professional. What truly empowers you is spending time nurturing your identity beyond your work. That space, your "identity house", frees you to take calculated risks, embrace new experiences, and uncover your true potential without feeling that your worth is on the line. Own your story. Run your race. And tell it well.

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

I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have been guided by experienced and trusted individuals whose advice has extended

far beyond work-related challenges, often offering invaluable perspectives on life's more complex, personal struggles and how to navigate them through turbulent times.

Whenever I reflect on the mentors who have left a lasting impression on my journey, the below quote always comes to mind.

"A mentor is someone who sees more talent and ability within you than you see in yourself, and helps bring it out of you."

- Bob Proctor

Those simple words capture the essence of mentorship, namely believing in someone in every season of their journey.

How has the landscape for women in finance changed since you started?

The definition of success in the world of finance is evolving. As more women step into leadership roles, they bring fresh perspectives that are shifting the playing field. Less about gatekeeping and more about growth, mentorship, and meaningful inclusion.

Where success was once narrowly defined by climbing the corporate ladder, we are now seeing space for broader and more integrated measures of achievement where personal fulfilment and professional ambition may coexist. The age-old question, "Can women have it all?" is being redefined by a generation who are not asking, but boldly declaring, "yes, we can – on our own terms".

One woman changing the game is my colleague, Logan Hufkie, who was shortlisted for the coveted 2024 DealMaker of the Year award. Logan serves as an exceptional role model for young women pursuing careers in finance. I'm excited to see what the next decade holds in store for women in finance.

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

Not everything will unfold as planned. The corporate world is complex, and mistakes are inevitable. Know your core values, seize opportunities, always be on time, and protect your balance. Some priorities bounce back; others don't. Stay grounded, stay honest, keep asking questions to learn continuously, and remember - Keep GOING!

