



BOWMANS

Julie Oppenheim

Partner

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

A I do not have specific memories of wanting to be a lawyer, but I thought that studying a mix of accounting and law would stand me in good stead. After completing my B.Com Law at Stellenbosch University in 2003, I moved to the University of Cape Town. I attended a vacation work programme at Bowmans in 2004 which ended in an interview. I will never forget the day I picked up the telephone and was met with an offer from Bowmans for articles in 2005! I could not quite believe it and, 17 years and a bit later, I am still here.

Q *Did you have a female role model? If so, who was she and why was she a role model to you?*

A I have never had a specific role model, but there are certain traits in other women that motivate and inspire me. These are women who are genuine, smart, calm, level-headed and who own the space that they have carved out for themselves.

Q *What is the most valuable thing you have learnt from another woman?*

A Two things: (i) you can have it all, but you cannot have it all at the same time; and (ii) do not make decisions about your career based on events that have not happened (e.g. do not change your career path in anticipation of the prospect that you may not be able to handle children at the same time). You need to give it a good go.

Q *What advice would you give to other women thinking of entering the M&A industry?*

A Believe in yourself and that you can do it. Stay in the game and do not give up even if it is hard; as long as on balance you enjoy what you do and are happier more often than not.

Q *What qualities would you say are essential for a woman to thrive in the M&A industry?*

A Hard work, perseverance and patience. 🙌

