



BOWMANS

Kelly Wright

Partner

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

A I had an excellent tax lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand in 2010. From the very first ‘gross income’ lecture I was hooked – I had found my calling. I started my articles at Bowmans in 2011 and told Alan Keep (the head of Tax at the time) that I wanted to join his team. I have never looked back.

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

A Adv Julia Boltar. I have been privileged to work with Julia on many matters over the years. Her advice is always excellent, timeous and measured. She is a doyen of South African tax and I admire her experience, technical skill and demeanour.

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

A ‘True self-care is not bath salts and chocolate cake, it’s making the choice to build a life you don’t need to escape from’ - Brianna West (via a good friend and mentor).

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

A **Think carefully about what the work actually entails and why you want to do it.** The best M&A matters want all of your time and attention. You have to stretch your talents to breaking point to come up with solutions, usually in a very short time frame. On the other hand, these matters are also fascinating and invigorating – the kind of thing you want to do for 40+ years.

Do not overcomplicate things. A colleague used to have a drawing that his son had done for a preschool project in his office. It was a picture of two skyscrapers with the caption ‘my daddy helps companies buy other companies’. I love that drawing, because it provides perspective.

Whenever the job feels overwhelming (and it does), think carefully about what you love about it. I look at organograms the way (I imagine) an engineer looks at blueprints and I feel a frisson of excitement because I see opportunities, efficiencies and potential. If you feel that way about the field you are interested in, I think that is a great start. 🍷

