



Q&A

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What initially drew you to a career in M&A?

I am a corporate and commercial, and M&A lawyer, but over the past two decades, I have developed a specialisation in the projects and energy sector, with a particular focus on renewable energy projects. I was drawn to being an M&A lawyer because it requires creativity and constant learning, as no two transactions are ever identical.

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

When I started out as a corporate and commercial lawyer, I didn't plan to work in the energy sector. Then in 2009, when a colleague emigrated, I was asked to take over one of his matters and assist with a lease amendment for a wind farm. As a qualified notary and conveyancer, the request made sense. At the time, I had no background in energy law and hadn't given much thought to the sector – but that first matter sparked an interest. One thing led to another, and when South Africa launched the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP), it created space for new practice areas to emerge, and from a legal point of view, I was very interested in being part of that.

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

The early stages of REIPPPP felt like a formative time in the sector. We had to build teams across disciplines, including project finance, corporate, construction, environmental, property law and economic development. Collaborating with international colleagues who had already grappled with some of the things we were working on helped us grow and develop quickly. My M&A expertise also meant that I became involved in some of the early secondary market transactions where clients sold stakes in operational renewable energy projects.

How do you mentor or support other women entering the field?

I feel very strongly about the importance of mentorship, and I have always loved doing it. One of the most rewarding aspects of my career has been to mentor younger lawyers who have either been part of my team or worked with me on transactions. I have seen them grow from being mentees to role models, and I have so much admiration for what they have achieved. Being a mentor requires reflection and self-awareness, and I have often realised that advice I want to give my mentees is, in fact, advice that I also need to reinforce or hear for myself.

What do you hope to see for women in your sector in the future?

I hope more women feel encouraged to explore emerging fields like renewable energy – where legal skills can align with meaningful change. Sometimes, the most rewarding careers begin not with a plan, but with an unexpected opportunity.

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

Over the years, one of the key lessons I've learnt is the value of gaining broad experience and a solid foundation before narrowing your focus. I often tell young women entering the legal field not to be in a hurry to specialise. Be open to unexpected paths, even if they don't align perfectly with your studies or early career plans.

What keeps you motivated on tough days?

Working in the energy sector makes me feel as though I am making a small but meaningful contribution to the just energy transition and the sustainability of the planet – something that is aligned with my personal values, and which gives me a sense of purpose in my professional life. What continues to motivate me is the sense that our work contributes to something larger than any one deal.

I also love getting to work with an incredible team of lawyers at CDH. I know that my colleagues are experts in their field, that I can rely on them and their expert advice, and that together, we've got this. 🙌

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