



BOWMANS

Lebohang Mabidikane

Partner

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

A My journey had a few bumps along the way. I had a child when I was young, so I had to start working sooner than most people to provide for her. I got a job as a bank teller at one of the big banks in South Africa and, after six years, decided that I wanted to achieve more. I then resigned and went to study law full time. Since graduating I have held various positions in the legal sector - as a regulator and now as a practitioner.

Q *Were there any women who helped you on your journey?*

A Yes, my mother Thobeka Molefe and sisters Cecilia, Pearl, Nyakallo and Khothatso; my 'little sister' Shoalane Sakoane; my best friend Lerato Molapo; and my mentor Nthabiseng Dlamini. My mom and sisters looked after my daughter so that I could study. Nthabiseng is a lawyer and she helped me become the lawyer I am today. She also taught me the value of giving back and, together, we hold a seminar with teen moms annually to encourage them to look beyond their current circumstances and pursue their dreams, a journey that I am familiar with. Lerato would buy me airtime when I was still at university. Shoalane taught me how to drive. You will never understand the value of a friend buying you airtime or teaching you how to drive until you have exhausted all the help you can get from the rest of your support structure.

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

A We are blessed to be a blessing. Women are natural nurturers so we will naturally spot opportunities to give back. Making a positive impact in someone's life may or may not cost you something but it is worth it. Knowing that you contributed to someone else's success is fulfilling.

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

A There will be challenges. People may want to undermine your leadership because you are a woman, but always remember that you are capable. I always describe myself as a lawyer and a practitioner and not as a female lawyer and practitioner. Be courageous and work hard. 

