

Deal Makers WOMEN 26

Women of SA's M&A and Financial Markets Industry



Marylou Greig
Editor

The idea of a just society is as old as time. In 375 BC, Plato was among the first to systematically explore the concept, one that has continued to be debated and developed throughout the centuries. More recently, in 1971, American philosopher John Rawls profoundly revived the discussion with the publication of *A Theory of Justice*, which set out his influential modern political theory of what constitutes a just society.

At its simplest, a just society is one in which everyone has equal rights, access to basic needs, and an equal opportunity to succeed. It is a society that treats all people with respect, rejects discrimination, and protects human rights. These principles may seem straightforward, yet achieving them remains a work in progress, particularly when it comes to equality for women.

Each year on Women's Day in South Africa, we pause to honour the courage, strength and resilience of women, past and present, who have broken barriers and paved the way for future generations. The day holds deep historical significance, rooted in the 1956 march of 20,000 women to the Union Buildings in protest against unjust laws. Seventy years later, that extraordinary demonstration remains both a tribute and a call to action: a reminder of how far we have come, and how much further we still must go.

The profiles filling the pages of this sixth edition offer words of courage, inspiration and wisdom. Each woman featured has a unique story to tell, and valuable advice to impart. There is immense power in women learning from and supporting other women who have worked hard, overcome obstacles, and gone on to achieve their goals. As American writer, professor, philosopher, poet and civil rights activist Audre Lorde observed: "It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability

to recognise, accept, and celebrate those differences."

What is increasingly clear is that deals are about far more than valuation, financial analysis and commercial negotiation. These technical skills matter enormously; they open the door and provide the foundation for a successful career. But it is often the skills beyond the numbers that determine how that career develops. Understanding people as much as understanding numbers; communicating effectively, building trusted relationships, showing empathy and resilience, and knowing how to navigate different personalities and perspectives are all essential. In an industry built on relationships, these so-called 'soft skills' are anything but soft – they are often what turns technical expertise into lasting professional success.

The feature will be launched at the fourth DealMakers Women's Day networking event, building on the success of the past three years and, once again, bringing together an inspiring group of women for conversation and connection. This year's panel comprises Logan Hufkie, a director at PSG Capital; Trishanta Dheepnarayan, a director at Metier Private Equity; Wairimu Karungu, Vice President, M&A Advisory East Africa at Stanbic Bank Kenya; and Nolu Mkhonza, Bephor co-creator and Hallyu co-founder.

My grateful thanks go to all those in the industry who continue to support and participate in this feature, and to my team: women who themselves juggle many roles, for their dedication, commitment and excellence in compiling this discourse. This feature is, ultimately, a collaboration and a testament to the talent, resilience and growing influence of women in the M&A and financial capital markets space. 

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Tel: +27 (0) 11 886 6446
e-mail: reception@gleason.co.za
www.dealmakerssouthafrica.com

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Editor: Marylou Greig
Assistant Editor: Lee Robinson
Research: Vanessa Aitken
Marketing: Samantha Walmsley
Design & Layout: Suzie Assenmacher



She is

a mom, a soccer fan,
a cook, an athlete, a friend,
a daughter, a shoulder to cry on,
a sandwich-maker, a lost-and-found
department, a confidence booster,
a pillar of strength, **a lawyer.**

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person with a unique story.

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As a first-time mom, I have experienced firsthand how important community and support can be. Combining that experience with my interest in technology, I recently developed an app that helps mothers connect, make friends and build supportive local communities.

Ashleigh
Brink
Senior Associate



My creative side comes out through planning events for special occasions and gift-giving! I love adding that personal touch and making a loved one's day special.

Charissa
Beyers
Senior Associate



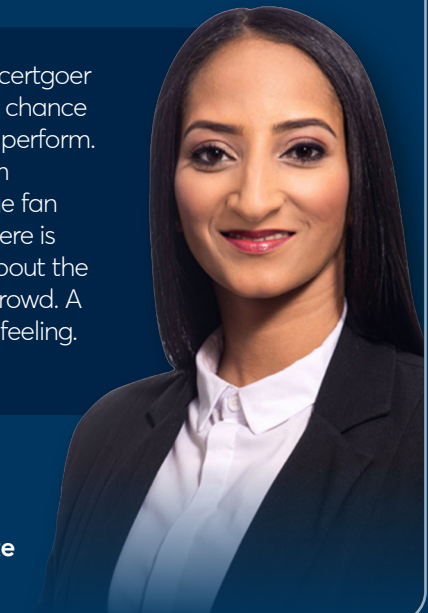
I am on a mission to watch all of the world's biggest sporting events in person. I loved every minute of watching the South Africa v Czechia FIFA World Cup match, and I am looking forward to my next adventure: watching the US Open in person.

Chibie
Odimegwu
Senior Associate



I am an avid concertgoer and rarely miss a chance to see top artists perform. Not because I am necessarily a huge fan of the artists – there is just something about the energy of a live crowd. A truly unmatched feeling.

Crystal
Davids
Senior Associate



I am a passionate traveller and food enthusiast. I love to explore new cultures, cuisines and hidden gems wherever I go.

Khanyisa
Mohlaba
Senior Associate



I am a literature nerd who somehow found herself in M&A. Outside of transactions, I spend my time reading African literature and keeping up with the continent's vibrant creative scene. I love Africa in all its complexity, and I am inspired by its stories, talent and ingenuity.

Nonhlelo
Nhleko
Senior Associate





I am happiest when spending quality time with loved ones, ideally at a beautifully curated restaurant. I have been told I have a keen eye for photographing meaningful moments and the beauty in everyday experiences.

Ntandokayise Mbuyane
Senior Associate



Outside of law, I am happiest exploring new corners of the world. Whether it is navigating foreign transport systems (and occasionally getting lost!), meeting new people, or travelling to experience live music and major sporting events, travel keeps me curious, energised, and inspired.

Rivoningo Chauke
Senior Associate



Outside of law, I am always planning my next travel adventure, combining iconic destinations with hidden gems that are still off the beaten track. I make it a point to explore historic castles wherever I go.

Savanna Stephens
Senior Associate



When I am not practising law, I am either playing tennis or padel, hunting down unique bottles of wine during my travels, or following US politics with far more enthusiasm than is probably healthy. Being half-American means I rarely pass up the chance for a lively political debate.

Summer Scribante
Senior Associate



I enjoy unwinding with a good TV series. I also enjoy creating my own hair products. I am fascinated by the chemistry behind hair care and enjoy how curiosity can transform everyday interests into something meaningful.

Tsholofelo Mofokeng
Senior Associate



I am drawn to connecting with others and find real value in pursuing creative endeavours.

Viyola Van Zyl
Senior Associate

