



Janet MacKenzie

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Baker McKenzie.

Janet has extensive expertise in the Telecommunication and Information Technology sector, as well as the Media, Broadcasting and Entertainment industry. She has also been involved in a number of major telecoms and IT outsourcing transactions.

She has advised clients on various legislative and regulatory initiatives directly impacting the telecommunications sector, including legislation pertaining to consumer protection, interception and monitoring, data privacy and cyber security. She has also assisted clients in the drafting and negotiation of a wide range of telecoms contracts, including interconnection and facilities leasing agreements, colocation agreements, service agreements, roaming agreements, satellite transponder lease agreements, network sharing agreements and network build and roll out agreements.

Janet has extensive expertise in the media, broadcasting and entertainment sector and has advised clients on various contractual arrangements pertaining to the acquisition and distribution of content on broadcast and digital platforms and on all regulatory aspects pertaining to the media, broadcasting and entertainment sector.

Q Did you have a mentor and if so, tell us about that person and include the most valuable thing you learnt from them?

A I was fortunate to have two mentors. They were both highly regarded male practitioners who were tough and exacting but their guidance, support and encouragement were key to my career in so many ways. To this day, I still revert to the simple drafting principles I was taught in my 20s. I also remember being told by my one

mentor that his measure of success in training and mentoring me would be for me to be a better attorney than him. His commitment, dedication and incredible generosity of spirit have been, and continue to be, my guide in training and mentoring others.

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

A Authenticity, resilience, courage, commitment and determination.

Q What is your favourite quote?

A “Sweet are the uses of adversity, which, like the toad, ugly and venomous, wears yet a precious jewel in his head;.....”

William Shakespeare’s “As You Like It”.

Q What is your most effective time saving tip?

A I often revert to ‘old school’ dictation to save time. It is particularly useful for time recording.

Q What book are you reading at the moment?

A Becoming’ by Michelle Obama.

Q What is your go-to power song?

A Feeling Good by Nina Simone.

Q What is your favourite holiday destination?

A Sossusvlei, Namibia.

Q If you could invite any 3 women (past or present) to dinner, who would they be and why?

A Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg: A pioneer in so many ways who made her mark in a world and at a time when most doors were closed to woman. She fought tirelessly for gender equality under the law. As a Supreme Court Justice, she was a model for what every woman is capable of achieving. Having experienced sexism in her own life and career, and having had first-hand knowledge of the difficulties of combining motherhood with a demanding career, she knew and understood exactly what needed to be changed and made this happen through winning as a litigator and presiding over, as a Supreme Court Justice, a number of landmark gender equality cases.

Prof Thuli Madonsela: A lifelong activist on social justice, constitutionalism and human rights, she displayed remarkable courage and bravery in executing her mandate as South Africa’s Public Protector. Highly principled and a person of utmost integrity, she left no stone unturned in investigating unlawful enrichment and corruption. As a crusader and champion of anti-corruption and proper governance, she was absolutely fearless in taking on the most powerful, even when this resulted in threats to her own safety and well-being.

Marie Colvin: A war correspondent who reported from the front lines across the world, Marie was tough, resilient, passionate and above all brave. She was peerless in her chosen field of journalism, which even today is still largely dominated by men. Her mission was to highlight the suffering of victims of war and to throw the spotlight on human rights violations and other atrocities. She lost one eye and ultimately her life in getting the ‘word out’. 