



## Kate Beretta Partner

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

**A** When I started my articles at Bowmans in 2013, the firm's leadership was mostly male, but there were also impressive and competent female role models, colleagues and peers. I settled into a team that focuses on a traditionally 'male' subject – technology and telecommunications – but, remarkably, the team members were all women, save for the team leader.

I found the space exhilarating and attractive. It is on the cutting edge with the law needing to stretch and adapt to innovative processes and technologies. I enjoy the constant opportunity to learn and be creative. In progressing my career and observing my more senior female colleagues take the lead, I learned ways to navigate the male-dominated environment and culture of 'big law', and to find confidence in my voice.

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

**A** Yes, there have been many. In Bowmans, my experience has been that women look to support one another, so there have been numerous colleagues who have invested in me along the way. Heidi Taylor is the main person who trained, mentored and sponsored me.

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

**A** What you bring to the table from your perspective as a woman is different to what a man brings. As a result, it is immensely valuable and can be just what is needed for a successful outcome. Also, you need to prioritise yourself in the never-ending (and somewhat futile) endeavour to find 'balance', as work can consume you if you let it. It is important to be gracious and merciful in allowing yourself the space to prioritise other aspects of your life too – your physical and mental well-being, your relationships, your family and your outside interests. If you do not, you may lose yourself along the way.

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

**A** Have confidence in your abilities and steer clear of trying to prove yourself to others – the louder you shout, the less credibility you have. Be hungry to learn and focus on thinking through things practically (rather than merely at a theoretical or abstract level), as this will set you apart and will keep things interesting.

