



Q&A

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

Initially, it was the opportunity to lead deals with a pragmatic, business-oriented approach, helping clients achieve their strategic objectives. After completing my MBA, and having previously worked in Finance, I knew that a career in M&A perfectly aligned with my skills and interest. The dynamic nature of M&A, characterised by complex challenges, was incredibly appealing to me. I've found that each deal presents a unique set of circumstances – be it an asset acquisition, a business merger, or a carve-out – and each offers an opportunity to apply my expertise and make a tangible difference. The satisfaction of seeing deal value realisation and business transformation is what continues to fuel my passion for Post Merger Integrations (PMI).

Have there been key decisions that significantly impacted your career trajectory?

One of the most pivotal decisions in my career was putting my hand up to help my firm build a PMI practice from the ground up in South Africa. This decision significantly impacted my career trajectory as my contribution enabled us to extend our service offerings to M&A clients, thereby enhancing our firm's value proposition in the market. The success of the PMI practice underscored my strategic vision and leadership potential, paving the way for my advancement within the firm.

Did you have any mentors or role models? How did they influence your journey?

Throughout my career, I've been fortunate to have mentors who provided guidance and support. Their insights helped me navigate complex situations, and encouraged me to embrace challenges. Observing their leadership styles and dedication to excellence inspired me to develop my own approach to leadership.

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

Mentoring and supporting women in the field is a responsibility I embrace, aiming to build the support network many of us wish we had. I participate in mentorship programmes that focus on sharing both technical knowledge and the unwritten rules of navigating the corporate landscape. Creating an environment where women feel confident to voice their ideas and take on challenges is essential. I share my experiences in my career development, network building and leadership, emphasising that setbacks can be valuable learning experiences. My ultimate goal is to empower women to become confident leaders in M&A.

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

I would tell my younger self to embrace every opportunity for learning and growth, even if it seems daunting at first. It's important to stay curious and adaptable, as the field of M&A is constantly evolving. Building strong relationships and networks is invaluable, and never underestimate the power of resilience and perseverance in overcoming challenges. 🙌