



Q&A

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What did your path into this field look like – was it intentional, or did you discover it along the way?

My entry into oil and gas law was a combination of discovery and deliberate direction. I began my career in 2019 as a candidate attorney at Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, where I was fortunate to rotate through several practice areas. It was during this time that I was exposed to the oil and gas sector, and I found myself increasingly drawn to the complexity, scale and strategic significance of oil and gas projects. What began as curiosity soon grew into a focused passion. The technical depth and regulatory intricacies of the sector fascinated me, and I knew early on that this was a niche where I could build meaningful expertise. So while my first steps were exploratory, my decision to specialise was intentional – and rewarding.

How have you built resilience in a high-pressure, male-dominated environment?

For me, resilience has been about staying rooted in both competence and confidence. In a sector that is often male-dominated, I've learnt to be unapologetic about my place at the table. I realised that preparation is power, and to know the work, do it well, and let that speak louder than assumptions or stereotypes. But resilience also grows through community. I've sought out and leaned on networks. On difficult days, I focus on purpose: why I chose this path and the impact I want to make within it.

Have your views on work-life balance changed over time?

They have, significantly. Like many young professionals, I initially believed that constant availability was a badge of honour. But over time, I came to see that sustainability in a demanding profession requires intentional balance. Work-life balance doesn't mean equal time. Some days are 80% work and 20% life, other days its 100% life and 0% work. To me, work-life balance means presence and dedication to the task at hand. It also means giving myself permission to rest, to live fully outside of work, and to bring that renewed energy back into practice.

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

Mentorship is both a responsibility and a joy. I believe that representation is powerful. When younger women see someone who looks like them navigating a specialised, technical space, it signals possibility, so I make time for conversations with aspiring lawyers. I share honestly about the challenges and the wins, and I make a point of affirming their potential. Mentorship also means advocacy – using my voice in rooms where they're not yet present. Creating a more inclusive profession isn't just about supporting individuals; it's about shifting culture, one decision and one conversation at a time.


I also advocate for inclusive practices within teams and projects I'm involved in, recognising that diversity strengthens decision-making. Supporting other women is not limited to offering advice – it's about opening doors and making space at the table.

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

I'd tell her this: You belong here. Don't shrink to fit anyone's expectations. Ask the questions, show up fully, and trust the value you bring – even before anyone else affirms it. I'd also remind her that expertise takes time. You don't have to have all the answers on day one; you just need to stay curious, committed, and open to learning. And perhaps most importantly, I'd

tell her not to underestimate the power of authenticity. You can lead with both strength and empathy. There's space for your voice – make sure you use it.

What keeps you motivated on tough days?

On challenging days, I reconnect with my "why." The work I do has far-reaching implications – from shaping national policy to enabling responsible energy access. Knowing that my work matters keeps me grounded. It makes me sit back and reflect, and ensures that there is no time to sulk. I also draw strength from the women around me – colleagues, mentors and mentees who model resilience and remind me that we are never alone. Sometimes, motivation comes from the simple truth that growth isn't always comfortable. 

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