



Kylene Weyers

Director: Business Rescue, Restructuring & Insolvency sector



INCORPORATING
KIETI LAW LLP, KENYA

Q What led you to pursue a career in business rescue, restructuring and insolvency?

A I completed my B.Com (Law), LLB and LLM degrees, all *cum laude*, at the University of Johannesburg. One of my Master's modules was Corporate Insolvency Law, and it was while doing my Master's degree that my interest in business rescue and insolvency law was sparked.

Given my passion for this line of work, I have been working in the business rescue, insolvency and litigation practice area ever since the commencement of my articles in 2014, so I have over nine years of extensive specialist experience and expertise in business rescue, restructuring, insolvency, corporate recoveries, general commercial litigation, dispute resolution, as well as business rescue and insolvency related litigation.

What drove my interest in this line of work is that it requires me to be constantly looking for solutions to complex legal challenges, and to balance various stakeholder rights and interests while doing so.

Q What is one of the most memorable matters you ever worked on and why?

A I took the lead in representing Trudon (Pty) Ltd ("Trudon") (a subsidiary of Telkom) in the sequestration of Adriaan and Fredrika Van Vuuren (former top racehorse owners), who committed a R512m serial fraud against Trudon. I also represented Trudon in bringing liquidation applications against the interrelated sham entities and, thereafter, acted for the appointed liquidators of these companies. I also represented the trustees of the insolvent estate of the Van Vuurens, conducting an insolvency enquiry and taking enforcement measures to recover the stolen monies. This matter contributed hugely to my growth and professional development as an attorney.

Q What piece of advice would you give a young woman entering this field?

A The business rescue and insolvency industry is one of the most challenging and demanding industries to work in, but also one of the most rewarding and fulfilling.

The industry is largely male-dominated, and so there are hurdles that women encounter along the way (in the form of overcoming patriarchal constraints and barriers); however, I do believe that women have made significant strides in breaking through glass ceilings in our industry over the last few years. This area of law can only benefit and be strengthened by the inclusion of more women, and I do hope to see many more women in this field going forward.

My advice for young women entering this field is as follows: the ingredients required to succeed in this industry are hard work, resilience, commitment, determination, grit, having a strong work ethic, a sense of humour, and a positive attitude. Remember that hard work will only get you so far, but it is passion for the work that you are doing that enables you to thrive. Grab every opportunity possible, and don't let the fear of failure stop you from doing so.

Be a sponge, where you are constantly learning and absorbing knowledge on a daily basis. Always seek to add value. Invest time and energy in marketing yourself and building your professional and personal brand. Attend as many industry seminars, webinars and conferences as possible, to not only continuously expand on your knowledge and grow as a professional, but also to network and build connections. Be a thought-leader and a solutionist thinker.

Have confidence in yourself and your abilities, and always back yourself. Have a strong sense of purpose, and focus on doing work that is fulfilling and brings you joy. Build a strong support network – both at home and at work. Seek mentors who will give you the guidance

you are looking for, and who will support you on your journey to achieving the goals you have set for yourself. Be assertive about what it is that you want from your career. Be authentic, and always remain true to yourself in every interaction.

Take on new challenges, even if it seems daunting at the time. Remember that not everything always goes as planned, and it is important to be resilient and carry on, even when things are difficult. Always try to empower and uplift the women around you. Be part of the change that you want to see in the profession.

It is important to remember that working in this industry is a marathon, not a sprint. You need to take care of yourself, spend time with friends and family, make time for exercise and hobbies, and do things that make you happy outside of work. This career is only sustainable in the long-term if you can find a good work/life balance. And lastly, don't underestimate yourself – you are more than capable.

Q What do you do to unwind | get away from the stress of work?

A There is nothing that a very big glass of wine and bubble bath can't fix. Walks in nature with my husband and our nine month old baby is also very good for my soul.

FUN FACTS

Items ticked off your bucket list: I am an avid mountain biker and have completed a few of the major mountain bike stage races, including Wines2Whales, Sani2c and Berg & Bush. I was also part of the MAD2Ride team that cycled 1620km from Johannesburg to Cape Town in 8 days, to raise money for the MAD Leadership Foundation.

Preferred holiday destination: The best holiday of my life was the Maldives with my husband for our honeymoon.

Current book on your nightstand: *The Dalai Lama's Cat* by David Michie.