



Q&A

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Can you share a defining moment or turning point in your career so far?

One of the biggest decisions I've made was choosing to stay in a role that challenged me, rather than taking a more comfortable path. It wasn't the easiest decision at the time, but it exposed me to complex deals and steep learning curves that accelerated my growth. Another key decision was learning to speak up more — whether in meetings or when advocating for myself. That shift in mindset changed how others saw me, and more importantly, how I see myself.

What was your first deal or transaction like, and what did you take away from it?

My first deal was a whirlwind — long hours, steep learning curves, and a lot of imposter syndrome. But it was also incredibly rewarding. I learnt how much goes on behind the scenes, how important attention to detail is, and how valuable it is to have a team that supports you. I also learnt that it's okay not to know everything on day one — what matters is being willing to learn, ask questions, and show up consistently.

Have you faced any gender-based challenges or biases in your career? If so, how did you navigate them?

I've encountered moments where I felt underestimated or overlooked — whether it was being talked over in meetings, assumptions being made about my role, or having to work harder to be taken seriously. It's frustrating, but I've learnt to pick my battles and speak up when it matters. I try to stay grounded in my work, let my results speak for themselves, and surround myself with people who value what I bring to the table. It's not always easy, but I've found strength in staying true to myself.

What's the hardest lesson you've learnt, and how did it shape you?

One of the hardest lessons I've learnt is that not everyone will see your value right away, and that's okay. Early on, I took rejection or criticism very personally. Over time, I've realised that growth often comes from discomfort, and that setbacks don't define you — they shape you. That shift in mindset has helped me become more confident, more patient, and more focused on the long game.

How have you balanced your personal life with the demands of a career in finance?

As someone who was a student-athlete at university, I learnt early on how to manage intense schedules and competing priorities.

That discipline has carried over into my career in finance. I treat my calendar like training blocks — allocating time for deep work, recovery and personal commitments. I've found that maintaining structure and staying physically active helps me stay sharp and avoid burnout. It's not always perfect, but I try to be intentional about keeping space for relationships, hobbies and downtime.

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

Yes — massively. I used to think work-life balance meant having everything perfectly figured out: excelling at work, maintaining relationships, staying healthy, and still finding time for hobbies and rest. But I've come to realise that's not what balance really is.

Work-life balance isn't about perfection — it's about being adaptable and self-aware. Some weeks are work-heavy, others are more personal, and that's okay. It's more about checking in with yourself regularly and making sure you're not constantly sacrificing one part of your life for another.

I really relate to something Michelle Obama once said: "We need to do a better job of putting ourselves higher on our own 'to-do' list." That's been a big shift for me, realising that balance also means prioritising myself, not just trying to keep everything else afloat.

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

I've been fortunate to have a few mentors and role models who've shaped my journey in meaningful ways. Some were formal mentors, people who took the time to guide me, challenge me, and open doors. Others were role models I observed from a distance — women who carried themselves with confidence, made bold decisions, and didn't compromise their values. What they all had in common was a sense of authenticity and resilience. They showed me that success doesn't have to look one way, and that gave me permission to define my own path.

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

I'd tell myself: "you don't need to have it all figured out right away. It's okay to ask questions, to not know everything, and to grow into your confidence." I'd also say, "your voice matters, even in rooms where you feel like the least experienced person. Be curious, be kind, and don't underestimate the value of building genuine relationships." 🗣️