



Q&A



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Q *What led you to pursue a career in M&A?*

A It was never my dream job to become a barrister or to advocate in court. Back then, I was way too shy and terrified of public speaking. For my first internship, I was lucky to be able to join a renowned Tier-1 chamber, where I had my first encounter with the corporate world and never looked back. I was so fascinated by the complexity of the matters that were being dealt with (as far as I could understand them at the time), the brilliant minds that surrounded me, and how they solved what seemed to be insurmountable issues. It was then that I decided that I wanted to become a corporate lawyer.

The taste for M&A transactions came later, when I joined ENSAfrica | Mauritius. During my first few years, I tried many areas of law, but had my heart set on M&A because there is never a boring day when you deal with M&A transactions. You could say that you survive on adrenaline. M&A transactions can certainly be very challenging and demanding, but it is so rewarding to see a deal go through smoothly and to have happy clients.

Q *What, in your opinion, is the hardest part of a M&A deal?*

A For me, the hardest part, in certain circumstances, is having to work around the clock and often under immense pressure. There is no such thing as outside office hours or weekends in a M&A transaction, especially when it is a cross-border transaction with a lot of jurisdictions involved. You have to be ready to make yourself available at any time

(especially when it is a cross-border transaction with different jurisdictions involved), and cope with the exigencies of your client. But in the end, there is nothing more rewarding than seeing your transaction come to a smooth closing, and knowing that it was you who managed to ensure that all the parties are satisfied.

Q *What piece of advice would you give a young woman joining your team on her first deal?*

A I wish that someone would have told me on my very first deal that it is perfectly normal to feel completely lost and out of my depth, that it would get better.

M&A is not something that you learn at university or by reading books, you need hands-on experience to get better at it.

My advice to a young woman joining my team on her first deal would be:

- (i) Don't be afraid to ask questions (even if you think that they are silly questions). We have all started where you are right now. The most important thing is to understand what you do and why you do it, so that you can apply these principles to future transactions;
- (ii) Always set, and maintain, the bar high. You are not in competition with others, but with yourself. Always try to improve and surpass yourself in every situation; do not rest on your laurels;
- (iii) Perseverance and dedication are key to becoming a successful M&A lawyer. Do

not settle for "good enough" – you should always strive for excellence; and finally,

- (iv) That hard work pays off. Believe me, it is all worth it in the end.

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

A Coming back home every day after work to my little toddler makes me forget all about the stress of work and everything else. The life of an M&A lawyer is often so busy and hectic that you do not have much time for anything else. This is why I seize every opportunity to spend quality time with my family and friends.

My favourite ways to unwind are to go on romantic escapades with my partner, either by travelling abroad or spending a few days at a nice hotel in Mauritius and meeting with friends around good food, lots of laughs and a little bit of alcohol.

FUN FACTS

Red wine or white wine: Gin.

Preferred holiday destination: Switzerland in winter, for its beautiful scenery, and for the cheese fondue and raclette (cheese of life).

Three words that your colleagues would use to describe you: Hardworking, diligent and conscientious.

Your worst trait: Impulsive (but I am working on it). 

