



# Q&A



**BOWMANS**

## Joyce Mbui

Partner, Kenya

**Q** *Where did your journey begin and how did you end up where you are today?*

**A** I studied law at Leicester University in the UK and was more interested in the corporate modules than any other areas. After university, I did my training at a law firm in Kenya and was retained as an associate in the corporate commercial team. I did a lot of commercial property work in those early days. I eventually left to do my master's at the University of Reading in the UK. When I returned to Kenya, I joined Bowmans.

**Q** *Were there any women who helped you on your journey?*

**A** My first female boss was Mrs Rachel Mbai and she was a great inspiration. She exposed me to interesting, client-facing work very early in my career and was patient and committed enough to help me develop my expertise. She gave me the bandwidth to make mistakes, learn and take ownership of the assignments I handled. Fast forward to Bowmans' Nairobi office where the other ladies are a great source of support and wisdom.

**Q** *Did you have a female role model? If so, who was she and why was she a role model to you?*

**A** I would say Rachel Mbai because she really helped me at a young age. I learned through what she said expressly as well as what she did not say. For example: how well she carried herself, how she balanced work and motherhood, and how she dealt with her clients. As Benjamin Franklin said, 'Words may show a man's wit, but actions his meaning'.

**Q** *What qualities would you say are essential for a woman to thrive in the M&A industry?*

**A** Good interpersonal skills since M&A requires a lot of collaboration. Great negotiation skills. Being well organised because M&A tends to involve many balls flying in the air at any one time. Resilience to get you through moments of high pressure. The ability to solve problems. A focus on staying abreast of current trends and practices in the industry.



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