



## Q&amp;A



BOWMANS

## Bwalya Chilufya-Musonda

Partner, Zambia

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

**A** I studied law at the University of Zambia. I was granted the Fulbright Scholarship and proceeded to the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law, where I obtained an LLM in international business and trade law. I worked in litigation for five years and then decided to put my LLM to use and joined a law firm where I worked in the banking and finance and mergers and acquisitions teams. Joining Bowmans provided me the opportunity to continue to practise M&A and banking and finance law. M&A and banking and finance transactions can be complex and challenging, but being able to assist clients to navigate their hurdles is exciting and brings a sense of fulfilment at the completion of each transaction.

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

**A** Yes, my mother was instrumental in shaping me into the person I am today. She supported me on this journey. I must also remark on Mrs Mwila Kombe and Ms Sharon Sakuwaha who were my supervisors in my litigation and corporate experiences, respectively.

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

**A** Yes, Sharon Sakuwaha was my role model. At the time, Sharon was one of the few women I knew who had chosen a career in corporate commercial law. Also, the fact that she was my supervising partner in the banking and finance and M&A teams that I worked in prior to joining Bowmans, the impartation came easily even though she was deliberate about it.

**Q** *What is the most valuable thing you have learnt from another woman?*

**A** The most valuable thing I have learnt from another woman is being deliberate and intentional about one's own career. Becoming a great lawyer (professional) does not happen by accident, you must consciously set out your goals and work hard to achieve them.

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

**A** Passion for M&A is essential for one to be able to handle the difficult aspects of transactions, such as negotiations in male-dominated spaces or being able to achieve work life balance. Paying attention to detail or granularity is also another important quality; unfortunately in the M&A space, you have to sweat the small stuff. 

