



Jutami Augustyn

Partner

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

A My mother unexpectedly passed away earlier in the year. Only once we lost her, did I realise how big an impact she had on my life. We were opposites in many ways, but her gentle nature, determination, patience and kindness are some of the qualities that challenge and inspire me. These are qualities that I want to model more, not only in my capacity as a mother, but also in a professional context where the norm is usually the opposite.

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

A There is no such thing as actual balance. Balance suggests being able to juggle all balls at the same time. The reality is we choose to prioritise aspects of our lives based on our capacity, needs, circumstances, etc.. at a point in time. On some days, or during certain stages of our lives, this might mean a focus on family life ahead of career ambitions. At other times, we might prioritise our own physical wellbeing ahead of external demands. Trying to perfectly balance all aspects of who we are and what we do is exhausting and actually just impossible. It is okay not being able to 'do it all' at the same time.

Q *What advice would you give to other women thinking of entering the M&A industry?*

A **Back yourself.** This is a rewarding, but tough industry. Be yourself and back yourself as you navigate the corporate world. You will no doubt have egg-on-your-face and hands-in-your-hair moments, but that is okay. You deserve to take up space just as any other person in the industry.

Get mentors. Aligning yourself with like-minded people who are successful within the industry is a good way to help navigate it. Making friends and seeking input from people who are the complete opposite is even more important – they are often the people who challenge you the most and from whom you can learn the most.

Be teachable. This is a game of experience. Successes and failures are great learning opportunities, not only professionally, but personally as well. 🍷

