

Tessa Brewis

Director | Finance, Banking and Projects



Q *What is your favourite sector in which to do a deal and why?*

A I am fortunate to have worked on M&A deals across a variety of sectors, and I have learnt something from each of them. If I have to pick a favourite, it would be the projects and energy sector, and the renewable energy sector in particular. The transactions are usually complex and require large multidisciplinary teams to cover the legal, financial, technical and environmental aspects. I also admire the entrepreneurial nature of the developers and sponsors who have identified opportunities to develop energy projects, taken major risks, closed projects and then eventually sold them to longer term investors. There is an enormous need for power and infrastructure in South Africa and the rest of Africa, and I expect that this is where we will see significant investment opportunities and deal activity in the future. I also enjoy the fact that I am playing my small part in the just energy transition and the fight against climate change.

Q *Have you ever mentored anyone and, if so, what was the most important thing you learnt from that experience?*

A Mentoring is passion for me and I have always loved it. One of the most rewarding aspects of my career has been to mentor younger lawyers who have either been part of my team or worked with me on transactions. Three very talented women in particular come to mind – Inge Scheider, who is now Senior Legal Counsel at British International Investment, Elnalene Cornelius, who is now VP Legal at Scatec Africa, and Gabi Mailula who is a partner at ENS. I have seen them grow from being mentees to role

models, and I have so much admiration for what they have achieved. Being a mentor requires reflection and self-awareness, and I have often realised that advice I want to give my mentees is, in fact, advice that I also need to reinforce or hear for myself.

Q *What is one thing that makes your life easier and that you really wouldn't want to do without?*

A The incredible team of lawyers that I work with at CDH. I know that my colleagues are experts in their field, I can rely on them and their expert advice, and together, we've got this.

Q *When things go wrong, what advice would you give?*

A My advice would be to come to terms with the fact that things sometimes do go wrong and to seek a practical efficient solution. It's not about never making mistakes; it's about identifying and fixing your mistakes, and learning from them. Resilience is one of the most essential qualities you need to develop as an M&A lawyer. I also recently saw the following quote by Banksy that sums it up very well – "If you get tired, learn to rest, not to quit."

Q *What do you do to celebrate the closing of a big deal?*

A After working on a big deal, I like to spoil myself by spending some

chill time in my garden, also with my husband and our two dogs. As an M&A lawyer, time is probably your most precious commodity, and just being able to relax at home at the farm is a luxury.

FUN FACTS

Favourite Colour: Duck-egg blue.

Current book on your nightstand: *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese.

Favourite restaurant: Zest Deli & Kitchen at Beaumont Wines

Unusual hobbies: My husband and I live on a farm, so we have lots of hobbies – one of the most fun is keeping our own bees and harvesting the wonderful honey ourselves.

Preferred holiday destination: Anywhere in the Kruger Park. 🇿🇦

