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Deloitte.

Q *What led you to pursue a career in M&A | the Financial Markets?*

A The short timelines, complex structures and innate problem solving is what I love about M&A. I started in Tax and moved into Consulting, and my first project was looking at the customer acquisition model post the merger of Lehman into Nomura. Since then, I have loved working with clients through the different challenges of an integration and separation. The variety of projects in M&A, once you have a grounding, is what has kept me in the space for the last 12 years.

Q *What was the toughest deal | listing | issue etc you ever worked on and why?*

A All the deals have their complexities, whether it's carving out and standing up a business ready for an IPO during the COVID-19 pandemic or integrating a new business line to enable a listing on the FTSE. One of the toughest for me was when Europe had multiple and different data laws, pre-GDPR, and trying to navigate different closing processes across countries, while engaging with multiple regulators. The hands-on nature of separation and integration work always means that there's a surprise around the corner.

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

A The build up to signing. As one knows, there is still a long way to go in order to get to completion.

Q *What advice would you give a young woman working on her first deal | transaction?*

A Stay positive and grasp opportunities. It's always been the projects that I was less keen on that have turned out to be the most interesting, and where I have really learnt. The great thing about M&A is the variety of transactions and experiences you have – no deal is the same, and I am always learning.

Q *Did you have a mentor?*

A Mentors are the most important part of any career. At times, it may seem like you have no mentors, when actually you are being mentored across the field. I think the most important part of professional life is to take the time to step back and look at what others are doing well around you. Often, it is the people that frustrate you the most that you learn the most from.

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

A Travel. Now that I am in Cape Town, I go hiking in the mountains; and most importantly, I read lots of books.

FUN FACTS

Favourite colour:

Blue, a lifetime of following Chelsea.

Current book on your nightstand:

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus, a great read and helpful to appreciate how far we've come.

Favourite restaurant:

There are so many: The Codfather in Cape Town, Sabor in London, and Ten Con Ten in Madrid.

Dog or cat person:

Always dogs.

Item not yet completed on your bucket list:

Kilimanjaro.

Preferred holiday destination:

Benirrama, a small village in eastern Spain. 🇪🇸