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Q What led you to pursue a career in corporate finance?

A The first time I reviewed a contract (outside of articles), I remember (to me) that the defined terms and clauses all fit together like a jigsaw puzzle (if it was a really good draft). Crafting my own contracts felt like I was creating something that needed to fit together perfectly, or it wouldn't (couldn't) work. I wanted to learn to create the most complex and intricate puzzles, and that meant M&A work. You can't separate M&A work from corporate finance law.

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

A For the last few years, I've been involved in the mining corporate commercial sector. The mining sector keeps me on my toes, and my day-to-day work interesting. In one week, I could be involved in drafting contract mining agreements (which can differ depending on the relevant mineral), or security related agreements (such as loans, guarantees, cessions and pledges). In addition, I may end up drafting various types of sale agreements (target product, shares, mining rights etc.) or be fortunate enough to be involved in extremely specialised beneficiation and plant construction contracts.

In addition, not only do I generally advise and implement transactions in line with the Companies Act, within the mining law sector, I also get to implement transactions in line with the Codes of Good Practice, Mining Charter and Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act.

Q If you could change one thing on your career path to date, what would it be and why?

A I would alter my belief (as a university student) that success is found in a linear career path i.e., a candidate attorney to director

path. Every time I've taken a step that deviated from the linear path (where people around me questioned the move but, internally, I had peace and knew it was the right decision for me), I've found that those have been the best decisions for my career. And every time I took a risk, I grew in character. There are no universities offering degrees in character.

Q When things go wrong, what advice would you give about moving on?

A Finish strong. When something goes wrong, in order to move on, I think it's important to make sure that you still have a good opinion of yourself and finish strong. In other words, you have maintained your integrity and have been faithful in your convictions.

Q Did you have a mentor and, if so, what was the most important thing you learnt from them?

A Without sounding clichéd (or morose), my mentor genuinely has been setbacks, failures and disappointments. The most important thing I've learnt, and keep learning, is that the sun will still rise again the next day. Life goes on, and that means you can keep moving forward.

Q Do you have a role model or someone you greatly admire and, if so, who are they and why?

A The colleagues, peers and people I have admired throughout my career have been those consistent in character. When someone is consistent in character, when they say "yes" or "no" about a principle or view or matter, they mean it. In other words, their word means something. They are willing to take a knock or suffer a loss to maintain their word. In addition, they treat everyone the same, whether it's the tea lady or a CEO; they are consistent in who they are and how they

behave with everyone. Those are the people I admire and truly respect.

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

A Caffeine.

Q If you could have dinner with any woman in history, who would it be and what would be the first thing you asked her?

A Definitely Jane Austen. I would probably ask her if, after seeing life in 2024, she would change anything in any of her classical works, and then in this same hypothetical scenario, beg her not to.

FUN FACTS

Current book on your nightstand: *The Last Lion* by Winston Spencer Churchill. It is an autobiography of one of the greatest strategists in history. My favourite Winston Churchill quote (unrelated to the book) is from a speech made on 29 October 1941, he said:

"This is the lesson: never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in, except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."

Unusual hobbies: I tailor all of my clothes.

Item on your bucket list: The Camino de Santiago hike.

Your worst trait: When something is true or the truth, always telling someone exactly what I think, regardless of the consequences. Unfortunately, even when I do manage to exercise self-control in those circumstances, my face somehow betrays me and shows exactly what I think or am thinking. 🗣️