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Q *What advice would you give a young woman at the start of her career?*

A Embrace the experience and all the excitement and anxiety that goes with it. There will be highs and lows, and moments when you doubt yourself. However, always trust in the value, knowledge and skills that you bring to the table in a package that is uniquely your own. Don't be afraid to use your voice and share your ideas in any room. Seek out mentors and ask for guidance. Remember that your career is your own, and it is incumbent on you to lead it in the direction you want it to go.

Personally, an important learning in my career has been the importance of bringing my authenticity, values and integrity to work every day. Ultimately, we all must live with the decisions we make, how we treat people, and the value we bring to every engagement.

Show yourself grace, learn from your mistakes, and come back stronger on the next transaction.

Q *What is the best piece of advice you've received in your career?*

A I have received invaluable advice throughout my career, and hope I continue to do so. However, if I were to pick one, it must be the importance of building a strong professional network, which is crucial in this industry. A robust network has provided me with invaluable insights, learning and career opportunities, professional growth, and support throughout my career.

A close second would be the importance of prioritising your well-being. The investment banking industry is very demanding, and the old adage that "you can't pour from an empty cup" rings true. This looks different for everyone. Find what brings you peace and

make time for it regularly, especially when you're feeling overwhelmed or when deal fatigue is setting in.

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

A This has changed throughout my career, based on my work experience and level of seniority. Earlier on, I would say that it was distilling the theoretical knowledge I had following my studies into the tactical and relevant considerations required to make decisions or advise clients. At this stage, it would be managing multiple stakeholders, as well as their expectations and demands, while delivering according to an execution timeline. I've learnt the importance of continuous and effective communication and collaboration within your team and organisation, and with external stakeholders, to alleviate any tension that may arise, particularly on transactions with tight deadlines or higher up the risk curve. Effective communication and interpersonal skills are vital for professional growth and will contribute to building relationships and collaborating with colleagues.

Q *What led you to pursue a career in M&A or financial markets?*

A Growing up, the only exposure I had to the corporate world was in movies, where I was enthralled by the fast-talking, quick-thinking world of dealmaking. I was fortunate to secure vacation work at PwC during my first year of university, followed by a bursary award for my studies. During my time in advisory at PwC, I worked closely with the various financial institutions, which prompted my move into investment banking, and I haven't looked back. I've been fortunate to hone my skills in advisory, distressed

restructuring and dealmaking, surrounded by brilliant minds in an exciting, fast-paced environment.

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

A Hindsight often brings insight, and I believe that reflecting on all areas of your life will help you make more informed decisions in the future. On a professional level, I now realise the value of taking more calculated risks and seeking growth opportunities early on in my career, which has led to my most meaningful professional and career development. By taking on challenging projects and stepping up to lead engagements or workstreams, I was able to increase my visibility within the organisation and showcase my capabilities and potential. This, in turn, built my confidence and fostered my determination to succeed.

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

A Spending meaningful time with friends and family is my favourite past time, regardless of what we're doing. I try to exercise regularly to manage stress, and love to spend time outdoors. I also love to read whenever I have some downtime. My personal goal is to get through at least 12 books this year, six to go.

FUN FACTS

What is your favourite colour: Pink.

Current book on your nightstand:
A Little Life by Hanya Yanagihara.

Dog or cat person: Dog person, but I adore my niece's cat.

What is your worst trait: I can be a little impatient. 🐾