

## Nashmitha Pillay

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## Deloitte.

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

A As I approached the end of my articles, I was faced with the question that many newly qualified CAs are faced with, “what next?”. A good friend of mine entered the corporate finance sphere a year ahead of me, so I had first-hand knowledge of what a career in corporate finance entailed. I knew that it was an exciting and fast paced environment, but that it would require a lot of hard work and dedication. I was up for the challenge, and joined the dynamic Deloitte Transaction Services team in 2016.

At the time, the team was led by inspiring women. I knew that I wanted to be just like these women, who were experts in their field. I was fortunate enough to work with and learn from these women, who taught me so much about being a woman in leadership. They have cemented my belief that, with the right support system in place, women CAN have it all – a successful and fulfilling career, as well as a beautiful family life.

Corporate finance is a distinctive blend of strategic thinking, industry exploration and high-stakes negotiation. While it can be demanding at times, I find it to be equally thrilling and rewarding. This is the reason that I have stayed in corporate finance.

### Q What was the toughest deal you have worked on and why?

A No two deals are the same; all transactions have their own complexities and deal issues. I have been in M&A for eight

years now, and I still learn something new on each transaction that I work on.

Some of the toughest deals that I have worked on were as a result of the inherent nature of M&A deals, and the tight deadlines and significant time pressure that comes with them.

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

A I have been fortunate to work on deals across various sectors, including Consumer Business, Telecommunications, Media and Technology, Financial Services, and Energy and Resources.

I would have to say that my favourite sector is Consumer Business. The consumer deals that I have worked on have enabled me to gain a deep understanding of consumer preferences, which I find fascinating.

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

A Appreciate challenges for what they are – an opportunity to learn and grow. It’s very rare that things go according to plan. It is important to step back, assess the situation, and come up with a viable solution to the problem at hand.

### Q What advice would you give a young woman working on her first deal?

A Don’t be afraid to take up space. Ask many questions and learn as much as you can from those around you. Never give up, never stop learning, and never stop trying!

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

A Catch up on rest and family time... and indulge in a glass of bubbly!

## FUN FACTS

#### Favourite colour:

I love neutral colours.

#### Item on your bucket list:

One of the items on my bucket list was to visit Machu Picchu, which I did in 2019.

#### Preferred holiday destination:

With two little kids in tow, my holidays are somewhat different these days.

However, my favourite holiday destination is New York City. I was also fortunate to live and work in this vibrant city for three months during my post-articles secondment.

#### What genre of music would one find on your favourite playlist?

My love for music spans a variety of genres, from R&B and hip-hop to rock, and even country music. You would find quite a mixed bag of genres on my playlist! If I had to choose a favourite artist, it would be Kenny G. 🎧