



## Shannon Diab

Associate Director | Deal Advisory | Valuations | KPMG SA



### Q *What does your current role entail, and tell us about your journey to this position?*

A I've been a proud member of the KPMG family for over 13 years, where I've accumulated a decade of experience in valuations and transaction advisory services. My journey began in 2011, when I joined KPMG's financial service audit team. After completing my articles in 2013, I ventured to the Honolulu office on a short-term secondment. This experience was a breath of fresh Hawaiian air! I then transitioned to KPMG's Deal Advisory business, where I currently serve as an Associate Director. In my role, I work on multiple valuation engagements across diverse sectors, within as well as outside of South Africa, ensuring every project gets the attention it deserves.

Beyond my core responsibilities, I take great pride in my role as a mentor and performance manager within my team, guiding and nurturing the growth of my team members. This dual role allows me to not only contribute to the success of our engagements but also foster a supportive and empowering work environment where professional development flourishes.

### Q *What advice would you give a young woman working starting her first job?*

A Embrace every opportunity that comes your way as a chance to learn and grow—it's hiding in every task you undertake, waiting to be discovered. Don't shy away from asking questions; each question serves as a stepping stone towards mastering each project you tackle. These insights gained from these experiences will become your invaluable

toolkit, helping you tackle future challenges with confidence.

Another golden nugget: leverage the power of mentorship. While your performance manager is essential, having an additional mentor can provide invaluable perspectives and accelerate your career growth. Together, they can be your career's dynamic duo, guiding you towards fulfilling your career aspirations.

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

A KPMG's flexibility to work reduced hours after the birth of my first child has been a game-changer. It has allowed me to strike a harmonious balance between my professional and personal life. This flexibility means I can be present for my children while maintaining my professional commitments, reducing the risk of burnout and making life more manageable and fulfilling.

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

A Embrace the hiccups – they're the unsung heroes of personal growth. When things go awry, take a moment to reflect on the experience. It's in the moments of adversity that you often find the greatest opportunities for growth and learning. A growth mindset will help you move forward with resilience and optimism.

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

A Absolutely, I've had a mentor who taught me a crucial lesson: there are always

two sides to every story. It's vital to consider perspectives other than your own. This insight has been instrumental in both my professional and personal life, fostering empathy and better decision-making.

### Q *What passion of yours contributes to the overall success of your team?*

A Coaching is my passion. I find fulfilment in nurturing the skills and careers of my team members. Through on-the-job training, continuous feedback, and meaningful post-engagement discussions, I aim to unlock each team member's potential and ensure their growth and development is always in focus.

## FUN FACTS

### *Current book on your nightstand:*

*The Whole-Brain Child* by Dr Tina Payne Bryson and Dr Daniel J. Siegel. It's a fascinating read on nurturing young minds!

### *Unusual hobbies:*

Golf has been a passion of mine since I was 12, inspired by my twin brother. I captained the Sunday ladies' league at Bryanston Country Club for a decade. Although motherhood has reduced my tee times, I still sneak in a few holes with my kids. The dream of a family fourball is just around the corner!

### *Preferred holiday destination:*

Anywhere that boasts warm weather and beautiful landscapes - be it mountains or water.

### *Three words your colleagues would use to describe you:*

Positive, helpful and organised (or energetic, if they've seen me after a coffee!). 🙌