



Q&A



BOWMANS

Vruti Shah

Partner, Kenya

Q *Where did your journey begin and how did you end up where you are today?*

A My journey began by watching Legally Blonde. I had finished A Levels and was keen on studying Economics, but due to family circumstances, my options were limited to doing ACCA (accounting) or – as a I stumbled upon when watching Legally Blonde – law.

When I decided that this was the path to take, I found a distance learning course and enrolled to study law with the University of London. I joined Bowmans in 2012 at the beginning of my career as a newly qualified lawyer. I ended up where I am today by being resilient and taking any and all opportunities I could get.

Q *Were there any women who helped you on your journey?*

A Both men and women have helped me in my journey. Different individuals, mostly senior male figures, have been critical in opening doors and providing guidance and opportunities. Women had a different, but equally important role in my journey. I would categorise them into two groups: one being my peers who walked the path with me and the second being senior female figures who illuminated the path and led by example.

Q *Did you have a female role model? If so, who was she and why was she a role model to you?*

A My role model is my Mum. Growing up, she was our rock as a family. She has taught me resilience, grace, hard work and to be true to myself. It is these values that have become the core of who I am and how I show up.

Q *What is the most valuable thing you have learnt from another woman?*

A Resilience. A colleague, now a partner at Bowmans, once said to me, ‘create a life with many windows. If one window collapses, you have many more to help you get up and get back going’.

Q *What advice would you give to other women thinking of entering the M&A industry?*

A Do it without fear. It will be difficult, but it is worth it. Be open minded, be teachable and always have the thirst to learn and grow. Keep at it and the surprises will unfold. 🍀

