

# IWD: 60 SECONDS WITH SARAH HAWES

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## 60 SECOND Q&A WITH SARAH HAWES



### **WHAT WAS YOUR CAREER PATH LIKE? DID YOU ALWAYS WANT TO WORK IN THIS FIELD?**

*I am only slightly embarrassed to admit that I have wanted to be a lawyer since I was 15, although in those days I would have imagined myself in a criminal courtroom rather than an M&A negotiation. I really enjoyed doing deals and when I stopped enjoying it and knew I had to do something different, I was lucky enough that the firm provided me with a professional support lawyer opportunity.*

### **WHAT DO YOU WISH SOMEONE HAD TOLD YOU EARLY IN YOUR CAREER?**

*Be yourself and cultivate personal relationships, both inside and outside the firm. We are in a people business and the right legal answer will only get you so far.*

### **WHAT TIPS DO YOU HAVE FOR ALL THE WOMEN COMING UP BEHIND YOU?**

*Speak up - for yourself, for your colleagues, for opportunities - don't let a lack of confidence or seniority hold you back.*

## **WHAT WOMAN INSPIRES YOU AND WHY?**

*Over the years I have had a number of inspirational role models and mentors within the firm (some female, some male) - what they each have in common is that they have charted their own path and are generous with their time. I am particularly grateful for the ongoing counsel of Michael Shaw (ex-HSF partner, now GC at a large UK retail bank), Carol Shutkever and Nicola Yeomans.*

## **WHERE DO YOU SEE THE FUTURE TAKING YOU?**

*That is a very good question that I ask myself regularly! I am not sure I ever envisaged my career outside the confines of the London office, but after a year in Southeast Asia, well, who knows where could be next.*