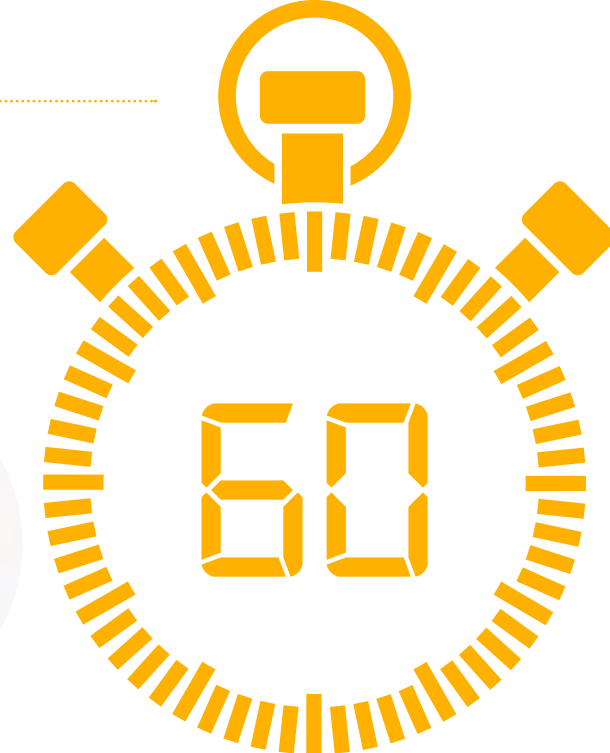


## 60-SECONDS WITH:

ANITA SHAH  
SENIOR  
ASSOCIATE  
MCDERMOTT  
WILL & EMERY

**Q** What do you like most about your job?

**A** Being constantly kept on my toes. The complexity of each dispute tends to go beyond just the law because the personal dynamics, cultural nuances and psychological drivers of the parties and players involved means that every matter is usually fascinating and unpredictable. This means there are always unique opportunities to be creative and original when formulating case strategy.

**Q** What would you be doing if you weren't in this profession?

**A** I would most likely be working in the world of global politics. Since a young age (when I bizarrely used to pretend I was John Major) I have been fascinated by international relations and the personalities and dynamics that drive global events. I became seriously interested in a career as an international diplomat but unfortunately did not have the requisite multilingual skills. Nevertheless, I have maintained a strong interest in global politics and over the past years I have been fortunate to attend major political conferences and events in Bogota, Colombia as well as in New York, Boston, Washington DC and New Hampshire.

**Q** What's the strangest, most exciting thing you have done in your career?

**A** I once acted for an Australian trust company that was administering trust funds for a US beneficiary. Significant funds had been misappropriated and our only traceable lead was the owner of an English bank account where the funds had passed through. I went to meet the account owner with the suspicion that she was the mastermind behind the money-laundering operation, but it turned out that the woman was in fact the victim of an elaborate and highly sophisticated international online dating scam. The events that unfolded served as a real-life pre-cursor to Netflix's recently released documentary 'The Tinder Swindler'!

**Q** What has been the best piece of advice you have been given in your career?

**A** Without setbacks, there are no opportunities to improve. So, embrace obstacles and disappointments as learning opportunities and use them as tools for self-improvement, growth and future success.

**Q** What is the most significant trend in your practice today?

**A** ESG and digital asset investing are increasingly on the agenda in the trust arena as beneficiaries and settlors are incorporating ESG data, fintech growth and the rise of new asset classes into decisions on investment objectives and strategy. Not only does this pose new challenges for trusts, it also increases the risk for breach of trust claims against trustees who will be facing increasing pressure from settlors or even the evolving market when trying to strike a balance between investment priorities, societal change and duty of care obligations.

**Q** What personality trait do you most attribute to your success?

**A** Extroversion. I am most engaged and energized when interacting with different types of people and immersing myself in novel situations. This has helped me form strong and collaborative bonds with colleagues, clients and counsel, and it has also given me the confidence to ask questions, take risks and seek out learning opportunities from a multitude of sources.

**Q** Who has been your biggest role model in the industry?

**A** It is too difficult to pick just one person. At MWE I work with a number of tenacious and admirable lawyers who truly operate at the highest level and have created advantages and achieved milestones in the industry that I would love to emulate in my own career.

**Q** What is something you think everyone should do at least once in their lives?

**A** Solo travel. It is an excellent way to learn about yourself, gain new perspectives, and push your boundaries to experience new things.

**Q** What is the one thing you could not live without?

**A** Coffee – I get an inordinate amount of joy from a barista-made Americano!

**Q** What is a book you think everyone should read and why?

**A** Meditations by Marcus Aurelius. It is a timeless series of personal reflections from the leader of the Roman Emperor that is relevant in its modern-day teachings. It is also a great book to revisit in small doses as it offers some very useful perspectives, particularly when you may be faced with a challenging or seemingly unjust situation.

**Q** What would be your superpower and why?

**A** The ability to time-travel. I would love to flit between ancient wonders and major moments in history, from spending an afternoon at the Hanging Gardens of Babylon or being a spectator at the Ancient Games in Olympia, to witnessing the moon landing, and being in the audience when Martin Luther King delivered his 'I Have a Dream' speech.

**Q** What are you most looking forward to this year?

**A** Spontaneous socializing, unconstrained travel opportunities and meaningful in-person interactions. And finally attending the Wimbledon men's tennis final after the tickets I had won in the public ballot had been deferred for two years due to the pandemic!

**L**