

**Antonia Mottironi**

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Antonia Mottironi specialises in international asset recovery, notably in connection with business crime, and has extensive experience in international disputes involving common law jurisdictions and/or foreign arbitral tribunals.

**Q: Who is a woman that you admire?**

**A:** Strong political women have always inspired me, from Catherine of Medici to Indira Gandhi. Simply quoting their names seems controversial as History and society have remembered their strengths as failures.

This 2023 IWD is also very special after the overturning of Roe vs. Wade and the death of Mahsa Amini. All women around the world who help other women to win (or not to lose) their freedom must be admired: the right to abortion and the right to dress as you please are two sides of the same fight.

**Q: What do you love about your job?**

**A:** Having access to an infinite source of knowledge and understanding on human nature – and to very good stories! Each case is like a novel, but better than fiction. I love what is not taught in law school: being in the “grey” zone – because life is colourful, not all black and white. And trying to make my way in hidden agendas, lies and truth and opposite interests. The right answers are often far from laws and courts, even if strategy in litigation is part of the journey – and the fun!

**Q: What career achievement are you most proud of?**

**A:** I am probably still young enough to say that this one is ahead of me. Of course winning a case or making a precedent is always very rewarding but to date, I would say that starting my own business is what I am most proud of. The paradox in feeling proud of it is that this decision was not driven by pride or ego, but by confidence in the future and in myself.





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**Q: What does success mean to you?**

**A:** Again, for me success doesn't mean winning at whatever cost. I conceive success as a state of mind and being where what I do is aligned with my values. I am a lawyer, not a mercenary. Surprisingly or not, success in its narrower meaning of victory comes quite naturally after that.

**Q: What's a small thing everyone can do to embrace equity?**

**A:** Let's be honest: embracing -for lack of a better word- equity is not about small things to do, and certainly not hashtagging the latest moto in social media.

I believe that there is one first and necessary step to take: becoming aware of our own belonging to a dominant group -should you be a white woman or an able man- and, from there, thinking of what characterises this group and what values it conveys.

I am convinced that for most of us, relationships based on domination - ranging from open violence to gaslighting or application of double-standards- will not appear ethically sustainable, or at least hardly admirable. To quote my latest reading from the French feminist Daisy Letourneur, "there is no such thing as human nature outside of a culture". So question your values every day: the reproduction of patterns is rarely a good reason.

