

**Q: Why do you think it is important to celebrate International Women's Day?**

**A:** It is a great opportunity to highlight and celebrate women who are breaking the bias every day. To demonstrate all the different ways women can and have succeeded, providing inspiration to the next generation and the generation after that, to show them what they can achieve.

**Q: What was your journey to get to where you are now?**

**A:** I took a less conventional route to get to Partnership. I began my career at a top accountancy practice and studied for my accounting qualification while working, rather than going to university, where I focused on corporate non-contentious insolvency. For me, the lure of working in London and earning my own money, while studying, was far stronger than going to university for three years.

I decided to take every opportunity to push myself, grow and develop, including applying for a secondment to Perth, Australia, which I was successful in securing against some tough competition. At age of 22, I was on a plane to other side of the world on my own to start a new chapter in my life. I had the best 18 months working in Perth, before travelling for another six months around Australia, Bali and New Zealand.

On returning to London, I joined Grant Thornton and moved into contentious insolvency and asset recovery and became an insolvency practitioner. This is where I found my passion, which is focused on using insolvency as a tool to help in family dispute matters. Now I am in the very fortunate position where I have my dream job heading Grant Thornton's Contentious Estates and Family Disputes team.

**Q: What challenges have you faced as a woman in the industry, and how have you overcome them?**

**A:** Self-doubt as to whether I was doing the right thing to work full time and focus on my career after having my son. But I have never regretted it. I overcame my concerns by taking encouragement from my family, friends and colleagues, and digging deep to find the confidence to know that working hard and providing for my family is an amazing example to set for my son.

Also, the lack of many senior female leaders within Insolvency when I was growing up in the industry was a challenge, as it is hard to imagine being something that you cannot often see. But I overcame this by becoming the change I wanted to see; I become that strong female leader and now I ensure I give my time to help encourage and bring on the next generation of female talent so they have someone they can see has made it to partner and that it inspires them to push themselves to be the best that they can be.



**Hannah Davie**

Partner

**Grant Thornton**

Hannah is an insolvency practitioner with 12 years' experience of dealing with complex, contentious assignments. She focuses on fraud investigation, identification of assets, tracing exercises, enforcement of judgments and recovery of assets for those who have suffered financial loss, or have a claim against another party. Hannah specialises in assisting beneficiaries, trustees and representatives in matrimonial, family, trust and probate disputes.



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**Q: What advice would you give to other women in the industry building their careers?**

**A:** Believe in yourself, do not try to be anyone else, do your role as best you can, as you, work hard but go at your own pace, do not compare yourself to others and most importantly make sure you love what you do as that will shine through.

**Q: What women have supported or inspired you throughout your career and why?**

**A:** My hardworking and supportive mum, my four amazingly fierce and strong sisters, my independent and determined friends and my fantastic colleagues and contacts in the industry who have believed in me and encouraged me to succeed.

So, while female leaders have not been commonplace over my career, I have grown up being supported and encouraged by a group of fantastic women who truly lift one other up, celebrate each other's talents and successes and are also there for you with a glass of wine after you have had a bad day.

When you have women in your life who inspire you to succeed, support and encourage you on your journey, it is the most powerful feeling in the world, and I would have not been able to get to where I am today without them in my life.

**Q: It's 2022, how can we move forward in the industry to raise awareness against bias and take further action for equality?**

**A:** If you see or experience behaviours which you feel uncomfortable with, talk about them, be open about it, because until people realise what bias means and feels like to each of us, we will continue to encounter it.

If you wish something were done differently, make sure you do it differently and then explain why you are doing it differently to people; tell them what it means to you and inspire other people to do the same.

It's also important to give your time to building up the women around you, support and encourage each other, be the change you want to see.