

LAURA POMFRET



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TRANSCRIPT

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I was a trainee. I actually had a baby during being a trainee actually. I don't think I shared this with you but I had Ava my eldest as a trainee which was definitely not planned and not something that you see in like your career that I'll to this, I'll do this and do this and suddenly yeah I was having a baby and what an amazing time. When I think about it you know it was really hard to be flexible but AG has always been a place that had championed women I knew that, I knew that before and sort of be able to be supported and I took a year break and so actually I remember now I joined then the cohort of trainees and their year because my friends had all just qualified and so I sort of did 2 or 3 years as a trainee because there was mat leave and then I came back and qualified into commercial litigation and absolutely loved it.

So I'm Laura Pomfret. I was Laura Anderton when I was a lawyer at Addleshaws and I'm from Wigan in the north west of England and now I'm a founder and CEO of Financielle and Financielle is a financial wellness platform helping people but predominantly women take back control of money and I never thought I would be in this seat talking about being a business owner. I loved life as a lawyer and kind of thought I would do that for a long time so its funny how paths kind of take you in different directions. I wanted to be a lawyer because of my mum. She was a client of a law firm and lawyers all the time so she worked in big transformational projects. I said, "oh mum I want to do what you do" I just loved hearing a negotiation and a contract and she said, "no you want to do what they're doing, they're the lawyers" and so that was my first interaction with law it was just like business talk and contracts and big big commercial contracts. I definitely feel like that was my first okay go on I'll do that and I never really waivered. It was very easy for me or everyone else. My friends were trying to pick what they want to be when they grow up. There's a lot of pressure at college and university to decide but from 13 I went okay and that's it. I decided that's what I was going to do. Addleshaws were so well ahead of their time in bringing together the Manchester, Leeds and London offices as there was then like just kind of a triangle and feeling like you're one team I just don't really think everyone else nailed that. A lot of the other competitor law firms were either just really big city law firms or really regional and it was kind of hard but it was just amazing because if you were in corporate you would know the corporate trainees in London and corporate trainees in Leeds and you would stay together like a team and there was a moment I remember when there was a completion in the London office and they needed someone to go down and it was quite early on in my corporate seat and it was a completion that we hadn't really been involved in but we needed support on and there was this store opened in Milton Gate and this huge table full of papers and it was right here you go put these out and I was like what and it was like this is a deal completion, this is a £200m deal, okay and I remember having to do a load of witnessing like my job was to witness signatures and I just had this vision in my head of going this is why it's done, like there's a business over there that's signed something for these people, someone wants to invest in them, these people that created it are actually like a massive wealth creation moment for them and I remember them feeling quite emotional about it, the clients because they were selling their own business, they had never taken any money out of it just flogged and not thought about the moment when they actually sell their business and I just remember thinking wow these pieces of paper that these people have worked on downstairs for months all we do is now sign them like is that it? And I just remember, I remember thinking actually I would love to do that one day, I would love to see, I don't think I ever thought I would sell my business and create a business but I think I thought I would be part of a team on the other side that was, this is our business being sold and I think its that excitement that this piece of paper or this piece of work connects to something very real out there, you know it's changing hands and it's like there's going to be change and there's going to be you know real excitement for people and I love coming back to see the team and I miss corporate deals and commercial lit. I miss those cases and I'm always like what are you working on? and like I can't tell you, I'm like I know but tell me a little bit, like what's you know, what kind of things, ok okay well the you know it's just another banking deal I'm like you know they can't tell you but I have got a bit of FOMO for that.

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