

although there is the continued challenge of balancing creators' rights and interests with those of consumers and other users who want access to everything. Some obvious areas where this occurs include artificial intelligence, social media and the explosion of streaming services over the last 10 years.

CRYSTAL: What books would you recommend as essential reading for people in the industry?

JUSTINE: As someone who reads constantly in my work, I would recommend anything that is not about law! It is good to have a broad perspective – read whatever interests you.

CRYSTAL: What advice would you give to women looking to go to the Bar or starting at the Bar?

JUSTINE: Do it.

Be confident, but do not be afraid to seek help from colleagues when needed especially in the early years.

Take on a wide range of briefs but ultimately it is good to have at least one area of expertise.

Do not panic about timing. It is not a race. If you have family or other obligations, you can choose your own pace and career path.

But bear in mind that once you have taken on cases, often you cannot control the timing of things, so ensure you have sufficient support and help at home especially during trials. The Bar is not for the faint hearted but it is a continually challenging and intellectually stimulating career. I love being immersed in whatever industries my cases take me into, and find it fascinating to learn about those industries as well as thinking about the application of the law and forensic strategy.

CRYSTAL: Thanks so much Justine. Happy International Women's Day!

Lyndal Sivell

Special Counsel, Clayton Utz

Tara Taylor, lawyer at McCullough Robertson, sits down with **Lyndal Sivell**, Special Counsel at Clayton Utz to discuss her career, tech law and International Women's Day. Lyndal is an experienced Special Counsel with a focus on large-scale technology and commercial transactions. Lyndal had a wealth of experience across Australia, the Asia-Pacific and the United Kingdom. Prior to working at Clayton Utz, Lyndal was a Managing Associate at Addleshaw Goddard's commercial team in London, and a Senior Associate in Ashurst's Sydney projects/infrastructure division. Lyndal advises extensively on technology, IP, privacy, data protection, cyber security and commercial aspects (including complex separation and transitional services arrangements) of mergers, acquisitions, disposals and reorganisations. Lyndal is an active member of Clayton Utz's gender committee, and mentors (both formally and informally) junior lawyers in her own and other teams at Clayton Utz.

TARA TAYLOR: Lyndal, thank you for taking the time to talk with me about your experiences in the legal industry. In light of International Women's Day, CAMLA is publishing a spotlight edition on successful and talented women in the media and communications space. To start off with, could you please tell us about your career path and how it led you to where you are today?

LYNDAL SIVELL: I have always loved big, juicy global transactions. My life as a commercial and projects lawyer started to trend towards technology outsourcing and digital transformation projects over 10 years ago. More and more of the transactions I advised on were technology focused. This has since expanded into advising on all things data, AI, cyber, online harms and more. These are exciting, dynamic areas of the law that you also get the pleasure of seeing play out in real-life.

I thoroughly enjoy working in private practice, and have remained there throughout my career so far. However, this has been peppered with other exciting life events including three delightful children, taking extended time away to travel, and completing my LLM in international public law in London. These experiences (and many more) have shaped who I am today.

TARA: The 2024 International Women's Day campaign theme is 'Inspire Inclusion'. What does this mean to you and how would you like to see it applied in your industry?

LYNDAL: This centres around truly valuing and celebrating difference. It should be encouraged and embraced. From a female perspective, the legal industry has been chipping away at this. Things like accessing flexible working, career sponsorship

programs and improved parental leave are to be commended. Ideally, however, these should not be seen as exceptional but rather as the norm in ensuring that all can actively participate in and have fulfilling careers in the law. A holistic approach should be taken.

TARA: Is there anything you have learned through your career that you would like to give as advice to your younger self?

LYNDAL: You are the "cruise director" of your own career. I have benefited from exceptionally talented and supportive supervisors and colleagues throughout my career, but, in the end, it is up to each of us to work out what we want to do and where we want to be. Even if we cannot quite get there yet.

TARA: What is the greatest risk you've taken as a professional?

LYNDAL: Perhaps not a risk, but I have always been myself. Many of us do not necessarily fit the traditional mould of a lawyer. Yet, to me, this is what has always made me, and others, better lawyers. Authenticity goes a long way. I bring my whole self to work and am thrilled when others do the same.

TARA: Over the past few years, have you noticed a dramatic shift in the Australian legal landscape and if so, how has it affected you?

LYNDAL: I have seen a shift in the way that legal resources are used. Legal technology is a game changer. It really is now expected that we use technology to deliver smart, innovative and efficient legal services and solutions.

TARA: Are there any law reforms in your sector that you think are desperately needed? If so, what are they?



LYNDAL: In my space, there is a bit of a cat and mouse game. The law often struggles to keep pace with emerging technologies, the way in which data is extracted or created and used, and other developments. Inevitably there are competing viewpoints on issues such as the regulation of AI, portability of personal information and other data, and the use of facial recognition technology. I have found this particularly fascinating given my interest in public international law and my time spent studying and working in the UK. Different regulatory approaches are emerging across the world and we watch on with interest. I do believe that more comprehensive regulation is needed to provide business, government and individuals with confidence to appropriately and ethically engage with these developments. However, this is fraught with nuance and will take time to properly address.

TARA: What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders in the industry?

LYNDAL: Really invest in your career. This is not about taking away from other wonderful aspects of your life, but really getting the best value that you can out of the time that you have in your work. You may have a more academic focus or revel in being part of an industry panel. Get involved with initiatives that you enjoy, and every now and then challenge yourself to try something different.

TARA: Thanks once again for your time, Lyndal. On behalf of CAMLA's readers, we appreciate your insight and advice.