

An unexpected detour led her from the practice of law to the practice of people

I did not choose human resources. Human resources chose me; and it took a fairly dramatic detour to get there.

I went to law school and became an associate at a prestigious, trailblazing law firm. I believed I had found my lane. Several years in, on a Thursday night, the firm gathered for a town hall to hear that the doors were closing the next day. No severance, no COBRA health insurance, nothing. An entire firm, simply gone overnight, and with it, the career I had mapped out. It was a jarring professional moment, but it gave me something I did not expect: an opening.

A recruiter placed me in a practice management role at another firm. I walked into it with equal parts humility and curiosity. What I found on the other side of that door changed everything. I was suddenly immersed in the operational architecture of a law firm—finance, marketing, technology. But it was the people-facing work that captured me entirely: recruitment, professional development, culture, benefits. That is where I came alive.

The lesson I carry from that chapter: Do not be so attached to the plan that you miss what the detour is trying to show you. My career was not linear, and it was better for it.

What ignites my professional passion is straightforward: I believe, deeply, that when people are genuinely supported—when they feel seen, developed, and valued—they do their best work and deliver exceptional client service. When that happens, organizations thrive. People strategy is business strategy. There is no separating them.

That conviction shapes everything I do in my role. My goal is for every person at Dechert to feel empowered and trusted to do their best work, to grow, and to know that this firm is invested in them. The Dechert experience should build lasting confidence and expertise, and the community forged here should remain a source of strength and support wherever a career leads. To that end, I pursue a connected vision across recruiting, development, culture, total rewards, well-being, and diversity and inclusion—all moving together toward the same destination.

The work is never finished. I am enormously proud that Dechert is the only AmLaw 100 firm to achieve “Elite” status across every category in the Chambers Associates survey multiple years, a reflection of this team’s extraordinary effort. But what truly sustains me is something harder to quantify: hearing directly from people that something we built made a difference in their career, or in their life. That is the measure that matters most.

I did not plan this career. But there is no deeper professional fulfillment than spending it helping people thrive—and watching organizations grow stronger because of it.



Education: JD, New York University School of Law; BA, English Literature, Northwestern University

Company Name: Dechert LLP

Industry: Law

Company CEO: Mark Thierfelder and Dave Forti (Co-Chairs)

Company Headquarters Location: Philadelphia, PA; New York, NY

Number of Employees: Approximately 2,000

Your Location: New York, NY

Words you live by: “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” – Maya Angelou

Who is your personal hero? There are many heroes who inspire me, especially those who act with courage and selflessness without seeking recognition. Nicholas Winton, who rescued hundreds of children from Nazi-occupied Europe and quietly carried on with his life, is one example.

What book(s) are you reading? Fiction feeds my infinite curiosity about people — what drives them, how they navigate relationships, and why they make the choices they do. Some all-time favorites: *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Marjorie Morningstar* by Herman Wouk, and anything by Meg Wolitzer or Wally Lamb.

What was your first job? I started babysitting at age nine after my mom sent me door to door in our neighborhood to look for work.

Favorite charity: Two causes are especially meaningful to me. The first is ovarian cancer research and patient support after losing my mother to the disease and the second is the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. Having tracked the mountain gorillas in the Democratic Republic of Congo, I witnessed firsthand both their majesty and their vulnerability.

Interests/Hobbies: Hiking, kayaking, adventure travel

Family: Family is one of my greatest sources of joy, particularly as I navigate the adventure of raising a teenager.