



Mentors encouraged her to be a leader, now she invests in others with potential

Mentorship has been a huge influence in my career. I attribute some of my most important professional and personal growth to people who took the time to teach and guide me, but even though many of these people had leadership qualities I admired, it took a long time for me to see myself as a leader at all. For much of my career I focused on developing deep technical expertise in structured finance and being a colleague my team could rely on. It did not occur to me that I was also someone capable of leading. I believed that truly effective leaders possessed some innate quality or force of personality that I did not possess. That belief shaped the opportunities I pursued and, more importantly, the ones I did not.

What changed my view was mentorship. I have been fortunate throughout my career to work for people who went out of their way to provide advice, support, and genuinely constructive criticism, and alongside peers from whom I continue to learn. That experience helped me to develop my legal skills, but it also changed how I understood my own potential.

Beyond their direct counsel and encouragement, my mentors modeled something equally important: that leadership is not a fixed trait but a skill built over time through practice and deliberate effort, like any other. Watching them lead in ways that were effective but distinct from each other showed me that there is no single template for what a leader looks like. It is possible to lead in a style that is genuinely your own, drawing on your own strengths rather than performing someone else's version of the role.

This realization reframed how I think about my own potential and the kind of lawyer and colleague I want to be. Having benefited so much from the generosity of those who mentored me, I now try to give back. I find it incredibly gratifying to work with the associates on our team to help them develop their own skills as lawyers, seek out opportunities for themselves, and remember that being a committed team player and aspiring to lead are not mutually exclusive. Without the mentors who invested in me, I don't believe I would have developed the confidence or the perspective to pursue the career opportunities I have. It is a debt I intend to keep repaying.

Education: JD, Columbia Law School; BA, New York 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: "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."
– Ralph Waldo Emerson

Personal philosophy: Never turn down an opportunity to learn something new. Every challenge is an opportunity for growth that will allow you to better serve clients and be helpful to colleagues going forward.

What book(s) are you reading? *The Gods of New York: Egotists, Idealists, Opportunists, and the Birth of the Modern City: 1986-1990* by Jonathan Mahler

What was your first job? Working as a legal assistant for my father's small law firm in high school and college. My first job after college was as a cover copy assistant for a large book publisher.

Favorite charity: Earthjustice

Interests/Hobbies: Hiking, reading, knitting

Family: I'm very grateful for the support and encouragement of my family, including my parents, sister and brother.