

# WOMEN OF LEX AFRICA

IN CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY, WE GET TO KNOW SOME OF LEX AFRICA'S LEADING WOMEN.



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### Who are you? What makes or defines you as a woman?

I am a woman born and raised in Cameroon by loving and caring parents who taught me the value of hard work. I nurtured the dream to become a great corporate lawyer while in secondary school.

I am a curious and meticulous person. I think it is important to see things through to the end. I am focused and hardly give up on my dreams. Showing close attention to detail, respect, and loyalty are great values in my life. I give priority to human relations and care about treating others well. My loved ones know they can rely on me.

### Who inspired you to become a legal professional and why?

I was a confident student in secondary school until the day our perfectionist French teacher made me start having doubts about my abilities. She loved to subject us to some debates and public speaking exercises every Monday morning. My classmates were so good at it and had passed with flying colours. I had unfortunately failed. My teacher found my arguments too light and ironically asked me, "As a Corporate Lawyer, is this how you will have convinced your audience?"

At that time, I did not know what a Corporate Lawyer could represent, but I asked her if I could redo the exercise. I did some research. I was burning with the desire to deliver better work and a complete set of arguments. I think that is where it all started.

### What values do you think should be instilled within the next generation to grow a successful businesswoman?

Courage, self-sacrifice, and strong attention to detail will surely enable the younger generation to stand out. Giving the best of oneself every time one has a job to do and learning quickly from the corrections one is lucky enough to receive can be decisive while building a meaningful career. The trophy at the end is the fruit of all the victories achieved during the tournament.



**What is the best piece of leadership advice you've ever received?**

*Never cheat to win. Hard work always pays off.*

**How do you balance work and life responsibilities?**

Being the only woman recognised as a “Ranked Lawyer” in Cameroon for 2021 by Chambers and Partners would have been hard to achieve without hard work and the love that I give and receive at home.

Finding the right balance may be difficult but prioritizing is strongly advised. Doing one’s best is as important as winning.

**As a female legal professional, what has been the most significant barrier in your career?**

I never really thought about breaking the glass ceiling as a female legal professional. I believe great work speaks for itself.

What matters is to deliver in the client’s best interest. However, as we are in a male-dominated profession, I think women can experience improvement in practice if they are more involved in deals and if corporate clients demand more accountability around diversity.

**“Africa’s economy could grow 10% by taking women more seriously”**

**What advice would you share with young women entering a male-dominated profession?**

I read somewhere that “Africa’s economy could grow 10% by taking women more seriously”. The World Trade Organization recently appointed its first female Director-General, and the African Union its first female Deputy Chairperson. That is a sign of the many strides Africa and the World have made in gender equality. Beyond their respective backgrounds, I think what these women have in common is the willingness to stand out from the crowd.

**My advice to young women entering the legal profession is to use their professional skills to stand out from the crowd.**

**International Women's Day is on March 8, 2021  
The women of LEX Africa #ChooseToChallenge #IWD2021**