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Alumni Spotlight

This first edition of our Alumni Spotlight features Tanya Queen who recently returned to Bressler after several years practicing at Goldman Sachs, a leading global investment banking, securities, and asset and wealth management. We caught up with Tanya to discuss her career journey, what brought her back to the Firm, and what excites her most about this next chapter.

Q: Tell us a little about your career path since leaving Bressler?

A: The decision to leave Bressler originally was unplanned and unexpected. It's a story I've told often so that people recognize just how special Bressler and its people are. I hope I have the opportunity to tell you the full story one day! The CliffsNotes version: after receiving a call from Goldman Sachs requesting that I interview for a position I never applied for, I was encouraged and supported by my mentors at Bressler to go through the process. When I got the job, I was then reminded that Goldman Sachs was not an opportunity you pass up. And they couldn't have been more right. I received invaluable experience and growth in working with hundreds of the best and the brightest people in different divisions, in different stages of their careers, with different expertises, and with different problem solving philosophies. Each day presented dozens of new issues, considerations, and challenges. You have to be quick on your feet, nimble, detail oriented, focused, organized and inquisitive all at once. I left Goldman Sachs a better lawyer, enlightened and more understanding of how the role of counsel can be a small, but important, part of the overall equation.

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Q: What originally drew you to Bressler, and what made you decide to return?

A: I joined Bressler (the first time) fresh out of law school. Many large or mid-sized law firms do not allow first year lawyers to start their legal careers "specializing" in any particular practice area. As a finance major (combined with a last minute decision to go to law school), I knew I wanted to combine both of my degrees and interests into one lasting career and set out to focus on securities law throughout law school by interning at the Securities and Exchange Commission, clerking for the state securities regulator in Tallahassee, and acquiring a Business Law Certification. I looked for a law firm that would allow me to continue that focus and after meeting nearly everyone in the Fort Lauderdale office during my interview process, I instantly knew (and I'd like to think Bressler knew) that we were good fits for each other.

I've been asked the question a lot - **"why Bressler and why not try another law firm?"** My answer has been **"why would I go anywhere else?" I already know Bressler has so much to offer**: An established securities practice. Lawyers with well-rounded expertise and backgrounds. Tenured colleagues. An entrepreneurial environment. Unwavering support for their people. And maybe most importantly, smiling faces!

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Q: How did your experience outside the Firm shape your perspective as an attorney?

A: While at Bressler, I focused on both securities litigation and did some work in the regulatory/compliance space. At Goldman Sachs, I serviced the day to day needs of the Wealth Management businesses. The issues could be broad and vast or narrow and focused. Each day was different and each day compounded on the next day. What I learned is that there are many moving parts to a decision contemplated by an organization and pure legal advice cannot always be appropriately implemented or if it can, implemented efficiently and effectively. My success at Goldman Sachs came in part from guiding the organization as to its feasible options measured against risk. I became very knowledgeable as to how the business functioned which was imperative to offering solutions that simply made sense. I look forward to bringing this skill set to Bressler's clients alongside my partners at the firm.

Q: What are you most looking forward to in this next chapter back at the Firm?

A: Reconnecting with the industry. Sometimes an in house job can silo you in a single organization bringing narrow perspectives. I look forward to spending more time rekindling connections and learning more about the focus areas of other organizations.

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Q: What advice would you give attorneys building their careers today?

A: Stay organized. It's simple advice, but so many lawyers struggle with it. It's a key component of success. If you can't show up for your client in a timely and efficient manner thereby instilling confidence and reliability, then it doesn't matter what your legal skills may be.

Quick Takes

Favorite part of practicing law:
Developing solutions to a problem that does not always have a direct answer or clear path.

Best career advice you've received:
You spend more time with the people you work with than you do your own family so choose wisely. I have been so fortunate in this regard.

Coffee order:
I'm on an iced cappuccino kick.

One word to describe Bressler:
Family.