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How did you find your way into the industry? I'm a corporate finance professional who specializes in real estate, lodging and leisure so financial advisory is my "industry." When I was a kid, I wanted to be an architect. Over time, I found myself also drawn to business, politics and finance. I love real estate corporate finance because it combines all of those disciplines.

What advice would you give to an emerging young leader just starting their professional career? Ask a lot of questions. Some folks are intimidated to ask questions for fear of looking ignorant. It's better to ask a question and to quell ignorance rather than remaining as such.

What traits do you think define a successful leader? A successful leader can project a vision that compels talented people to join a team based upon shared principles. He or she is self-disciplined and focused on results, but leads from a heart of service.

What is your current job and what types of projects are you working on now? I help real estate owners and executives develop their business strategy, raise capital, restructure and buy or sell companies. I work with clients who invest, own and develop properties across several real estate sectors including retail, industrial, office, multifamily, hotels, healthcare and homebuilding/community development.

What do you find most challenging about your profession on a day-to-day basis? There is a lot to keep tabs on. Everything in my day-to-day business is dynamic: capital markets, geographic markets, and real estate sector fundamentals are always changing. It's my job to stay on top of it for my clients.

What are you looking for in terms of career development - OR In what areas would you like to professionally develop further? I think it's important to constantly develop leadership, teaming and interpersonal skills. Technical competency is expected, but this is a people business and "soft skills" are what set people apart.

Describe a situation that was a great learning experience. I lived in Spain for 1 ½ years while pursuing an International MBA from IE Business School. Not only did I receive a stellar education in business, finance and management, but I also built friendships with people from around the world, learnt about different worldviews, developed fluency in Spanish, experienced art and culture, and travelled to places I had only once read about. Not enough emphasis is placed on worldliness in our culture, and I hope that this generation changes that.

How do you deal with stress at work? I'm athletic, so I take my stress out at CrossFit, running, cycling or swimming. I also compete in regattas and triathlons, but the jury is out on whether that decreases or adds to stress.