



We need women who are so strong they can be gentle, so educated they can be humble, so fierce they can be compassionate, so passionate they can be rational, and so disciplined they can be free. Kavita Ramdas



Inspirational Women of our time ...

It is Women's Month and we are reminded of the extraordinary courage and strength embodied in the Women's March against pass laws in 1956. In the spirit of this historic event, five Pincus Matz ladies tell us about the women who have inspired them to be the women they are today.

MY VILLAGE IS FILLED WITH STRONG INDEPENDENT WOMEN



They say it takes a village to raise a child; my village is filled with strong independent women who have constantly guided me on my journey of life — I wouldn't be where I am today without them. Among them, are aunts, cousins and family friends: **Charlene Erasmus, Dr Michelle Burrows, June Fortune, Anita Fortune, Belinda Fortune** and **Estelle Daniels**. My mother **Cathrine Erasmus** has been the constant pillar in my life, supporting me to be the best that I can be in every aspect. She showed me the importance of being present both emotionally and physically, and never missed a hockey game, recital, school play or award ceremony. My grandmothers **Bini Erasmus** and **Catherine Fortune** were always a source of comfort and taught me compassion and tenderness, as they guided me on my spiritual journey in faith.

Chelcie Erasmus



What our men have to say about women ...

LES MASTERSON

What I admire most about the women at Pincus Matz is their work ethic mingled with their sense of fun and their commitment to the firm.

ABUBAKER HENDRICKS

I believe respecting women is one of the most important things to uphold in life. Call me old-fashioned!

KEEGAN SHAW

I want women to know that we are nothing without them and that they are the backbone of society. They must be respected and never be underestimated on the grounds that they are women. I wouldn't be where I am today had it not been for the incredible women in my life. They have all played and continue to play a significant role in the type of person I strive to be. I appreciate and am forever grateful for my mother, grandmothers, aunts, sister and girlfriend. They have always showed me, time and time again, that a powerful woman is a force to be reckoned with.

HER CAN-DO ATTITUDE

My inspiration is my late mother, **Brenda Tooley**. As a young child she was diagnosed with type 1 Diabetes. She spent many months in hospital while my late brother and I were growing up. Despite her health challenges, her 'can-do' attitude did not let anything stand in her way. She was a hard worker and a wonderful mother. Although she could not eat them, she baked two cakes a week, we had pudding every night and sandwiches with a different filling every day for school lunch. She always encouraged me to work hard, and told me that she foresaw that I would one day be sitting in an office giving instructions over the phone! I wonder what she would have made of email, cell phones, etc. I miss her, especially when I am in the kitchen and because she would have been an awesome grandmother. *Alison Tooley*



SHE FED MY HUNGER FOR KNOWLEDGE

I will always be grateful to my mother's aunt, **Kotie van Rooyen**, for feeding my hunger for knowledge as a young inquisitive child. She held a Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Therapy which she must have obtained sometime during the 1940's at UOFS. She was not allowed to work after she got married. Instead she ran an informal day-care looking after children, myself included. She was the person who first explained to me what an attorney does when I was only in primary school. *Janet Snyman*

TOO MANY TO NAME

There are too many to name. I believe that most of the women I encountered, **my mother, the domestic workers, nannies, teachers, bosses and colleagues** around me helped, motivated, encouraged and inspired me on my professional path. I can't think of any woman who negatively impacted my life. *Yasmin Jadwat*

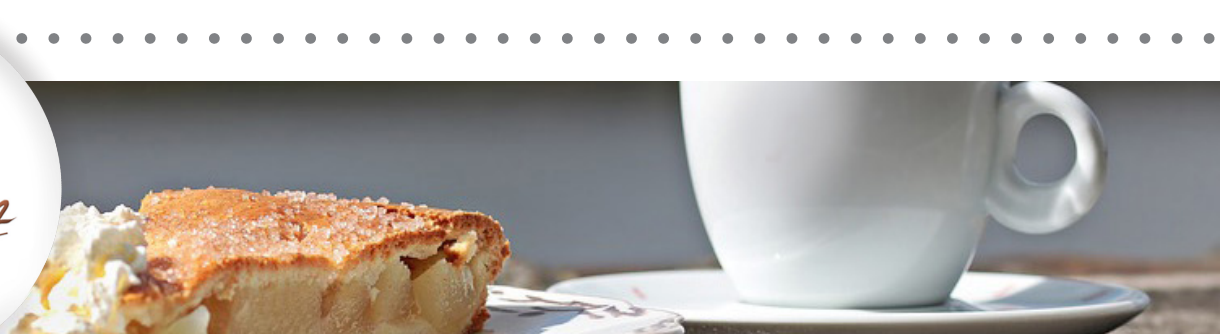
STRONG, INDEPENDENT AND SELFLESS

Although we, as women, are meant to be the 'weaker sex', this is not so; physically perhaps, but that is where it ends. **My mother** taught me that, as a woman, I need to be strong, independent and selfless. Looking back I see how those important aspects helped me face and get through some challenging times and this has encouraged me to instil those same values and ideals in my daughters. A quote that I live by is "Don't let your circumstances dictate who you become". *Vanessa Joshua*



SEVENTEEN OUT OF TWENTY

With three women at the helm, and 14 out of 17 staff at Pincus Matz being women, we not only understand the challenges that women face today, but we also recognise the strength and the power that women have. The drive to nurture, to encourage and to make a difference, are attributes that we carry with us, both at home and at work.



We miss our time together!

We send very happy birthday wishes to all our friends and colleagues who have recently celebrated their birthdays. It has been five months since we have been able to enjoy those special birthday club celebrations with you — and we really do miss our time together. We look forward to seeing you all again when your health and ours, is no longer at risk. May the years ahead be kind and gentle to you all.

Celebration time



Not much will stop the Pincus Matz family from celebrating special occasions, and wishing each other well — even if it means standing far apart and singing through face coverings. Happy birthday to Rachenda Smith, Vanessa Joshua, Martine Murphy, Abubaker Hendricks and Nuha Jacobs. May you all stay healthy and happy for many more years to come. More photos on Facebook.

Email Snippets

Thank you so much for the beautiful warm newsletter. My warmest regards to all at Pincus Matz. Mary Jane Lefevre

Thank you for your newsletter. It sends out a warm, personal and yet professional message which reflects what I know you to be. Best wishes to all at Pincus Matz for the future, Desmond Loch-Davis