

Charlotte Stevens



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Having studied in New Zealand and worked in both New Zealand and Australia for the first 6 years of my career, it is fantastic to be in the middle of the world in the Freshfields' Abu Dhabi office. Notwithstanding this, my ties to New Zealand are strong and it is great to be part of an office which (possibly a little tongue in cheek) sees itself as the "New Zealand of the network", a compact office where we promote our unique selling points and get significant traction in these areas.

The opportunities I have received since being with Freshfields are amazing, whether these have been client-facing, in terms of the size and quality of transactions I have been exposed to, or 'other'. For me, the 'other' opportunities are ultimately about giving tools for success:

- ▶ tools for us as employees (such as international, cross practice area technical and soft skills training);
- ▶ tools for the firm (such as international sector-group conferences that promote networking and, ultimately, enable Freshfields to operate as a global team); and
- ▶ tools for both us as employees and for the firm (such as international initiatives to increase diversity within the firm through providing additional support where a need for this has been recognised).