

Elena Rivera

LGBT+ Diversity Role Model

Grow | Protect | Operate | Finance



Office Location

La Paz, Bolivia.

Department & role

Associate in the corporate area.

Fun fact about you

I have three excessively talkative cats

A little bit about you – where did you grow up, what is your background?

I grew up in La Paz where I currently work. I have studied here to become a lawyer but have completed further studies in Belgium. I do not see myself living anywhere else, or at least not anywhere warmer.

How long have you worked at Dentons?

Ten months.

Your role model?

Just my father, I wish I could be half the person and lawyer that he is.

How do you identify?

I identify as a trans woman



**Dentons
GLOW**

What does that identity mean to you?

It means being able to live truly as myself, and being genuine with others about who I really am.

How do you feel being out today?

Happy, I have the privilege of having been accepted by everyone who truly mattered in my life. I know many people find rejection even with their closest relatives, so I can only be extremely grateful to my family, friends and colleagues for the understanding and support that they have given me.

Are there any current topics within your community which you are passionate about or interested in the conversation around?

Currently in my country transgender people cannot get married or adopt children, we are denied the right to start a family. I have special interest in this issue not only because it affects me directly, but also because it is a legal issue and I believe we can do a lot as lawyers in order to correct it.

Do you have much personal interaction with the rest of the LGBTQ+ community? How does this affect how you see yourself and others?

Not really, I have never really known a lot of LGBTQ+ people. That is why I believe visibility is so important. I was very scared of coming out because I had no point of reference, and I was very confused for several years because I didn't even know that other people felt the way I did, or what it meant to feel how I did.

What do you think would be helpful for future generations of LGBTQ+ to know or to have? Is there anything you have learned that was helpful to you in accepting your identity or promoting it?

People can surprise you. After coming out, a lot of people who I did not expect to understand my situation (for example, my great-grandmother from a conservative city) were the most loving and thoughtful, and some people who I relied on for support (such as childhood friends) turned out to be the most prejudiced and unkind. Everyone can learn and be an ally, give them a chance and you may be gratefully surprised.