

大成 DENTONS

# 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.