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Sheuvaun Vernon is an associate at Schulte, Roth and Zabel LLP. Her principal practice area is capital markets and finance, focusing on structured finance. Prior to joining Schulte, Sheuvaun developed her knowledge of the finance industry working for Guggenheim Partners Investment Management, BurgherGray LLP, Two Sigma Investments, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Sheuvaun's diverse background working in both the private and public sectors provides her with a wealth of experience, and the ability to address matters with an open-minded and comprehensive approach.

Sheuvaun is a co-founder and member of Fordham Law's Alumni Attorney of Color's New Attorney Division, a founding member of the HomeGrown Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization with a mission to increase opportunities for personal and collective growth for the residents of Mt. Vernon, New York, and a founding board member and Board Chair of the Intellectus Preparatory Charter School, a brand new 6th-12th-grade school located in the heart of Mt. Vernon with a mission to deliver an equitable educational experience for its scholars.

What inspired you to get into the finance industry?

Truthfully, I was presented with an opportunity and fell in love with the industry. While in law school, I interviewed for a summer internship at a hedge fund, and although I didn't have much experience in the industry, the interviewer recognized specific transferable skills I'd attained from previous career(s) and gave me a chance. My time there as summer intern was extended through the Fall; I left there and interned at the SEC, and the rest is history.

What can companies do to increase the representation of women in finance?

Be intentional about seeking out and hiring individuals who exhibit intelligence differently. The gift of diversity is the presence of varying thoughts and inputs, but if leaders continue to solely hire and mentor people who 'remind them of themselves' the industry will continue to replicate and not innovate.

How can companies invest in their women employees to prepare them for leadership roles?

By investing in leadership training for both men and women. A good leader has 'integrity, self-awareness, respect, empathy, and gratitude.' Women generally do not inherently lack these traits; however, when women are in leadership, there's often a lack of respect for our authority and a lack of gratitude for our ideas and contributions. It would likewise be helpful for men in the workplace to be self-aware, actively listen to their colleagues, and not take the contributions of the women on their team for granted.

What is a good way to give back to the community?

Shop consistently at a local business and tell other people about the goods/services that business offers.