

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## SASHA HEWLETT

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### **Hometown**

I was born in Washington DC and grew up in Northern Virginia.

### **Fun Fact**

My parents are both from the Caribbean – Jamaica and St. Kitts

### **Hobbies**

I love traveling and although I do not play as much as I would like to anymore, I love playing soccer.

### **How long have you been a member of WHF and what have you gained from being a member?**

I have been a member of WHF for a little over 3 years. WHF is a great resource. Since joining I have gained knowledge and insight on industry topics and issues as well as connections and contacts.

### **How do you make the best use of your day?**

It might sound simple, but I am a list person. Starting my day with a to-do list helps me stay on task and manage deadlines. I also make good use of Outlook to help with reminders and scheduling. I also think being active and getting some fresh air helps productivity, so I try and get out of the office for at least a few minutes during the workday!

### **What do you love most about what you do?**

I love that no day looks exactly the same. The constantly evolving issues always keep me on my toes and I enjoy getting to speak to our members, other industry colleagues especially at conferences and events.

### **Who inspires you?**

I have a wonderful group of women that I am blessed to call my best friends and we have remained close through all of life's ups and down and different phases. Their successes and joys bring me joy and I am inspired by all their amazing accomplishments.

### **What is the best advice you have ever received?**

"Be kind to yourself".

### **Who do you look up to the most and why?**

I look up to my Mom. She had a successful career and is currently enjoying her retirement. She always was and remains an example of kindness, strength, and grace - not just in work but in all aspects of life. She continues to be "the blueprint".

**Describe your journey in the financial services industry and how your career has evolved to your current position?**

I majored in Finance at Virginia Tech mostly because I thought it was a practical and versatile major. After graduation I interviewed at Freddie Mac for a budgeting position and while I was there, the HR contact noticed some of my capital markets coursework and recommended I apply for an open position on the investments and capital market operations team. I ended up getting that role and that is how my career in housing finance and secondary and capital markets began. I learned a lot in my various roles at Freddie Mac and subsequent roles at other companies. After working in Risk Management at Morgan Stanley I realized I really enjoyed and missed housing finance but wanted a role that was more people facing. MBA had an open role on their policy team that seemed to be a perfect combination of those two things, and I applied and was offered the role! My industry knowledge from all my prior roles was a great foundation for my current position.

**Please describe your involvement with WHF?**

I love attending WHF events and I recently joined the programming committee. I enjoy helping to put together events and programs and I held my first WHF event here at the MBA offices in December.