A member’s view: Sharon K. Dosanjh

Briefings



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This month’s ATT member spotlight is on Sharon K. Dosanjh, Associate in Tax and Private Client at Crowe UK LLP.

How did you discover tax?

I stumbled upon my passion for tax while studying Accounting and Finance at De Montfort University and tax quickly became my favourite subject. The engaging lecturers made the complexities of tax law come alive. Michael Crowe, my mentor, encouraged me to pursue a career in tax. Starting my training at PwC was a big leap, but now, as an Associate in Crowe’s Private Clients team, I find every day exciting and rewarding.

Why is the ATT qualification important?

The ATT qualification is crucial for anyone serious about a career in UK tax. It provides a solid foundation. The exams are challenging but they’re essential for the credibility and expertise they offer. I’m currently completing my CTA qualification,

and the ATT has been indispensable in preparing me for this next step.

Why did you choose a career in tax?

Tax is more than just numbers, it's about strategic thinking and solving complex issues. In my role with high net worth individuals, I find tax matters particularly rewarding – helping clients navigate the tax implications of divorce can be challenging and impactful. Tax can significantly affect my clients' financial and personal lives, reinforcing my passion for the field.

Describe yourself in three words.

Dynamic. Insightful. Proactive.

Who has influenced your career?

Two people stand out. First, Nicky Owen, Partner and Head of Professional Practices at Crowe UK, has been a tremendous influence. Her tax knowledge, advice and honest feedback have pushed me to think more creatively and consider multiple perspectives when tackling tax problems. Dipti Thakrar, tax specialist and mentor; to young professionals, has also had a transformative impact. As a person of colour, seeing someone like me succeed in the field has been inspiring. Dipti has reshaped my confidence, enabling me to engage meaningfully in any professional setting. Her belief in me has been pivotal in my personal and professional growth.

How would you advise someone considering the ATT qualification?

Treat the ATT as the foundation of your tax career. While it's demanding, it remains indispensable for building a strong understanding of tax principles. Engage fully with the material and view it as preparation for more advanced qualifications like the CTA. Don't; be shy – speak up and ask for help when needed.

What do you predict for tax advisers and the industry?

I think tax advisers will need increasingly advanced qualifications as regulations evolve. Technology will play a bigger role, but the human element – professional judgement and client relationships – will remain crucial.

What advice would you give your future self?

Make sure to complete your professional exams earlier in your career and strive for a good balance between work and personal life. Nurture your relationships while pursuing your career goals and keep seeking opportunities for professional growth.

Tell us something people may not know about you.

I’m passionate about charitable work and was an ambassador for the Teenage Cancer Trust, where I organised fundraising events to support young people battling cancer. I; was also recently shortlisted as a nominee for one of the Top 50 Women in Accounting, which is a tremendous honour.