

Amy F. Sorenson - Observations on Women Attorneys

I do feel that from time to time, women attorneys are underutilized in their careers, and what I have observed in that regard is that women have a very high internal standard for when they think they are ready, qualified to take on a new challenge. I think women set up – I know I do this myself, and I see other women in the law firm and in the career do this themselves as well – set an internal standard, a really, really high and usually completely unrealistic bar for when they're ready to throw their hat in the ring or take on a new challenge, and listening to that internal voice without checking it against reality and talking to some other people and just taking a risk is really going to hold you back and can cause you to be underutilized, to have less satisfaction in your career, and less experience.

So, my advice there would be the next time an opportunity comes your way and it feels like a stretch, it feels a little uncomfortable, it maybe feels like in your mind there's someone who's surely done this before, throw your hat in the ring anyway. Take the chance. Tell yourself you can do it. Get comfortable with being uncomfortable, and before you've done it, before you know it, you've done it once, and you're the resident expert.

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