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What was your motivation to become a lawyer?

I have always loved to read and was particularly passionate about human conduct and problem solving. But what tilted the scale was finding a strong role model in my aunt, who's a judge. She shared her passion for justice and taught me (without noticing probably) the importance of the law and relevance that a fair and independent judiciary has for a society. I discovered quickly that my life should be with the legal profession.

What are the most memorable experiences you have had thus far as a lawyer?

The moment I will always remember clearly is when I had my first case: the challenge of gaining the trust of a client who saw an unexperienced young lawyer, the anxiety while the judge read the judgment and, finally, the experience of telling the client that we had won (after a first instance negative judgment). This was 15 years ago; the manager of that client was from Italy and she still visits when she comes to Uruguay and we have come to know each other's families!

What are your interests and/or hobbies?

Well ... I'm Uruguayan, so I love football (a passion I share with my family, especially my kids) and in general enjoy sports, which are part of my weekly routine and help me manage stress and stay healthy.

I also love travelling with my family. I think travelling is much more than taking a break from a routine. It is also

about challenging yourself, learning, expanding your perspectives, building and strengthening bonds with the people that travel with you, and also about appreciating your life and what you have at home.

I'm also a Rotarian and through the activities we do with this organization, I feel I am contributing to endowing a better country to our children, which I think is also an very important part of our role as lawyers and professionals in general. That exact purpose pushed me to accept positions on the boards of the Uruguayan Bar Association and Lideco (the oldest Business Chamber of Uruguay), which have opened the door to different challenges.

Share with us something that IPBA members would be surprised to know about you.

I was probably the first Uruguayan lawyer to obtain an Asia-Pacific PG degree and still one of a few that has one. At the time, it was hard to convince the board of my firm to sponsor a master's programme outside the US or UK. However, the experience proved to be outstanding and extremely rewarding. As a result of my experience, I founded the Chamber of Commerce of Uruguay and Australia and two years ago was honoured by the Australian Government with the appointment as Honorary Consul for Uruguay. So, I also have a more diplomatic-oriented hat that I wear some hours a week which I enjoy a lot.

Do you have any special messages for IPBA members?

As a Uruguayan lawyer I can say that Latin America and Asia connections are recent in historical terms. However, it is evident that there are many opportunities waiting to be developed. We just need to strengthen the person-to-person relationships and mutual knowledge. Because of its manageable number of members and their quality, the IPBA is the perfect forum to achieve this. I look forward to meet fellow members and learn from them in Singapore!