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Kris Kully
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Hometown: York, Nebraska

Fun Fact: I'm a big soccer fan (particularly FC Barcelona). Also, in spite of more attempts than I care to admit, I have never beaten my husband in a game of Sorry.

Hobby: Jogging, wine, quilt making. Best of intentions to learn Italian and the violin.

1. How long have you been a member of WHF and what have you gained from being a member?

I joined WHF in 2000, when I worked for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. As a relatively new lawyer in DC, I valued the opportunity to learn about the width and breadth of the professionals in our industry. I met other lawyers, economists, journalists, consultants, lobbyists, nonprofit directors, housing specialists, secondary market investors, and congressional staff. I also was thrilled to learn that many of those experts are women! As I moved from the public to the private sector, I attended many lunches and other events, learning from high-profile speakers like former FHA Commissioner William Apgar, Senator Shelley Moore Capito, former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, and former FDIC Chairman Sheila Bair. Also, I have really valued participating in several efforts by the WHF Foundation to support local women through financial literacy and economic empowerment. Over the years, however, my favorite part of WHF has simply been the relationships. I've met so many women and men from diverse backgrounds and specialties, who have helped me shape my professional life and have become my friends. Can't beat that!

2. How do you make the best use of your day? (think techniques to enhance productivity, time management, time out, meditation/prayer, etc.)

I try to get up early and exercise most days, before the chaos of work and family kick in. It helps me stay healthy, feel better, and think more clearly and creatively. Beyond that, like many of us, I'm sure I could learn better time management techniques – if I only had the time!

3. What do you love most about what you do?

I love a lot of things about being a lawyer in the consumer financial services/mortgage industry. Primarily, I love that almost every day, I learn something and I teach

something. My clients and my colleagues are among the smartest people I've ever met, and it is a fantastic challenge to try to stay one step ahead. I've had the chance to work with supportive housing providers, community bankers, Wall Street investors, and global financial institutions. I've never had a boring day.

4. What inspires you?

I am inspired by people who never give up, particularly when progress is uncertain, slow, and difficult.

5. What is the best advice you've ever received?

My mother told me I could be anything I wanted to be, if I worked hard.

6. What are you currently reading?

Currently, I'm reading *Of Human Bondage* by W. Somerset Maugham, which has been on my nightstand for a while! I also read each month's *Smithsonian Magazine* cover-to-cover. Next, I might lighten things up with something by Gary Shteyngart, because he cracks me up.

7. What is your personal philosophy?

I subscribe to the great wisdom of Conan O'Brian – work hard, and be kind.

8. Who do you look up to the most and why?

So many people, for different reasons. My mother, because of all the encouragement she gave me and my siblings. My husband, because he's a great lawyer, has immense integrity, and only gloats a little bit about his uncanny luck at board games. Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Ruth Bader Ginsburg (for obvious reasons). The U.S. women's national soccer team, because they are strong, fast, and skilled athletes.