

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

CHASTITY ABROM

Mortgage-Backed Securities Specialist,
Ginnie Mae, Office of Securities Operations



WHF Member Spotlight – April 2019

Chastity Abrom, Mortgage-Backed Securities Specialist, Ginnie Mae, Office of Securities Operations

Hometown

Philadelphia, PA

Fun Fact

I am an avid Cross Fitter; would you like some Kool-Aid?

Walk me through your journey in the financial services industry and how your career has evolved to your current position.

I started in the Housing Finance industry directly from college through a corporate management program with Countrywide. For the first ten years of my career, I worked in the private sector with Countrywide, Wells Fargo, and Indymac. In 2008, I left the private industry for public service with FHA. For eight years, I worked in the Atlanta Homeownership Center (HOC) in REO, Housing Counseling & Nonprofit oversight, and Processing & Underwriting. In 2016, I moved to Washington, DC and joined Ginnie Mae.

What do you love most about what you do?

Working directly in the operations of Ginnie Mae's \$2 trillion securitization platform facilitates a lot of opportunity. I enjoy my career because I get to wear different hats and work in various disciplines such as Program & Project Management, Operations, Data, as well as participate in different projects such as RPA design and modernization.

Hobby

Introduced through CrossFit, I started Olympic Weightlifting (Oly) two years ago. This year I will compete in my first USAW (USA Weightlifting) sanctioned competition.

How long have you been a member of WHF?

I have been an active member for two years. Before that I was an Associate member in Atlanta for a few years.

Please describe your involvement with WHF.

I currently serve as a board member of the WHF Foundation, where I am the partner liaison for Trinity University.

What have you gained from being a member?

As a member, I have gained a better understanding of the policy and legislative aspects of housing finance. I also have had the opportunity to meet and network with women across our industry, which in turn has inspired me to step my game up, be vocal, and advocate confidently.

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

I keep a day planner (which is also kind of a hobby) so I am aware of meetings and deliverables due for the week. I generally start my day by going to the gym at 5 AM. After I arrive at work, I prioritize my tasks for the day and designate the amount of time I think I need to work on that particular task. When work is over for the day, I make sure not to bring it home. I try to keep my work and personal life separate as I believe there must be an adequate work-life balance to be effective.

Who or what inspires you?

Many people inspire me. I particularly find inspiration in anyone that overcame the odds and closed doors; however, their tenacity and hard work helped them achieve their goal and more. Also, the desire to be a little bit better than yesterday inspires me to keep going and do my best.

What is the best advice you have ever received?

The advice that resonates with me the most is about personal brand and consistency. A mentor once asked me about my brand, how do I present myself to my peers and industry? He then asked if I was Walmart, Kmart, or Target. He explained that all three stores were pretty much the same; however, their presentation and public perception is what determined their success or failure. At the time, I thought it was harsh and that was 20 years ago, but I still carry that conversation with me.

Who do you look up to the most and why?

In addition to my parents, I look up to Maya Angelou. I cannot help but marvel at her life and all she accomplished. Her prose is impeccable, and her wisdom and advice are always appropriate and valid. I admire her journey from Stamps, Arkansas to singer, actor, poet, and cultural icon.

I have a quote of hers on my phone, computer, and the wall of my cubicle. It reads, "If a human being dreams a great dream, dares to love somebody; if a human being dares to be Martin King or Mahatma Gandhi or Mother Theresa or Malcolm X; if a human being dares to be bigger than the condition into which she or he was born, it means so can you". It is a reminder potential and capabilities are infinite and only limited by the expanse of our dreams.