

JUDGES UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT



Paula Mercer
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Q: What does it mean to you to be a judge for the Women in Credit Awards?

PM: I feel very flattered to be a judge and I take my role very seriously. I want to get this right and make sure we champion not only those who win, but all the incredible women who have made a fantastic contribution to their organisation and the industry. They should all feel proud of what they have achieved. I am also really looking forward to meeting the other judges and have already started making new connections which is fantastic.

Q: What are you doing in your current role to raise awareness around gender diversity?

PM: Gender diversity is so important and ensuring equal representation of women in the workplace can have so many positive effects in an organisation. Having just been involved in a recruitment drive for my area, I believe getting the recruitment right is integral to having an inclusive workplace and being an inclusive employer supports demonstrating our values. My current priority is to build on these foundations so we attract and retain our talent and this will help us to serve a diverse customer base.

I was delighted that I won Female BDM of the year in 2018 & 2019. I like to think that this

inspired colleagues and Industry friends that they can also go on to win awards like this.

Q: What is the importance of being a finalist at the Women in Credit Awards?

PM: Isn't it just lovely to stop and recognise achievements of people who have made an impact and inspired others along the way. Now more than ever we need to celebrate the contributions of our industry colleagues as this is the biggest motivator to support the continued great work already being done with gender diversity. To be nominated and potentially win should make both the organisation and the individual really proud. The act of nomination itself is a huge recognition and it's wonderful that people take time to do this. Recognition can transform an individual and an organisation.

Q: What are you looking for in a winning entry?

PM: I love the moments when you review the entries and they just stop you in your tracks to think 'wow' and make you feel inspired. I am looking for someone who has championed gender diversity, raised awareness and had an impact on others.

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