

CPA Profile

Judith Condell



Title: Business Development Director

Company: CPA Ireland

Qualifications: CPA, IFRS Diploma, AITI, Certificates in asset-based finance and distressed companies.



Why did you decide to start out in a career in accountancy?

After completing my Leaving Certificate I worked in Bank of Ireland as I was unsure at the time what I wanted to do in the future and had worked here during the summer. I moved to New York in late 2001/early 2002 and worked in various roles such as bar manager and within accounts functions.

I decided to pursue a career in accountancy because I realised that without an official qualification or professional designation, my career progress in the financial services industry was limited. My initial work experience at Bank of Ireland and in the USA highlighted the importance of having formal qualifications to advance in my career.

Why did you choose CPA Ireland as your qualification route?

I chose CPA Ireland because, while in America, I observed that the CPA designation was highly respected and sought after while also offering excellent job security and opportunity for career progression. The support and flexibility around the study and exam options offered by CPA Ireland made the decision easy. I was confident that by qualifying as a CPA I would significantly enhance my career opportunities.

Please provide a brief history of your career.

As mentioned earlier, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do after secondary school and therefore deferred college places to work in the Bank of Ireland. Upon moving to the USA, I continued to work in the financial services industry however I felt continually frustrated as I was restricted in my progress because I didn't have an official qualification or letters after my name.

Upon returning to Ireland, I worked in the accounts department in the car dealership, Murphy & Gunn, Milltown, and then moved on to a company called Quality Ceramics in Wicklow however after 4 years here I was made redundant and decided then was a good time to commence the Accounts Technician course in the evenings while working during the day with the Asset Based Finance company, Bibby Financial Services. Upon completing the Accounts Technician qualification, I continued with the CPA qualification at Griffith College and worked during the day at Bibby Financial Services.

I worked in Bibby for 10 years in various roles from take on co-ordinator, Relationship Manager, Audit Manager for Europe and Asia, and finally, Business Development Manager. I then moved to another asset-based finance company, FinanceFair, where I worked as the Business Development Director for 2 years prior to coming to work in CPA Ireland.

What one word describes what your CPA qualification has given you?

Confidence is the word that springs to mind when I think of the CPA qualification. Having the CPA Ireland qualification and CPA designation gave me the confidence to apply for the roles I did within Bibby Financial Services and these roles then gave me the experience, knowledge, and network to change roles and industry as and when I wanted.

What has been your biggest career achievement?

After qualifying as an Accountant in 2012, I worked globally for a large multinational company which I enjoyed. Working in Bibby Financial Services allowed for opportunities to work within Europe and Asia and to

understand how companies within the same organisation differ from country to country.

What or who inspires you most in business?

I am most inspired by professionals who continuously seek to improve and innovate within their fields, demonstrating resilience and adaptability. I admire those who balance professional success with strong ethical values and contribute positively to their communities.

What advice would you give to those recently qualified or currently studying for their CPA qualification?

Take every opportunity that comes your way, even if it doesn't align perfectly with your initial expectations or goals. Every experience is valuable and will help shape your career path. Use your CPA qualification to establish credibility and trust, which will open doors and enhance your career prospects.

How do you unwind?

I unwind by spending time with my family and friends, going to the gym, and by trying new things.

What traits do you admire in others?

I admire traits such as integrity, resilience, adaptability, and a strong work ethic in others. Additionally, I value those who demonstrate empathy and a commitment to continuous learning and improvement.