

# WOMEN

*In Business*

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



*Shauna Telson*



# HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN YOUR LINE OF WORK AND WHAT GOT *you* STARTED?

“Well, I've been with Seaside Police Department for over 15 years now. And I actually started as a dispatcher, I grew up here and came back home, from California. I had just got out of the military and actually applied to be a dispatcher. And a couple months after I'd moved back, I got the job. I did that for about five and a half years, and then I switched over to patrol. And I've been doing that for over 10 years now. I've always had a strong sense of right and wrong, and just wanting to do good to other people, to the community and to help others. So that was my strong urge. I always wanted to be a police officer when I was little, and I grew up wanting to do that. And as I got older, I really wasn't confident in my abilities for that. So, when I heard about dispatch, I never even thought of it and did a little more looking into it and thought, well, this is perfect. Like, I'm not confident to be a police officer, but I can still do kind of a similar job and help officers as a dispatcher and then once I was there for a good amount of time, I just gained more confidence and and learned more about the job.”

# WHAT IS ONE THING YOU WOULD TELL OTHER women GOING INTO BUSINESS?

“For women going into law enforcement, I would just tell them to understand that everyone has their strengths and their weaknesses, it doesn't matter if you're a male or a female. The same gender can have different weaknesses as well. I think it's important to understand what your strengths are and hone those strengths and always make improvements. But when you end up working on a team maybe my strength is one thing, but I know my partners are something else. Work together. And that's something that's always worked for me ever since the military. I worked with some really strong guys who they could do certain things and I was better at doing more of the finesse kind of work. And it's not to say that we don't all work hard, but when you just capitalize on a person's strengths, it really makes for good teamwork.”

# HOW DID YOU MANAGE POWER STRUCTURES & IMPOSTER SYNDROME EARLY IN YOUR CAREER VS. LATER IN *your* CAREER?

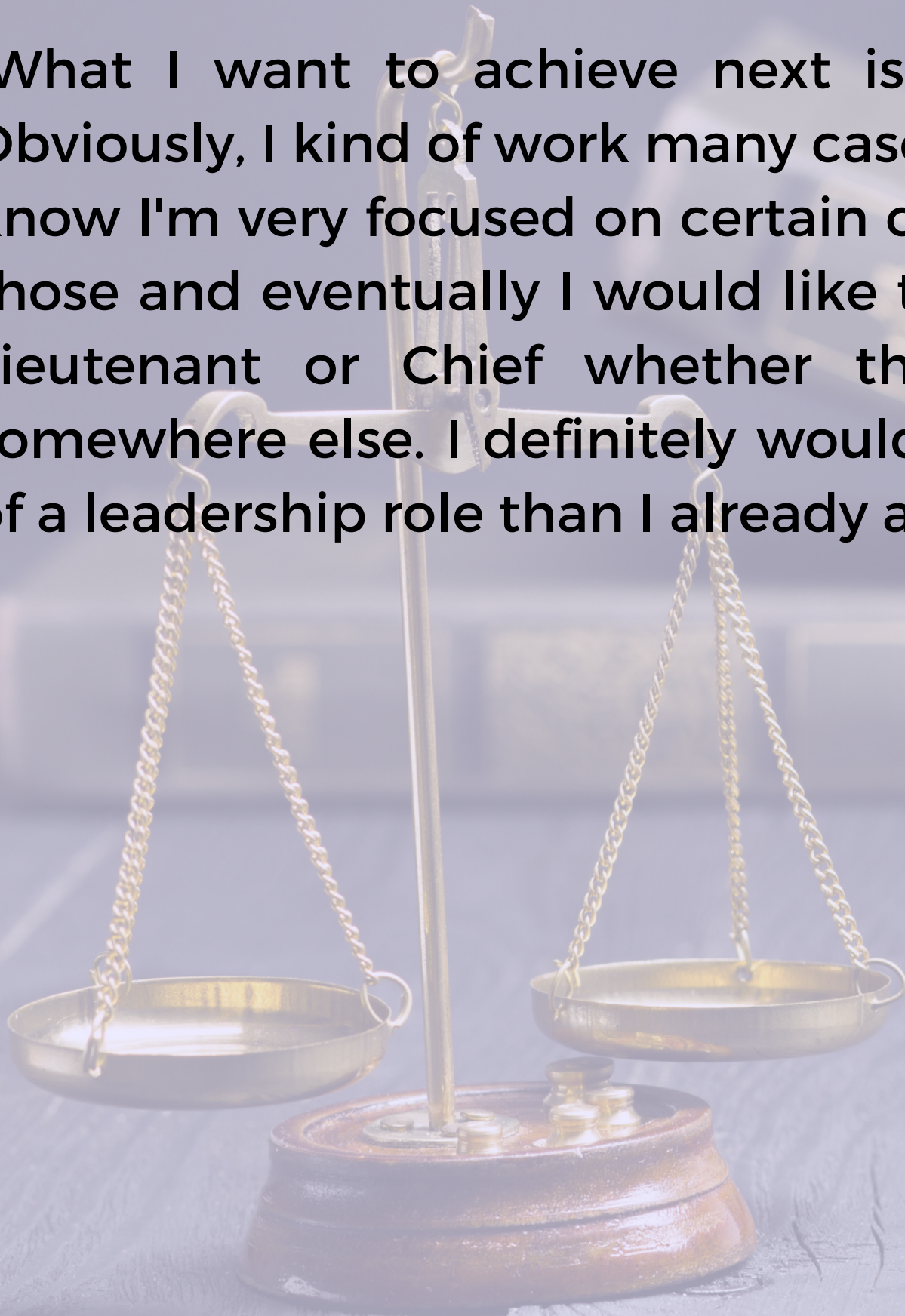
"Imposter syndrome is definitely an interesting way of putting it. There's been times in my career where I definitely feel like I'm an 'actress'. So, if you say that is imposter syndrome, maybe it's kind of like a similarity there. But you know, who I have to be when I put my uniform on is not necessarily what generally comes natural to me. You know, you have to have an air of authority, and still be personable, and I tend to be kind of an introvert. So, having this very extroverted kind of career, it definitely puts me outside of my comfort zone. And so that's one thing I really had to learn. I learned that a little bit in dispatch, and then I learned it in patrol and now I'm a detective. With each step, you learn different things. We have a saying probably all the way back to when I was in the military, 'you fake it till you make it' and you learn everything you learn."

# TELL US A PROJECT OR ACCOMPLISHMENT IN YOUR CAREER *you* ARE MOST PROUD OF?

“I have a lot of accomplishments, but something I'm really proud of is having a college degree. That's not something that anyone in my family ever had. And I've actually now got my Master's while working. It's been tough, but I am very proud of that. It's in Law Enforcement and Public Safety Leadership.”

# WHAT DO *you* WANT TO ACHEIVE NEXT?

“What I want to achieve next is a tough question. Obviously, I kind of work many cases at a time, but you know I'm very focused on certain cases and managing those and eventually I would like to work up to being Lieutenant or Chief whether that's in Seaside or somewhere else. I definitely would like to be in more of a leadership role than I already am working.”



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*"Advice for women? Go for it. Do your thing. Don't hold back" - Lori Lum*

*"Be strong, yet willing to take chances" - Julie Lum*