Day in the Life: Eliud Ogutu

Interviews and Profiles

Eliud Ogutu

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5:30 am

My alarm goes off and I groggily hit the snooze button. **I jump into the shower** when I remember that I have an eight o'clock meeting.

6:00 am

Sit down at the breakfast table with my six-year-old son who regales me with yesterday's exploits and today's plans for school. I feed him some oatmeal porridge as **I catch up on my iPad.** I respond to a few emails, scan my Twitter feed, and recon rm an 11 am meeting.

6:45 am

My wife sleeps through her alarm so I return to the bedroom to wake her. My four-year-old daughter is already awake and is preparing for preschool. I give her a quick hug goodbye as I rush downstairs with my son, one arm lugging his backpack and the other carrying my laptop bag.

7:30 am

Drop my son off at school and chat for a few minutes with his teacher about an upcoming school trip to Lake Nakuru National Park.

8:00 am

Attend **a meeting with our product heads to discuss a new product launch that is**

imminent. We are running close to the launch date, albeit with many outstanding deliverables. I excuse myself from the meeting to confer with an external counsel who is about to make closing submissions at the Court of Appeal on an important litigation case. I make it back to the meeting in time to offer an opinion on the regulatory aspects of the product.

9:30 am

Conduct an **unscheduled brief with the CEO** on a regulatory inquiry.

10:00 am

Take time to review some ISDA® Documentation — which is the only transactional work that I do. I make a mental reminder to divest from handling transactional work, as it is becoming more difficult due to my increasingly busy schedule. I propose that one of my team members develop her skills in this area.

11:00 am

A scheduled meeting is canceled at the last minute. I use the rest of the hour to **review some pending contracts** that ought to have left my desk the previous afternoon.

12:30 pm

Catch up with the head of compliance out of the office for lunchtime to discuss certain anticipated legislative changes in the financial services sector. I send an email to one of my team members asking them to **research aspects of an upcoming legislation.**

2:00 pm

Participate in a **conference call with the head of legal for Africa,** who is based in Johannesburg, to discuss a matter that might become litigious. I communicate the strategy to the rest of the stakeholders.

3:00 pm

Quick meeting with one of my team members to **discuss the management of his litigation portfolio.** We also take the time to discuss his ideas about the unit's human capital complement.

4:30 pm

Dash to the Nairobi Club for **my twice-weekly training session for my soccer team,** the "Seniors Football Club." It is crunch time in the league and we have a must-win match against the "Beercelona Football Club" this coming Saturday. I limp home with a slightly strained Achilles tendon for my trouble. I console myself that it should be healed by game day.

7:30 pm

Get home and **review my son's homework** as I chat with my wife and daughter.

8:00 pm

Dinner with family. Tonight it is grilled tilapia fillets with steamed broccoli and cauliflower. I am trying to avoid carbs at dinner.

8:30 pm

Prepare the kids for bed. Chat with my wife as we both listen to “No Borders,” Hugh Masekela’s latest release.

10:00 pm

Watch my beloved Arsenal Football Club play for a measly two-all draw against the Paris Saint Germain Football Club in the Champions League. I go to bed disappointed as this was a home game at Arsenal’s Emirates Stadium. I was about to send a “Sack Arsene Wenger” tweet, but my better judgement prevails.

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