

Naysayers cry that there are no suitable women to be found. I disagree entirely as there are many highly competent and qualified women out there, willing to serve on boards, if only they were given a chance. ■

**Testimonial:**

*"Ee Lin is a competent, hard-working and intelligent professional and an asset to every organisation."*



**Britta Pfister**

head of wealth planning Asia Pacific,  
Rothschild Trust



**Laura Rogers**

partner,  
Walkers



**Christine Tan**

executive director - trust services,  
Vistra



**Joanna Yap**

partner,  
Withers Khattar Wong

**Testimonial:**

*"Joanna possesses a strength of character which makes her an exceptional lawyer. Her professional records speak for themselves and her generosity in showing care and concern for those she works and interacts with is nothing short of inspiring."*

**Stefanie Yuen Thio**

joint managing director,  
TSMP Law Corporation

**SWITZERLAND**



**Kecia Barkawi**

CEO, founder,  
VALUEworks AG

**Tells us what charities you support and why?**

Nine years ago, I co-founded the Zurich Philanthropy Roundtable with the aim of cultivating the exchange of ideas and networking among various philanthropy stakeholders. In 2013, I established the Swiss Women and Philanthropy Initiative, a platform for professional exchange among women in Switzerland who are either actively engaged or are looking to become involved in philanthropy. In both, I hope to encourage more enthusiasm, collaboration and professionalism.

**Who influenced you the most or is a mentor to you?**

My husband, Alex, who has always had a profound impact on my thinking. He constantly broadens my perspective and provides insights and inspiration, while also acting as a sparring partner. The second is my former boss, Bruno Schwendinger, who gave me the tools of the trade and led me to the heart of the family office business. He believed in my idea from the onset, becoming among the first shareholders of my company and remains a supporter to this day.

**What do you think about quotas for women?**

I am generally against setting quotas for women in the workplace because I believe we should emphasize qualifications and ability over gender. However, I do see how reasonable quotas can make a big difference for women in some countries, such as Switzerland. Female board membership can do much to move deserving and highly qualified women up the ladder for executive level roles. To me though, it's about female power from the top pulling talented women up. ■

**Testimonial:**

*"Through her multi-family office VALUEworks, Kecia has created her own universe, going after what she believes in and she has made her team part of that vision."*



**Caroline Delétra**

counsel,  
Lenz & Staehlin



**Judith Ingham**

partner,  
Withers

**Tells us what charities you support and why?**

I don't really like trumpeting any charitable donations as I generally feel that people's personal preferences for charities should remain just that: personal. My philosophy is that rather than giving over and over to the same charity, I prefer to support projects or ideas on a one off basis, based on their merits, and often upon a personal connection as they arise. Most recently I have arranged for the building of three classrooms at an overcrowded school in Benin for impoverished and poorly educated children.



**Leila Pillonel**

client service adviser,  
Salamanca Group

**What is the biggest mandate you have worked on?**

The largest trust structure I have ever worked on was valued in excess of \$7 billion and held an array of different companies each in turn owning various rather exotic assets.



**Stephanie Jarrett**

partner,  
Baker & McKenzie

**Who influenced you the most or is a mentor to you?**

Daniel Martineau. I have been lucky enough to have worked alongside him and have his support and guidance for the last twenty years. He is a selfless person who is happy to help wherever and whenever he can which makes him an excellent mentor.



**Caroline Piraud**

head of philanthropy services,  
VALUEworks AG

**What do you think about quotas for women?**

This is where I become very non PC. I firmly believe in the best person for the job, regardless of whether she is female or he is male. Having said that, I have been lucky that I have never experienced discrimination during my career, and indeed when I look around me now, by far the majority of my colleagues are female. And they are all the best women for the job. ■



**Clare McPartland**

senior trust officer,  
Summit Trust International

**Dr. Claudia Sieber Peyer**

managing director,  
Bank Vontobel

**Testimonial:**

*"Stella makes complexity look like simplicity."*



**Stella Mitchell-Voisin**

managing director,  
Summit Trust International



**Sabine**

**Simkhovitch-Dreyfus**

partner,  
Cabinet Mayor

**Ariane Slinger**

CEO,  
ACE International