

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."



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."



Britta Pfister
head of wealth planning Asia Pacific,
Rothschild Trust

Stefanie Yuen Thio
joint managing director,
TSMP Law Corporation

SWITZERLAND



Laura Rogers
partner,
Walkers



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



Christine Tan
executive director - trust services,
Vistra