

PRIVATE EQUITY ANALYST

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Women to Watch

Fifteen Female Influencers in Private Equity

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Part Series
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Private Equity's Women to Watch: Fifteen Female Influencers

By SHASHA DAI, AMY OR, DAWN LIM, LILLIAN RIZZO
and LAURA KREUTZER

This month, *Private Equity Analyst* kicks off the first of a three-part profile series that highlights women to watch in the private equity industry. Over the past decade, more women have climbed to the senior ranks at their respective firms, thanks to their business acumen, deal-making ability and management skills. A far larger group of women are rising into the middle ranks of their firms, forming the foundation for the next generation of female leaders.

For our editorial staff, selecting and writing about these women has been a humbling experience. We began by polling various members of the industry to come up with an initial list of more than 50 candidates before narrowing the list down to 15 finalists. The depth of the candidate pool made the final selection process arduous, as we sought to include not only women who are well established in their careers, but a rising generation of women who are now entering the midstage of their careers. We decided to focus on deal makers, acknowledging the approach excludes a large number of professionals in such functions as marketing, investor relations, recruiting, legal and compliance, and firm operations.

We understand this list is by no means exhaustive and will invariably leave out talented women, even in the deal maker category. Next month, we will focus on women to watch in venture capital, followed by women in the limited partnership community for our February issue.

Maria Boyazny

Founder and Chief Executive, MB Global Partners



Maria Boyazny founded and leads **MB Global Partners**, a New York asset management firm focused on opportunistic credit and special situations investing. She got her start at Siguler Guff & Co., where as a managing director and portfolio manager she helped launch and oversaw the firm's flagship Distressed Opportunities Funds I, II, III and IV, expanding assets under management to about \$4.5 billion over 10 years. The decision to leave Siguler Guff and launch MB Global in late 2010 was driven by her desire to offer the same products to clients on a standalone basis, said Ms. Boyazny. The firm invests in equity or credit globally in an industry-agnostic manner – an “all-weather special situations” investor, she said. A graduate of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania with a major in economics and a minor in mathematics, Ms. Boyazny attributes her success in part to her strong mathematical skills and a desire to always outdo herself. “The minute you rest on your laurels, that is the beginning of clouds,” she said. Ms. Boyazny received her M.B.A. from Columbia University.
