

The Evolving Role of Women IN THE FUND INDUSTRY

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Panelist Biographies



SUSAN COTÉ

Before retiring in June 2015, Susan Coté was a partner with Ernst & Young, where she was global asset management assurance leader from 2006 to 2015 and director of the Americas asset management practice from 2006 to 2013. Her more than 35 years of experience in financial services also includes 14 years in the investment management industry at Prudential Investment Management. Coté's career spans many aspects of the asset management business, including accounting, operations, technology, and regulatory and product development. During her time at Prudential, Coté was responsible for the direction and management of financial, regulatory, tax, and compliance reporting for all mutual funds managed or administered by Prudential, and for corporate-level accounting for various Prudential subsidiaries marketing mutual funds/annuities to individual investors. In addition, Coté served as chief operating officer and managing director of Prudential Mutual Fund Investment Management. Before joining Prudential, Coté spent seven years at a Big Four accounting firm, auditing financial services clients. She is a board member and treasurer of the New York Women's Foundation, a nonprofit focused on improving the lives of women and girls in New York City.

LAURA J. MERIANOS



Laura J. Merianos is a principal at Vanguard in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, where she leads Vanguard's investment management regulatory practice. Over the last 10 years, she has worked closely with Vanguard's investment management group on a variety of issues, including disclosure reform, money market funds, municipal bond issues, Dodd-Frank rulemaking initiatives, systemic risk, and the globalization of investment management services. Before joining Vanguard, Merianos was an associate with Jones Day, a law firm in Washington, DC. She holds a BA from the University of Virginia and a JD from American University's Washington College of Law and is a member of the bar in the District of Columbia, New York, and Pennsylvania.

STEPHANIE ORTBALS-TIBBS



Stephanie Ortballs-Tibbs is director of media relations for ICI and ICI Global, overseeing the Institute's global media relations and broadcast communications efforts. Ortballs-Tibbs joined ICI in 2011, after a decade as director of media relations and public policy communications at the American Bar Association. She also has served as an account supervisor for a communications firm, and in a variety of roles as a television news producer. She is a *cum laude* graduate of Georgetown University, with a BA in English and classics.

JESSICA SEIDLITZ



Jessica Seidlitz is managing director of fund accounting at Charles Schwab Investment Management (CSIM) and serves as the assistant treasurer of the Schwab Funds, Laudus Funds, and Schwab ETFs. In these roles, she is responsible for the funds' accounting policies, valuation, and net asset value oversight practices. Before joining CSIM, Seidlitz was the vice president of fund accounting and fund administration at ICON Advisers, where she also served as the principal financial officer/treasurer of the ICON Funds. Earlier in her career, Seidlitz was in the assurance practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. She is a CPA in Colorado, and is a member of the AICPA, where she sat on the investment company expert panel from 2009 to 2013. In addition, Seidlitz is a member of the Colorado Society of CPAs, which honored her as a 2014 Woman to Watch. In 2014, she was appointed to ICI's accounting policy subcommittee. Seidlitz earned both BS and master's degrees studying accounting at the University of Denver, where she is also a member of the advisory board for the School of Accountancy.

JASMIN SETHI



Jasmin Sethi is a vice president in BlackRock's legal and compliance group. She collaborates with individuals in the legal, business, and government relations groups to determine BlackRock's positions on a variety of regulations and helps to advocate for these views. Before joining BlackRock, Sethi was special counsel at the SEC's Division of Trading and Markets in the Office of Market Supervision and was also an adjunct professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center. Earlier in her career, she was an associate at Mayer Brown. Sethi received her JD, PhD in economics, and undergraduate degrees from Harvard. As a Fulbright Scholar in 2001, she also earned an MSc in economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science.