

# The Evolving Role of Women IN THE FUND INDUSTRY

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## Panelist Biographies



### DIANE E. AMBLER

Partner  
K&L Gates LLP

Diane E. Ambler is a partner in the Washington, DC, office of K&L Gates, practicing in the area of financial institutions regulation under federal securities laws. She is a frequent speaker and writer in the area and has testified as an expert witness in her field. Ambler focuses her practice on mutual fund governance; compliance activities of mutual funds, private funds, and variable insurance product issuers and distributors; and activities of related service providers. She champions women's leadership in the profession, including as a charter member of the K&L Gates Women in the Profession Committee, as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Women Lawyers (and recipient of NAWL's Virginia S. Mueller Outstanding Member Award), and as a member of the Executive Board of the Women in Law Empowerment Forum. *Chambers USA* has ranked Ambler as a top lawyer practicing in the areas of investment funds, registered funds; she is listed in *Best Lawyers in America for Mutual Funds and Private Funds Law*; she has an AV(r) Peer Review Rating by Martindale-Hubbell, reserved for lawyers who have been recognized for having the highest levels of skill and integrity; and is listed in Martindale-Hubbell® Bar Register of Preeminent Women Lawyers, exclusively for women attorneys who have received the highest possible rating in both legal ability and ethical standards from their peers. Ambler is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University School of Law, the chair-elect of the Board of Consultors for Villanova University School of Law and an executive board member of the Mutual Fund Directors Forum.



### SUSAN ESPER

Partner  
Deloitte & Touche LLP

Susan Esper is a partner with more than 24 years of public accounting experience and has specialized in the financial services industry throughout most of her career. With primary focus on investment management clients, Esper currently serves as an audit partner on a number of Deloitte's largest investment management accounts with responsibility for oversight of client service coordination and delivery. In this role, she is responsible for the planning and execution of the mutual fund audit process, as well as all related internal control engagements and compliance with industry regulation. Additionally, Esper leads the financial services industry group in Deloitte's New England practice, which is made up of professionals dedicated to serving clients in the banking and securities, insurance, asset management, and real estate sectors.

In addition to her client service responsibilities, Esper has held many leadership roles for Deloitte's Initiative for the Retention and Advancement of Women (Women's Initiative Network, or WIN). Established in 1993, this national initiative focuses on the development of its talented women professionals and identifies opportunities for them as future leaders within the firm. The initiative supports the firm in its goal to train, develop, and mentor professionals at all levels, regardless of gender, and create an environment where career success can be achieved.



### **LAURA J. MERIANOS**

Principal, Legal Department  
The Vanguard Group

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**

Director, Media Relations  
Investment Company Institute and ICI Global

Stephanie Ortvals-Tibbs is director of media relations for ICI and ICI Global, overseeing the Institute's global media relations and broadcast communications efforts. Ortvals-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.



### **JASMIN SETHI**

Vice President, Legal and Compliance  
BlackRock

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.