

GGI WEBINAR | WOMEN ELEVATED

Wednesday, 18 November 2020, 17:00 pm CET (Central European Time) | 10:00 am CST (NA Central Standard Time)

Panellists: Rebecca Watson, Lesley Gregory & Harry Cendrowski



According to a recent article in Bloomberg:

“If we had a panic button, we’d be hitting it,” Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer of Facebook Inc. and co-founder of [LeanIn.Org](https://leanin.org), said in a statement. “Leaders must act fast or risk losing millions of women from the workforce and setting gender diversity back years.”

The setback comes after women in the US, who make up about half of the workforce, had been making progress. Between 2015 and 2020 the share of women in senior vice president roles rose to 28% from 23% and women have secured about 21% of C-suite roles up from 17% five years ago, the McKinsey/LeanIn.org study found. Women also hold 28% of the board seats in the S&P 500, the highest level ever.

These setbacks-characterized by some economists as the nation’s first female recession-are in contrast to the gains women made after the 2008 recession. Participation among women ages 25 to 54 peaked in 2000, then dipped after the financial crisis, only to begin accelerating again from 2015 until the pandemic.

During this panel discussion, we will discuss considerations for women in GGI and how we might be able to elevate one another. Please note that this session is open to all women and men in GGI – everyone needs to be part of the conversation.

GGI members Rebecca Watson, Lesley Gregory and Harry Cendrowski will share their experiences and expertise with us.

Rebecca will look at defining the challenge based on the decade-long ABA study on women in the legal profession. Following this, Lesley will share some of the initiatives she has been involved in to overcome these challenges outlined by Rebecca, including the importance of mentoring programmes, flexible working, and women’s networks. Harry happens to also be the Chair of the Loyola Hub Advisory Board, focusing on all aspects of diversity, and would like to share some of his experiences as well as opportunities for women.

We kindly thank our sponsors:

About the Panellists:

Rebecca Watson is a shareholder in the law firm of Welborn Sullivan Meck & Tooley, P.C. in Denver (Colorado, USA) and has a distinguished 40-year career representing natural resource clients and in high-level federal service. As Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management in the US Department of Interior in the George W. Bush administration, she managed 10,000 employees in the development and implementation of federal energy policy. Earlier, she served as Assistant General Counsel for Energy Policy at the US Department of Energy where she represented the US at the United Nations during the preparatory conference for the Rio Earth Summit. Rebecca has been recognized nationally and repeatedly as a top energy and natural resources lawyer. She recently served as the fourth woman President of the 66-year-old Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation (2019-2020), a natural resource law scholarly organization. Throughout this time, she has served as a leader and mentor to woman professionals.

As one of the few female chairmen at a UK law firm, **Lesley Gregory** has led Memery Crystal through several strong financial years, worked to expand the firm's international offering and encourage an internal culture focused on diversity and core values – all while maintaining her top-rated corporate practice. She is currently one of only two lawyers and the only woman to be ranked as an 'Eminent Practitioner' for AIM by Chambers UK. Lesley is extremely active in promoting diversity and breaking down barriers both internally and externally and has created several initiatives aimed at supporting and inspiring women. Among other things, these include flexible working, junior mentoring and founding a successful 'Women in Business' network with over 100 members, aimed at connecting female founders with other likeminded individuals and senior investors.

Harry Cendrowski is a founding member and Managing Director of Cendrowski Corporate Advisors (CCA). Over his 35-year career, Harry has worked hand-in-hand with businesses, family offices, private equity and venture capital funds, attorneys, and non-profit organizations to address their needs. He has helped businesses mitigate risks, streamline their operations, and deter fraud. He is a veteran of the private equity and venture capital industries, where he has implemented back and middle office operations and performed due diligence assessments of potential portfolio companies. Harry is co-author of Enterprise Risk Management and COSO: A Guide for Directors, Executives, and Practitioners; Private Equity: History, Governance, and Operations; and, The Handbook of Fraud Deterrence, all published by John Wiley & Sons. He has also authored articles in several professional publications, including a chapter in Computer Fraud Casebook: The Bytes that Bite, a textbook-centered on fraud examination.

Would you like to be more involved in a Special Interest Group on this topic? Let us know! Email Linda Soriton (soriton@ggi.com) to register your interest.

This webinar is open to all GGI members (women AND men equally). Please check within the internal area of www.ggi.com for the link to register or click on the button below. We use Zoom for our meetings. Once you register, the meeting ID and password will be sent to you.

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