



WiBF's Got Talent! – Awards Lunch, June 2009

The excellent turnout for the twelfth **Women in Banking and Finance Awards for Achievement** Luncheon on 5th June, **sponsored by Ernst & Young**, underlined the value that WiBF members put on celebrating the achievements of their colleagues.

Our keynote speaker, Baroness Denise Kingsmill, advised us to champion our individualism to succeed, especially through challenging economic circumstances. Baroness Kingsmill is currently a non-executive director of British Airways, a member of the Microsoft European Policy Council, an adviser to Coutts Bank and a member of House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee.

She advised that “doing it your own way” is sometimes the best way to achieve results. An amusing personal example from Baroness Kingsmill’s own career came when she established a firm of female lawyers as a response to a male boss who told her “we’ve never had a woman partner and you’re not going to be the first”.

Baroness Kingsmill must have been smiling to herself when, some years later, she sold her firm and automatically went straight to the top of a large City firm’s team!

Baroness Kingsmill acknowledged that, in her career progress, she had sometimes been lucky, sometimes worked extremely hard, sometimes people helped her along – and sometimes helped her along by blocking the way. She encouraged us all to follow our intuition and use the inner discontent that tells us “there must be more to life than this” to help move ourselves forward.

The WiBF Award Winners 2009

Christine Lawrence, Chair of WIBF, was delighted to announce the Awards and congratulate the winners. A new Award category has been introduced in 2009: WIBF Young Professional. This Award recognises and acknowledges the next generation of leaders who are already making a significant impact within their organisation.

The Award winners were:

WiBF Young Professional: Alexandra Sinton, Vice President, UK Credit Sales at Royal Bank of Canada.

Alexandra joined the Bank in 2002, and has responsibility for Client Coverage, Recruitment, Training and Marketing as well as managing RBC's participation in the Bank of England Credit Purchase Scheme. She helped overhaul the graduate recruitment process and increased the awareness of RBC within European universities. Alex has also championed RBC's participation in The Brokerage Citilink, a charity helping inner city school leavers find careers in the City, and RBC's first Brokerage student has become a permanent member of the RBC sales team after mentoring from Alexandra. .

WiBF Champion for Women: Jessica Jones, Associate, Investment Management Division, Goldman Sachs International.

Jessica joined Goldman Sachs as an analyst and, in 2006, moved to Greece and assumed responsibility for over \$50 million in assets under management. She was promoted to associate in 2007 as regional relationship manager across Europe, the Middle East and Africa for a key global distributor client.

Jessica currently leads the IWD Women's Network, mentors new analysts at the firm and supports recruitment efforts at Edinburgh University. In her spare time she heads the fundraising committee for The Gumboots Foundation, a UK-based charity focused on alleviating poverty in South Africa.

WiBF Award for Achievement: Audrey Connolly, Head of Real Estate Direct, HBOS plc / Lloyds Banking Group

Audrey created the "Direct" model of real estate lending within HBOS and her business unit is seen as a leader in personal development, flexible working and community projects.

Audrey is a director of Glasgow Media Access Centre, a not-for-profit organisation supporting minority communities and young aspiring film makers. She was named Young Banker of the Year in 2005 and was also shortlisted for the Standard Life Volunteer of the Year award.

We wish all the Award winners every success in the future and look forward to their continued contribution to WiBF!