

# PRESS RELEASE



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## **3Cs FOR SUCCESS: COMMUNITY, CLIENT AND COMMITMENT**

### **Women in Banking and Finance 2011 Award Winners Announced**

With the backdrop of our challenging economic environment, the Women in Banking and Finance (WIBF) network today shines a beacon of inspiration to those who choose their current or future careers in the finance and banking sector, through its awards for outstanding achievement. Celebrating the personal, professional and culture changing accomplishments of women in the industry, the annual ceremony highlights individuals who live the values of innovation, accountability, responsibility and long term commitment to clients and community that will drive the future success of Britain's financial services.

This year's winners are: WIBF Young Professional of the Year - Stephanie Niven, Javelin Capital; WIBF Award for Achievement - Carole Berndt, head of Global Treasury Solutions for Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) at Bank of America Merrill Lynch; WIBF Champion for Women - Vanessa Vallely - Head of Business Management - Finance, Aviva Investors.

This year's awards saw a record number of nominations and the winners were chosen by a select judging panel. Commenting on the awards, outgoing President and one of the panel of judges, Christine Lawrence, says

*"Organisations need to ensure they have the right talent in the right place and in the right roles. I am continually impressed by the calibre of the high performing individual nominees who have clearly made their mark in their organisations, the industry and the wider community and who provide genuine role models for success."*

In addition to the high number of nominations, the awards ceremony saw its largest audience with over 300 executives attending from a wide cross section of city firms.

Marion King, Chief Executive Officer of VocaLink and keynote speaker at the Awards Ceremony adds:

*"Today celebrates the dedication, aspiration and hard work that make these individuals inspirational role models for women within the financial sector. It demonstrates that women are continuing to show that they can innovate, lead and communicate at the highest levels, helping to drive growth and support the UK economy."*

The professional network of choice for women in the financial services sector, WIBF is a not for profit organisation founded 31 years ago. It has in excess of 850 members nationwide, with WIBF communications regularly reaching over 6,000 individuals every month. WIBF provides a forum for members to meet, learn new skills, share experiences and best practice, make useful contacts and to fulfil their individual potential. In addition to the annual awards lunch, WIBF runs a regular programme of training

and networking events with a focus on personal and professional development. It is part of The International Alliance for Women.

### **Notes to editors**

1. Women in Banking and Finance (WIBF) is the leading non-profit making, professional organisation committed to empowering its members in the banking and finance industry to realise their full potential. Founded in 1980 one of its main aims is to improve the percentage of female managers in the financial services industry. In addition to the annual awards lunch, WIBF runs regular events encompassing personal development, networking, distinguished speakers, public speaking, and runs special programmes for senior executives and corporate/public boards. Based in London, WIBF has affiliates in Scotland, Dublin and Bristol. Membership is open to anyone active in the banking and financial services sector. Further information is available on [www.wibf.org.uk](http://www.wibf.org.uk)

2. The 2011 WIBF awards and award winners are:

a. WIBF Young Professional . Stephanie Niven - Stephanie has become one of the youngest portfolio managers in the investment management industry. Prior to her current role at Javelin Capital, LLP she worked at Goldman Sachs Asset Management where she made her mark. She became the first member of the portfolio construction team to not only present to the Active Equity department (global meeting of over 30 investment participants) but also to be offered to convert her role into a dual portfolio construction/investment analyst function. Stephanie's energy in the investment analyst role rewarded her with a full time move into the research team at the end of her first year at Goldman Sachs. In 2009, Stephanie was part of a three person Goldman Sachs team to set up a new venture, Javelin Capital. Stephanie is a key contact for existing and prospective clients, and regularly represents Javelin at investment conferences. Stephanie was made press spokeswoman for the firm in September 2010, and has flourished in this role. She was involved in the Goldman Sachs swimming team, helping the bank to win a number of individual and team events in the annual stock exchange inter-bank swimming competitions. She also acts as a mentor to more junior colleagues and freely gives her time to attend recruiting events at universities and schools. In many ways her background is not typical of a hedge fund manager, and her ability to speak directly and honestly about her experiences in her career has made her a role model for others.

b. WIBF Award for Achievement . Carole Berndt - Carole is the head of Global Treasury Solutions for Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, where she is responsible for the end-to-end product, business, technology & operations and client sales management strategy for treasury business in this region. Carole began her career in 1982 with Mercantile Mutual Insurance in Australia. She moved into banking in 1998. Whilst in insurance, as she progressed into more senior roles, Carole was instrumental in establishing the industry's e-commerce strategy for the corporate insurance market. Positioning herself at the forefront of technology she was quick to embrace the opportunities that the internet and increased automation could provide. She managed to migrate 68% of the previously paper based transactions to electronic within the first year. A keen champion for women Carole is credited with shattering glass ceilings, tackling the male/female pay divide, and providing career fast tracks for high performers.

c. WIBF Champion for Women - Vanessa Vallely - Vanessa is Head of Business Management - Finance, Aviva Investors. Vanessa began her career in 1998 with Business Systems Group and has filled a number of senior technology positions within the UK finance industry. In 2008 Vanessa, together with her husband, funded and set up WeAreTheCity ([www.wearethecity.com](http://www.wearethecity.com)), a free website providing city and female-centric information to the 70,000 women who work in the City and Canary Wharf. In 2010 Vanessa was recognised as a Financial News Top 100 Rising Star (under 40) across EMEA and Africa. In addition, she has recently been nominated to represent the UK as part of the British American Project. Always keen to share her experiences Vanessa is an active mentor to seven mentees and a keen participant in a number of charitable causes, including the NSPCC.

3. The WIBF awards were inaugurated in 1998 and are awarded annually. Members and sponsors of WIBF are eligible to make nominations for the awards. This year out of 24 nominations, 17 women were shortlisted across three categories:

a. The WIBF Award for Achievement celebrates an individual who is both successful in a senior role and who uses her skills outside of her own career either through serving on boards of organisations that affect public life or through furthering the interests of women in the workplace.

b. The WIBF Young Professional celebrates a woman who is making a significant impact in her organisation and who demonstrates both financial success as well as providing an example for others to follow.

c. The WIBF Champion for Women recognises someone (male or female) who through personal commitment, application and dedication promotes and inspires women in the workplace to reach their full potential.

This year's judging panel includes: Baroness Rennie Fritchie DBE; Beverley Hodson OBE; Christine Lawrence, President of Women in Banking & Finance; Sylvana Caloni, President Elect of Women in Banking & Finance; Jo Alma, Head of Investment Management Division Technology in EMEA and Asia for Goldman Sachs; Simon Hayes, Head of the Financial Services practice at Odgers Berndtson.

4. Christine Lawrence. With over 20 years in the Financial Services Industry, Christine is currently the President of Women in Banking and Finance where she is responsible for building effective strategic relationships with corporate sponsors and principal partners, for budget and governance, and for ensuring the delivery of WIBF programmes to a high standard. Previously she was a Consultant with Aon and Logica and worked on major engagements with such clients as Legal General and Man Investments. A diversity specialist, Christine is experienced in leading a range of diversity and inclusion strategies and initiatives. Christine is also

the Judging Facilitator for British Female Inventor and Innovator Award, Pan-Africa Women Inventor and Innovator Award and European Inventor and Innovator Award.

5. Marion King is Chief Executive Officer of VocaLink. Marion joined as CEO in 2002 as the first female, first non-banker to lead the company. She is responsible for revolutionising payments in the UK and transforming VocaLink from a domestic back-office supplier into an international payments transaction specialist. Marion has over 15 years experience in senior level management. Before joining the company, she held global leadership roles in Reuters, including managing director of its East Asia operation, and managing director of Reuters Global Transactions. In 2010, Marion won a First Women Award for her many achievements in the financial services sector. Marion is happily married and has two sons, Nicholas and Gregory.

6. The International Alliance for Women (TIAW) serves as the global umbrella organisation that unites, supports and promotes professional women and their networks to work together, share resources and leverage ideas. Located primarily in the Americas, Asia and Europe, TIAW members include both individuals and associations representing more than 50,000 members worldwide. Further information is available on [www.tiaw.org](http://www.tiaw.org).

7. Photos of the award winners will be available on [www.wibf.org.uk](http://www.wibf.org.uk) from 3pm.

**For further information and interview opportunities, please contact WIBF communications contacts:**

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