

Celebration of WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP



Women's World Banking

Friday, November 9, 2007 | 6:30 p.m. | New York, New York

Program



6:30 p.m.

Cocktails

7:30 p.m.

Dinner, Program and Entertainment

Master of Ceremonies and Welcome

Mary Ellen Iskenderian

President and CEO of WWB

Welcome

Mercedes Canalda

Founder and Chair, ADOPEM Bank, Dominican Republic

Chair, WWB Board of Trustees

Women in Leadership Video

2007 Honorees

Ela Bhatt

Chair, WWB Board of Trustees, 1988 to 1998

Honorary Member for Life, WWB Board of Trustees

Introduced by Nancy Barry

President and CEO of WWB, 1990 to 2006

Duane Wall

Partner, White & Case

Introduced by Michaela Walsh

Founder and President of WWB, 1979 to 1990

Honorary Member for Life, WWB Board of Trustees

Ela Bhatt

Ela Bhatt is one of the founders of Women's World Banking. She has been a member of WWB's Board of Trustees since the organization's inception in 1979, and was its Chair from 1988 to 1998. Ms. Bhatt began her career in Ahmedabad, India, as legal counsel to the Textile Labour Association, and in 1972 helped a group of informal sector women workers from Ahmedabad form their own trade union, the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA). In 1974, to provide banking services to SEWA members, she helped these women found SEWA Bank, one of the pioneering institutions of the nascent microcredit movement.

HONOREES

Then in 1982 Ms. Bhatt founded Friends of Women's World Banking, India (FWWB), a microfinance organization created to extend and expand informal credit networks within India and link them to a global movement. Ms. Bhatt is the author of the book *We Are Poor but So Many: the Story of Self-Employed Women in India*, published by Oxford University Press, which chronicles the history of SEWA and SEWA Bank. She is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Magsaysay Award and an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Harvard University. In 2007, she was named a founding member of "The Elders," the historic group of world leaders and visionary thinkers convened by Nelson Mandela, Graça Machel and Desmond Tutu. We honor Ms. Bhatt for her pioneering role in the microfinance movement, for championing poor women in India and around the world, and for her inspiring leadership of WWB.

Duane Wall

Duane Wall is a partner at the global law firm of White & Case in New York City, where he specializes in advising U.S. and non-U.S. banks on the nature and structure of their operations and activities in the United States and abroad. In 2000, Mr. Wall was elected Managing Partner of White & Case, a position he held through 2007. As head of the Firm, he directed White & Case's operations in the United States and in Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia, leading the Firm through a period of vigorous expansion with continued emphasis on international practice.

HONOREES

During his tenure as Managing Partner, White & Case grew to its present global network of more than 2100 lawyers in 35 offices and 23 countries. Under his leadership, White & Case also expanded pro bono programs in the U.S. and in parts of the world that were previously less familiar with pro bono activities, and instituted a Women's Advancement Initiative to ensure that women lawyers continue to have ample opportunities to step into leadership roles at every stage of their careers. We honor Mr. Wall for his steadfast support of Women's World Banking, in particular his early championing of WWB in White & Case's family of pro bono clients. The extensive legal support provided by White & Case since 1979 has been instrumental to WWB's mission of serving poor women entrepreneurs and promoting women's leadership globally.

Network Members



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Africa Microfinance Network (AFMIN)
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- INDIA** Friends of Women's World Banking (FWWB)
SHARE Microfin Limited (SML)
- JORDAN** Microfund for Women (MFW)
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Women's World Banking



Women's World Banking was conceived during the first United Nations World Conference on Women, held in Mexico City in 1975. At this meeting, ten visionary women from five continents imagined an organization dedicated to promoting the economic interests of women entrepreneurs. Their inspiration led to the establishment of Women's World Banking under the leadership of founding president Michaela Walsh. Registered in the Netherlands as an international non-profit organization in 1979, WWB's mission was to develop a global network of financial institutions to provide women entrepreneurs with the capital and information necessary to build viable businesses. Its founding Board of Directors consisted of eminent women leaders from a diverse range of countries and backgrounds, women such as Ela Bhatt, founder and president of India's SEWA, the world's first and largest trade union for informal sector women workers.

Today, WWB is a leading microfinance organization working in 30 countries worldwide to expand the economic assets, participation and power of poor women entrepreneurs and their families. Based in New York City, the WWB global team provides support, advice, training and information to a global network of 54 microfinance institutions and banks. The WWB network serves nine million poor entrepreneurs directly, 70% of them women, and another 14 million indirectly through our banks and other partners.

Over the past three decades, WWB's network members have helped millions of women to improve their living conditions, keep their families well-fed and healthy, educate their children, and secure a political voice. Under the current leadership of President Mary Ellen Iskenderian, Women's World Banking continues to promote socially-responsible partnerships between microfinance institutions and mainstream investors and banks, and is a leading advocate for women's leadership and participation in microfinance.

Women's World Banking thanks you for your continued support and collaboration. We look forward to working with all of our partners as we develop new, innovative programs and services for the next generation of microentrepreneurs and women leaders.



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