GLOBAL COUNCIL FOR WOMEN

IN BANKING, FINTECH AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

LAFFERTY
Pioneering insights in banking and fintech
Global Council for Women

Professional women should hold at least half the executive positions in banking, Fintech and financial services but this is far from the case in the real world. The cost to shareholders and other stakeholders is both incalculable and indefensible.

Enlightened banks, fintechs and other financial services companies are already publicly pledging their commitment to the achievement of gender equality in their ESG goals – while governments and regulators everywhere continue to set ever-increasing minimum requirements.

This Council aims to help redress the gender imbalance by helping banks and fintechs maximise the potential of their female professionals at all levels of management.

More and more women are becoming CEOs and directors of retail banking and many are founders or co-founders of fintechs and new financial services start-ups. A few such as the CEOs of Citi in the US and NatWest in the UK are now CEOs of giant banks.

Devised by senior women executives and facilitated by Lafferty Group, this Council enables women executives to capitalise on their vast potential by sharing knowledge, expertise and experience through live international conferences, webinars, special interest groups, newsletters, online training programmes, management development programmes, and more.
Membership of the council may be individual or corporate and is available on an annual subscription basis to retail banks, fintechs, cards and payments companies and other providers of financial services. Membership is also available to banks’ commercial clients and business partners.

The Council has two levels of membership:

1. **Individual**

   **Benefits include:**
   - Access to the council network worldwide.
   - Participation in the bi-annual member conferences.
   - The member bulletin that includes news, interviews/profiles, and articles contributed by members.
   - A 25% saving on Lafferty and Retail Banking Institute services.

2. **Executive**

   Executive membership is available to C-Level executives who wish to play a more extensive role and have access to a broader package of privileges, including:
   - Participation in two confidential council meetings with other C-level members.
   - Participation by two executives in the bi-annual member conferences.
   - Participation in quarterly virtual special interest groups on leading-edge industry topics in Fintech and other areas such as sustainability.
   - Participation in the Retail Bank CEO online Executive programme.
   - Access to the Council network worldwide.
   - The member bulletin.
   - A 25% saving on Lafferty and Retail Banking Institute services.
Lafferty Group

The Council is part of Lafferty Group, which provides networking councils, research and conferences to the financial industry worldwide. Retail Banking Institute, a Lafferty Group company provides online education programmes to the industry. Lafferty has been hosting Councils for the past 27 years.

Our History

Lafferty Group has its roots in the early 1980s, when Michael Lafferty launched a newsletter to inform and educate banks about global developments in what was then an emerging field. At that time, retail bankers were hardly identifiable within the banks’ management structures, while the credit card and the ATM were barely 20 years old. Corporate bankers became bank CEOs.

Little was published about retail banking but Lafferty Group filled this knowledge gap with its newsletters, management reports, research services, conferences, and workshops.

In the mid-1990s Lafferty Group launched its Councils where senior bankers came together to share best practices in confidential sessions hosted around the world.

By then retail banking was emerging as the main source of profits for many banks, and more and more heads of retail were becoming bank CEOs. Investors had come to value retail profits far more highly than those from any other field of banking.

With the arrival of the Global Financial Crisis of 2007-08, illegal and improper practices of all kinds were soon exposed, and the bad behaviour sometimes extended to retail banking.

Overlapping the GFC came the emergence of what we now call Fintech, heralding a much-needed global wave of innovation and competition, not least in financial services for consumers and SMEs.

Inevitably, the absence of structured education and qualifications for retail bankers and fintech executives came to the fore, especially when the findings of government enquiries into the causes of the crisis were published, several years after being established.

After much research and consultation with clients Lafferty Group decided that it should seek official recognition for its work in retail banking, cards and payments and fintech education and training.

This led to the application for Institute status with the Registrar of Companies in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform of the United Kingdom. Success depended on the regulators being satisfied that the company had been engaged in retail banking research, training and education at the highest level for several decades and was in effect already functioning as an Institute. The regulators agreed.

Permission to operate in the name of the Retail Banking Institute was granted in September 2020.