

COVER STORY: WOMEN TO WATCH

## Top Female Deal Makers Shaping Private Equity's Present & Future

Meet the 17 women who rank among the private-equity industry's leading senior and rising star deal makers

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Each year, Private Equity Analyst honors a group of women who have risen through the ranks at their respective firms to help reshape the face of industry itself. This year's Women to Watch honorees showcase the depth of experience and talent as well as the range of backgrounds and skills women bring to the negotiating table.

### **ELENA LIESKOVSKA**

**Partner and Head of European Financial Services, Värde Partners**

Elena Lieskovska heads the European private-equity business for Värde Partners, with a focus on financial services. She is part of a team that has steered the firm into 11 deals totaling more than \$2.5 billion invested since 2008. Ms. Lieskovska authored Värde's private-equity strategy in Europe and continues to shape and diversify the London-based business, according to her nomination. She has built on her initial success with consumer finance deals to broaden into other subsectors of financial services. Her recent transactions include the firm's investments in wealth-management services provider Equiom Group;

Masthaven Bank Ltd., a U.K. specialist bank; and WiZink Bank SA, a digital bank serving Spain and Portugal. Before joining Värde, Ms. Lieskovska worked as an executive director at Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., where she oversaw all aspects of credit/loan, single-name and portfolio transactions in Europe.



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