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Recognizing Excellence

Women in Secured Finance Profiles

INSIDE YOU'LL MEET 41 WOMEN WHO HAVE CARVED THEIR PATHS WITH DETERMINATION, RESILIENCE, AND UNWAVERING VISION.

COVER STORY

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE: WOMEN IN SECURED FINANCE PROFILES P6



Recognizing Excellence: Women in Secured Finance Profiles

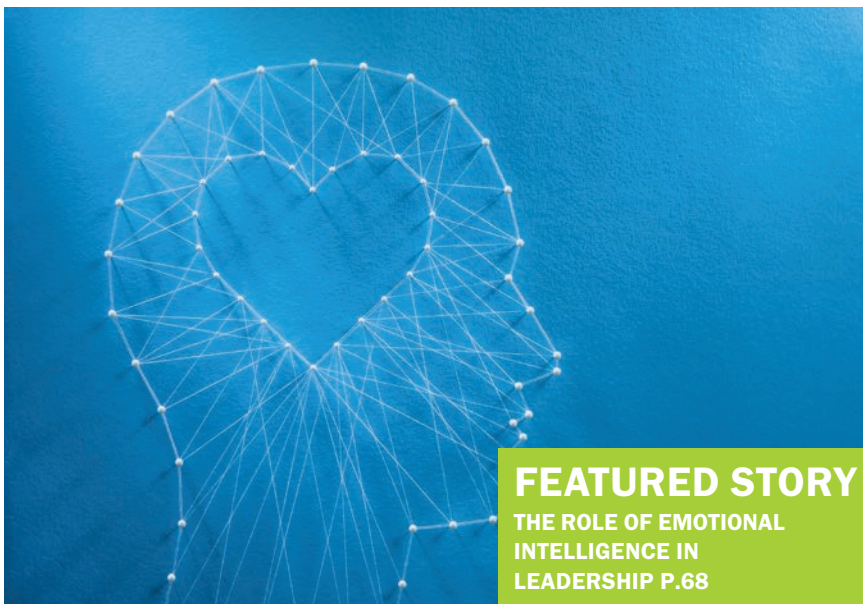
On the following pages you'll meet 41 women who have carved their paths with determination, resilience, and unwavering vision. **6**

FEATURE STORIES

The Role of Emotional Intelligence in Leadership: Insights from SFNet Members

Learn from inspiring women executives who prove that empathy, active listening, and relationship-building aren't just soft skills—they're powerful strategies for business success, driving profitability, retention, and meaningful connections.

68 BY MICHELE OCEJO



FEATURED STORY

THE ROLE OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE IN LEADERSHIP P.68

Stronger Than Ever: Women, Work, and the Power Of Resilience

Featuring insights from PNC's Eileen Kowalski, Newpoint Advisors' Carin Sorvik, Hilco's Ervisa Ismailaj, and KPMG's Andrea Beirne, this article delves into gender dynamics, and the hurdles women face in male-dominated sectors. Discover how these leaders have thrived and their perspectives on the progress—and remaining gaps—in achieving gender parity. **72**

BY ALIAH LALANI



■ **TERESA CHAN**
SLR Business Credit

Teresa Chan is a seasoned professional in factoring and commercial finance, with over a decade of experience. Currently, she is a team leader at SLR Business Credit, following the acquisition of Webster Bank's factoring portfolio by SLR in September 2024.

Teresa began her journey in the finance industry at White Oak Commercial Finance, where she spent 12 years honing her skills and expertise. Starting as a credit analyst, she quickly demonstrated her analytical prowess and dedication, which led to her becoming an account executive. In this role, Teresa managed a diverse portfolio of clients, providing tailored financial solutions and fostering strong client relationships.

In September 2024, Teresa transitioned to SLR Business Credit as part of the acquisition deal. Her extensive experience and leadership skills have been instrumental in integrating the factoring portfolio into SLR's operations. Teresa continues to excel in her role, driving innovation and delivering exceptional value to clients. Teresa is known for her commitment to continuous learning, actively participating in industry conferences and workshops. Her career is a testament to her expertise, leadership, and dedication, serving as an inspiration to aspiring finance professionals.

How did you approach making a big decision in your career, either moving onto a new organization or role?

Making the move from White Oak to Webster Bank was a big decision for me, as I was taking on a larger and different role. I spent a lot of time contemplating whether this was the right move and if it suited me. The first thing I did was consult my mentor, who often provides valuable perspectives I might not have considered. Then, I reflected on my career goals and the kind of work environment that makes me happy. It's crucial to know what you're looking for before making a big move. Ultimately, I trusted my gut and took the opportunity. I reminded myself that you'll never know unless you try, and in the worst case, you can always start over.

What skills or experiences have been most critical in helping you succeed?

Being a team player means not turning away from tasks that are unfamiliar or outside your job description. You never know what opportunities might arise from taking on new challenges. At the very least, you'll learn something new, and it demonstrates your motivation and eagerness to learn. Curiosity is another essential trait that can significantly benefit your career. If you're not curious, how else can you learn new skills? Embracing curiosity and a willingness to step out of your comfort zone can lead to personal and professional growth.

How have you handled a particularly challenging problem at work?

Handling challenging problems at work is an ongoing learning process for me. Each challenge is unique, whether it involves personnel issues, client concerns, or specific situations in a deal. My approach to these challenges is multifaceted and involves several key steps.

First and foremost, I believe in taking a moment to breathe and think things through before reacting. This pause allows me to clear my mind and approach the problem with a calm and rational mindset. It's easy to feel overwhelmed in the heat of the moment, but taking a step back helps me gain perspective and consider the best course of action.

Consulting with colleagues and management is another crucial aspect of my approach. I value the insights and experiences of my team members, as they often provide different perspectives and solutions that I might not have considered. Engaging in open and honest discussions with my peers helps me gather valuable input and make more informed decisions. It's a collaborative effort, and I believe that leveraging the collective knowledge of the team leads to better outcomes.

Additionally, I view every challenge as a learning experience. Each obstacle presents an opportunity to grow and develop new skills. By staying open to learning and adapting, I can continuously improve my problem-solving abilities. Whether it's through formal training, seeking feedback, or simply reflecting on past experiences.