

# WOMEN PRIVATE EQUITY + FINANCE

In 2017, McGuireWoods launched the award-winning [Women in Private Equity & Finance \(WPEF\) initiative](#) promoting the advancement of women in private equity and lending through a series of industry-focused efforts that provide substantive educational and networking opportunities. Founded by McGuireWoods partner [Amber McGraw Walsh](#) and co-chaired with McGuireWoods partner [Penny Zacharias](#), WPEF provides a platform for women to raise their profiles, share thought leadership, expand business opportunities and, most importantly, help the industry continue to make progress.

The groundwork of WPEF includes multiple online series highlighting exceptional women in private equity and finance including *Women in PE to Know*, *Up and Coming Women in PE to Know* and *Celebrating Women Dealmakers*; [WPEF Connect](#), an online directory McGuireWoods developed to facilitate deeper connections among women in our network; the firm's [Deal Us In](#) podcast featuring conversations with women leaders and rising stars providing insights and practical takeaways to inform deal work and enhance culture; and networking events throughout the year including signature events at McGuireWoods annual Healthcare Private Equity & Finance Conference in Chicago and McGuireWoods Independent Sponsor Conference in Dallas.

By leveraging our longtime focus on diversity issues within the law firm setting and extending it to investment funds, banks and other lenders, we bring together private equity and financials from across the globe to help promote change in the industry.

Honored as a "Law Firm of the Year" in Mergers & Acquisitions magazine's 2017 Mid-Market M&A Awards, for innovations that distinguish the firm as an industry leader, our network includes more than 1,200 women professionals.

## KEY CONTACTS



**AMBER MCGRAW WALSH**  
**PARTNER**  
+1 312 750 3596  
[awalsh@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:awalsh@mcguirewoods.com)



**PENNY E. ZACHARIAS**  
**PARTNER**  
+1 412 667 7937  
[zacharias@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:zacharias@mcguirewoods.com)

