

2023



ANNUAL REPORT


the Bridge

Transcend Traditional Networking

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About Us

We are an inclusive not-for-profit networking organization that supports the development of female talent in Financial Lines insurance and reinsurance. Our leadership team and supporters include men and women from across the industry – underwriting, broking, claims, law firms and affiliate organizations that support Financial Lines. We are a diverse group of colleagues working together to raise the bar on the development of female professionals in Financial Lines.

Our Mission

Our mission is to foster an inclusive network that generates meaningful connections among Financial Lines professionals with the goal of developing and advancing high potential women in order to increase the number of diverse colleagues in senior roles.



Transcend Traditional Networking



Board of Directors

Executive Board

AIG - Bridge Founder President



Allison Cooper

Allison is Head of North America Financial Lines at AIG. She also serves on the Board of the PLUS Foundation and is a member of its Executive Committee. Allison attended Trinity College and Brooklyn Law School and is admitted to practice law in the states of New York & New Jersey.

AON - Bridge Founder Vice-President



Christine Williams

Christine is the Global Specialty Product Leader for Aon. As the leader of global specialty, Christine oversees globally the Financial Services Group, Professional Services Group, Cyber, Surety, Trade Credit, FI vertical and IP. Christine also manages senior client and insurer relationships. Christine earned her M.B.A. from St. John's University in finance, and her B.S. in finance from LeMoyne College

ARC - Bridge Founder Vice-President



Heather Fox

Heather is Chief Underwriting Officer for Zurich North America, responsible for leading the company's Technical Underwriting team, including Pricing, Product Management, Sustainability Underwriting, Underwriting University, Lines of Business Underwriting and Underwriting Services. Heather received a J.D. from New England Law in Boston and a B.S. in Economics from St. John's University, graduating with Cum Laude honors.

Sompo Treasurer



Kimberly Iacocca

Kim is a Senior Vice President, Head of Financial Institutions at Sompo International. She has national responsibilities that include underwriting, strategic planning and marketing. Kim attended Rutgers University and earned a BA in Political Science.

Sompo Secretary



Deirdre Martin

Deirdre is the EVP, CUO Financial Lines Division within Sompo International North America. She has served as Co-Chair and an Advisory Committee Member of the Professional Liability Underwriting Society's D&O Symposium. Deirdre attended Providence College.

Berkley Professional Secretary



Michelle Klein

Michelle is the Chief Claims Officer and SVP of Berkley Professional Liability. In this role she has oversight of the claims team domestically and internationally. Michelle attended Clark University and Vermont Law School.

Board Members



Cathy Cossu
Hudson - Bridge Founder

Catherine is a Senior Vice President at Hudson Insurance Group. She serves on the Board of Trustees for the Professional Liability Underwriting Society as well as the Executive Committee for the Northeast Board of Directors of the Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation. Catherine graduated with a BBA in Finance from Hofstra University and is currently enrolled in University of Chicago's Booth School of Business Advanced Management Program.

David is the Head of Management Liability and a principal at Falcon Risk Services, LLC. He's been an ally and supporter of The Bridge and its mission from the early days and is a former executive committee member and treasurer. He supports the social health of diabetic children through volunteer work at NYU's pediatric hospital and is a supporter of the mentorship program at American Corporate Partners. He earned a BS in Mathematics/Actuarial Science from the University of Connecticut and an MBA in Finance and Management from NYU.



David Lynders
Falcon Risk Services, LLC



Stacey Woody
Chubb

Stacey leads the E&O Professional Liability and Cyber Claims Teams for Chubb in North America with responsibility for the growth, management and mentorship of the E&O Claims Department. She holds a BS in Business Administration and JD from West Virginia University and is admitted to practice law in the States of New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

Laura is the Chief Underwriting Officer for QBE North America. She is a member of the Professional Liability Underwriting Society and holds her AFSB and RPLU professional designations. Laura graduated from Stony Brook University with a B.A. in English.



Laura Coppola
QBE North America



Stefanie Pelletier
Lockton

Stefanie is a Senior Vice President and Financial Institutions Practice Leader with Lockton. She is responsible for Management Liability for the Northeast, with a focus on diversified financial institution clients. She attended the University at Buffalo and earned an MBA from Baruch College.



Board Members



John Benedetto
Berkley Professional

John is the President of Berkley Professional Liability and has held a succession of underwriting and management positions throughout his career. He earned a BSBA in Finance and International Management from Boston University. John is a former Trustee of the Professional Liability Underwriting Society.

Missy is a Regional Vice President with Travelers Insurance Company. She is responsible for Management Liability in the New York City Metro Region, which includes New York City, New Jersey, Long Island and Westchester. Missy holds a Business of Administration Degree from the College of Insurance.



Melissa Phillips
Travelers



Japhet Boutin
Zurich North America

Japhet is the SVP, Head of Technical Claims for Zurich North America. Prior to that role, Japhet served as VP, Director Financial Lines Claims and worked in the ZNA Claims Legal department. Japhet has worked in the insurance industry in a variety of roles for over 20 years. She started her career as a trial attorney. Japhet was celebrated as the 2022 Steven J. Gladstone Claim Executive of the Year. She is a graduate of Temple University School of Law and Barnard College, Columbia University.

Jennifer is the Area President and Director of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.'s Northeast Management Liability Practice. She is responsible for the strategic and tactical leadership of the group, manages and brokers accounts, oversees all of the firm's relationships and performance with clients, insurers, and centers of influence. She is a Part of the Advisory Board of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Private Equity CFO Association (PECFOA), maintains Fellowship in the Council on Litigation Management (CLM), and is an active member of the Professional Liability Underwriters Association (PLUS). She has been a "Power Broker" by Risk and Insurance Magazine and AIG Broker of the Year in 2018. She holds leadership positions two non-profit organizations in Boston. Jennifer received her B.A. in Political Science and Business Administration from New England College.



Jennifer Sharkey
Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.



Advisory Board Members



Tess Wood

Tess is an Assistant Vice-President in the Financial Institutions Division at Sompco International. She graduated with a B.A. in International Business and Management from Dickinson College.

Jess is an Senior Underwriter at Vantage Risk Companies. She earned a B.S. in Finance from the University of Connecticut.

Jessica Ney

Matthew Sabino

Matthew is a Broker at ARC Excess and Surplus, LLC. He earned a bachelor's degree from Loyola University Maryland with a concentration in Finance after graduating from Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York.

Brittany is a Senior Underwriter, Vice President for SwissRe Corporate Solutions and is responsible for the development and growth of public company commercial D&O business in the Northeast and South regions of North America. Brittany holds a B.S. in Risk Management and Insurance from the University of Georgia, Terry School of Business.

Brittany Bentson

Kira Godfred

Kira is a Key Account Manager in the Allianz Commercial Group. She attended Boston College's Carroll School of Management where she received a B.S. in Finance and Philosophy.

Kate is a Vice President within the Financial Institutions Group at Lockton Companies. Kate earned a B.A. in Economics from Providence College.

Katherine Minter

Kristen Americk

Kristen is a Senior Claims Specialist in the Professional Liability Group at Chubb Insurance. She earned a B.A. in English Literature from Saint Peter's University.

Clare is the East Zonal Product Lead for Public National Accounts at AIG. She earned a B.A. in English Literature from Georgetown University.

Clare McCarrick

Cal Rohde

Cal is a Regional Underwriting Manager in the Public Commercial Group at Berkley Professional Liability. He earned a B.A. in Sociology from Georgetown University.

Colleen is an Underwriting Consulting Director within the Public Management Liability Group at CNA. Colleen earned a BA in International Studies from Adelphi University.

Colleen Raga



Programming

January

Leadership Series: Allies at the Top – discussion among panelist Eric Anderson, AON; John Keogh, Chubb; Michael Price, AIG; John Doyle, Marsh McLennan – moderated by Allison Cooper, AIG.

February

PLUS WLN Joint Events

March

Educational Series: The “Inexact” Science of Insurance – discussion among panelists Greg Spore, Guy Carpenter; Norm Rafsol, Chubb; Christina Contento, Zurich; Lina Boye, QBE – Moderated by Kate Minitzer, Lockton.

April

2nd Installment of the Leadership Series: The Journey to Remain Challenged & Relevant – discussion among panelist Christine Williams, AON; Kim McLaughlin, AIG; and Carrie O’Neill, CAC – Moderated by John Benedetto, Berkley.

June

The Bridge held the Mentor Program Rooftop Event

July

The Bridge presented to the Marsh Global Advisory Board and held the Educational Series Part II: The New Era of Reinsurance – discussion among panelists Brian Finlay, AON; Lisa Butera, Swiss Re; Corinne Kruse, Guy Carpenter; and Steve Hanke, Howden Tiger – moderated by Laura Coppola QBE.

October

Introduction of the Bridge Transcends – West Chapter series of kick-off events in San Francisco, Los Angeles and Denver and John Street Club Co-Sponsored Event with Sarah Robson.

November

Women’s Securities Network Co-Sponsored Event

December

Bridge Holiday Event for Toys for Tots

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Luncheon
Theme: Taking a Chance in Your Career



Fireside Chat with Sarah Robson
CEO Marsh McLennan Canada & President, Marsh Canada Limited
Moderated by David Lynders

October 12th
11:45am - 1:45pm

3 West 51st Street
New York, NY 10020

Educational Series: The “Inexact” Science of Insurance
March 15, 2023 | 12:00pm - 2:00pm
John Jay College, 524 West 59th Street, New York, NY
RSVP Required for In-Person Only, Streaming Live on Webinar for All
Please join us for a discussion in understanding how underwriters, claims, brokers and actuaries think about the numbers behind insurance.




Moderated by:




Greg Spore
Managing Director, Guy Carpenter

Norm Rafsol
EVP, Senior Claims Officer
Chubb

Kate Minitzer
VP, Lockton
Advisory Board Member, The Bridge

Christina Contento
VP & Actuarial Director,
Zurich

Lina Boye
VP, Actuary QBE



Mediation Perspectives:
A Collaborative Panel for Insurers, Mediators and Securities Litigators

A joint panel hosted by The Bridge Transcends and Women in Securities Litigation Network

Featured Panelists







Tracy Hearn
Broker

Sarah Spore
Senior Litigation
Manager

Ashley Spore
Defensive Counsel
James City

Tracy Hearn
Coverage Counsel
Wiley Rein

Kim McLaughlin
AIG

November 9th
8:30-8:30PM ET
Reception to Follow

2nd Installment of the Leadership Series:
The Journey to Remain Challenged & Relevant

Please join us for a panel discussion profiling the career trajectories of several female leaders with a special focus on how they have overcome obstacles, resisted complacency and maintained the motivation to succeed.






Moderated by:
John Benedetto
Berkley

Christine Williams
Aon

Kim McLaughlin
AIG

Carrie O’Neill
CAC

Date: April 4, 2023 | 12:00pm - 2:00pm
Lunch will be served from 12:00pm - 12:30pm!

Location: Aon, 165 Broadway, New York, NY

RSVP Required for In Person Only, Streaming Live on Webinar for All

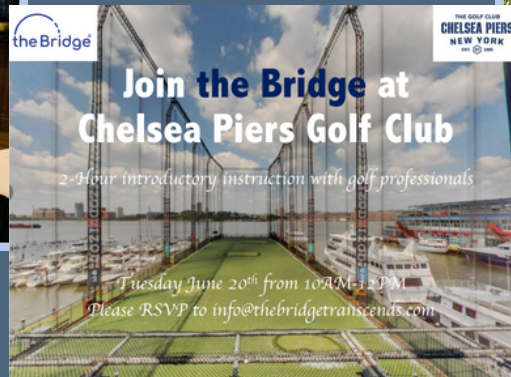




2023 Golf Events



The Bridge hosted the 2nd Annual Bridge Open on May 15th, a 2-hour introductory instruction with golf professionals at the Chelsea Piers Golf Club on June 21st and the "3rd Annual Golf Fore Women" on October 16th in Rockrimmon Country Club in Stamford CT. All events were a tremendous success thanks to all who helped in the planning, the attendees and sponsors!



"Golf has been an instrumental part of my career, and I'm thrilled to share it with others through AIG's support of women in the game and the help of my co-founders of The Bridge Transcends, Heather Fox, Christine Williams, Deirdre Martin and Michelle Klein."

Allison Cooper - Bridge Founder

Mentor

#business #process #innovative
#inspiration #investment #cooperation
#world #global #responsibility



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Mentorship Program

The Bridge's six month Mentorship Program is open to those interested in developing professional knowledge & skills, widening their networks within the industry, enhancing career potential, and/or identifying new career paths within the Financial Lines area.



Success!



2023 One-on-One Mentoring:

- Winter – 100+ mentor/mentee matches
- Spring – 120+ mentor/mentee matches
- Met at least 6 times over 6 months



Bridge volunteers conducted mock interviews with high school students and provided feedback to help students learn, grow and improve.

The Bridge was honored to volunteer at the NY Common Pantry in 2023.



NY Common Pantry's mission is to reduce hunger and promote dignity, health and self-sufficiency.



The Bridge proudly introduced West and Midwest Chapter Launches in 2023 and welcomes the Southeast and Texas launches in 2024!

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Introducing the Bridge Transcends – West Chapter
Please join us as we kick-off the West Chapter of the Bridge with introductory events at the following locations:

San Francisco	Los Angeles	Denver
October 5, 2023 4:00pm – 6:00pm	October 19, 2023 4:00pm – 7:00pm	October 24, 2023 3:30pm – 5:00pm
AIG San Francisco 1 Montgomery Street	Chubb Los Angeles 555 Flower Street	CAC Denver 250 Fillmore St

Executive Committee

 Hema Mistry (SF)	 Hilarie Gates (SF)	 Tim Fletcher (LA)	 Abigail Devine (SF)	 Carolyn Polkoff (SF)	 Yana Yuan (LA)	 Colin Daly (Denver)
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Advisory Committee

 Elizabeth Mutton (Denver)	 Claire Torkington (SF)	 Jordan Bernhoof (Denver)	 Kelly Gold (LA)	 Melissa Walker (LA)	 Roza Karimali (LA)
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If you would like to attend any of the above events please email info@thebridgetranscends.com letting us know which you session you would like to attend in person.



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Introducing the Bridge Transcends – Midwest Chapter
Please join us as we kick-off the Midwest Chapter of the Bridge with introductory events at the following location:

Untitled Supper Club – 111 W Kinzie St. Chicago, IL
November 29th – 4:30-6:30PM

Executive Committee

 Chris Rafferty AON	 Eileen Hess Allianz	 Jessica LeVins Marsh	 Jonathan Reiner RT ProExec	 Shelley Norman Berkshire Hathaway	 Stephanie Dingman AON
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Advisory Committee

 Jason Preston Berkshire Hathaway	 Miranda Despain Gallagher	 Laurie Tolton AON	 Meghan Marchica Hartford	 Maggie Smith Bowhead
 Kristen Berger Berkley	 Michelle Larocca CNA	 Katherine Waldeck AIG	 Sam Boebel Zurich	

If you would like to attend the above event please email info@thebridgetranscends.com and please forward to anyone who might be interested. To sign up for our distribution list visit thebridgetranscends.com/join.



Platinum Sponsors

~ AIG ~ Berkley Professional Liability (a Berkley Company) ~ Chubb ~
~ Crum & Forster ~ Gallagher ~ Hudson Insurance Group ~
~ Ironshore Insurance ~ Lloyd, Gray, Whitehead & Monroe, P.C. ~
~ Lockton ~ Markel ~ Sompco International ~ Travelers ~
~ Wilson Elser ~ Zurich North America ~

Gold Sponsors

~ Aon ~ ARC Excess & Surplus, LLC ~ Arch Insurance Group Inc. ~
~ Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance ~ CNA Insurance ~
~ Cozen O'Connor ~ Falcon Risk Services ~ Kennedys ~ Newfront ~
~ QBE North America ~ Swiss Re Corporate Solutions ~ The Hartford ~

Silver Sponsors

~ Beazley ~ Nationwide ~ RenaissanceRe ~ Sharzynski Marick & Black LLP ~

Event Sponsors

~ AXISRe ~ Robinson & Cole ~ SCOR ~
~ Sterling James ~ Marsh ~ Melnick ADR ~

Thank You



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