About the author

Deborah Hicks Midanek is an independent director, a pioneer in the corporate restructuring industry, a veteran of Wall Street trading floors, and a serial entrepreneur. Widely respected for her turnaround skills, she has diagnosed and remedied problems for over 60 corporations and facilitated the growth of nearly 30 other ventures, including her own. She has been described by the late Fletcher Byrom, chief executive officer of a Fortune 25 company, as a “pure thinker” – quickly gaining a deep understanding of complex problems and demonstrating an extraordinary ability to assimilate conflicting desires and craft lasting solutions.

Deborah has been directly involved in much of the extraordinary innovation that has taken place on Wall Street over the last few decades, and in handling the consequences of its excess. With solid knowledge of capital markets from all points of view and a long record of success in building and rebuilding companies from the bottom up, Deborah focuses on defining transitions as positive processes.

Deborah has served as chairman, lead director, and director as well as committee chair (audit, compensation, governance, special independent) for 23 public and private companies. In her first role as a director, she organized the shareholders of beleaguered Drexel Burnham Lambert Group to achieve recognition by the bankruptcy court and restructured the incumbent board to favor independent directors, whom she recruited and led.

Deborah founded advisory firm Solon Group in 2005 and continues to lead it today. She is a 2011 NACD Board Leadership Fellow, and also a Certified Turnaround Professional, based on career achievement. She has served as chief executive officer of several companies, built and sold her own institutional investment management firm and grew a retail no load mutual fund complex to $1 billion in assets in record time. She joined Drexel to start its interest rate swap (derivatives) function and then led the firm’s structured finance department.

Deborah earned her MBA from the Wharton School and an AB from Bryn Mawr College. A frequent writer and speaker on governance, resilience, and leadership, she is deeply involved in promoting entrepreneurship. A New Yorker now living in Mississippi, she is in the middle of a downtown turnaround, renovating and repurposing the 22 19th century commercial row buildings she has acquired.

https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110670004-203