

WiS Week 2024

Leader Spotlight

**WOMEN IN
SECURITIZATION**

Renew. Reengage. Reimagine.



Beth Forbes

Product Strategy &
Business Development

Morningstar DBRS

In your opinion, what are some of the biggest challenges women still face in the finance sector, and what strategies do you believe are effective in addressing these challenges?

I think the biggest challenge women face in the finance sector is representation. This can become quite obvious when you look at the seas of people at our large conferences and can easily count the number of women. Additionally, women are often underrepresented in leadership positions within financial firms. These factors combined can make it difficult for women to feel they belong – and can lead to a loss of talent, innovation, creativity, and productivity within the industry. Diverse perspectives are essential for driving progress and solving the complex challenges we face in structured finance. Organizations like WiS are key in increasing representation by providing access to networks and mentorship opportunities that are crucial for career advancement. Highlighting women in leadership positions or successful careers can inspire others to pursue similar paths and affirm their sense of belonging within the industry.

What inspired you to pursue a career in structured finance?

I was a finance major in college and started in structured finance working as a Registered Investment Adviser that managed funds and CDOs that owned CMBS, RMBS and other structured products. I'm drawn to structured finance for its constant innovation in developing financial solutions to meet clients' needs. It allows me to apply my analytical skills and problem-solving abilities while also enabling me to build relationships across various asset classes.

What inspires you to continue to grow in this industry?

I hate to be complacent in my career, so I love that there is always something new to learn in structured finance. Increasingly complex financial transactions, evolving market dynamics, and regulatory changes provide ongoing challenges that keep me engaged in the industry. I am inspired by opportunities to creatively solve these challenges and to learn from people with diverse experiences and perspectives.

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What advice do you have for other women in securitization?

Believe in yourself and your abilities. In meetings, negotiations, and other professional settings, don't hesitate to assert yourself, even if you're the only woman present or surrounded by individuals with more experience (or louder voices) than you. Confidence and assertiveness can help you command respect and advance your career. Also, as you grow in your career, offer mentorship, sponsorship, and opportunities for collaboration to help elevate the voices and contributions of women in the industry.

What is your favorite movie?

I love the Rocky movies (with Rocky V being the weakest link). I love an underdog story, and the training sequences are great to hype you up for any occasion!