



Philly's Top Female Leaders to Tackle Key Issues at The Forum of Executive Women Virtual Leadership Symposium Featuring Keynote Jill Schlesinger

Philadelphia – PA – Hundreds of the Philadelphia region's top female leaders will participate virtually in The Forum of Executive Women's annual Leadership Symposium to be held **Wednesday, September 16 from 9:00 a.m. to noon**. For the first time, the public is invited to participate in the thought-provoking event that will feature discussion and insights on topics including personal financial management, bias, equitable pathways for success, reimagining democracy to reach its full potential and envisioning the leadership necessary to create truly inclusive and equitable work cultures.

Jill Schlesinger, Emmy-nominated and Gracie Award-winning business analyst for CBS News and author of *The Dumb Things Smart People Do with Their Money*, will launch the morning as keynote speaker. A certified financial planner known for exploring and revealing the reasons for and remedies to cure financial ills, Schlesinger will answer the financial questions on everyone's mind, especially in the uncertain COVID-19 environment:

- Financing education and college debt
- Home ownership and when renting makes more sense
- Understanding financial products and advisors
- Retirement hurdles
- Timing the market (why not to)
- Core issues including caring for aging parents, wills, insurance, identity protection and more

A plenary session will address unseen barriers women face, with added barriers for women in underrepresented groups. Sheryl Axelrod, President, The Axelrod Firm, PC and member of The Forum will moderate a panel to discuss how women can leverage their positions as leaders to break down barriers and build more equitable pathways to success for all women.

Panelists include:

- Kisha Hortman Hawthorne, Ph.D., FACHE, SVP and Chief Information Officer, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Forum member
- Eileen Letts, Partner, Zuber Lawler, co-author of *Left Out and Left Behind: The Hurdles, Hassles, and Heartaches of Achieving Long-Term Legal Careers for Women of Color*
- Melissa Pang, Assistant General Counsel, The School District of Philadelphia

Additionally, guests can choose from two breakout panel sessions. One will address progress and barriers to a fully participatory democracy, moderated by Forum member Sara Manzano-Diaz, former PA Executive Deputy Attorney General for Public Protection and Director of the Women's Bureau at the Department of Labor. Panelists include:

- Kathy Boockvar, Secretary of the Commonwealth, Pennsylvania Department of State
- Sharmain Matlock-Turner, President and CEO, Urban Affairs Coalition; Forum Member
- Sozi Pedro Tulante, Partner, Dechert LLP; Former Philadelphia City Solicitor

The second panel will focus on reimagining culture in times of accelerating change, moderated by Forum member Lorina Marshall-Blake, President, Independence Blue Cross Foundation.

Panelists include:

- Allison Green, SVP, Chief Diversity Officer, The Lincoln Financial Group; Forum member
- Phoebe Haddon, Chair, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia
- Kate Shields, CEO, Vault Communications; Forum Board Member

“Each year, The Forum’s annual Leadership Symposium brings to the forefront the pressing issues facing female leaders in the board room, at work and at home,” says **Lisa Detwiler**, President of the Board of The Forum and Managing Director, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer, FS Investment Solutions. “We are pleased to open this event to the public to help raise awareness and inspire conversation about the important topics that are shaping our communities today.”

For more information and to register visit <https://www.foeweevents.com/leadership-symposium>. The cost for the Symposium is \$95. Leadership Packages are available which include a second virtual event, The Forum Leadership Breakfast on October 21, at a combined cost of \$135 (a savings of \$15).

About The Forum of Executive Women

Founded in 1977, The Forum of Executive Women is the region's premier women's organization, actively working to increase the number of women in leadership roles, expand their impact and influence, and position them to drive positive change in the Greater Philadelphia region. Visit www.foew.com.

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