

FEMMIE Majuscule

Femme Majuscule is a French women magazine with a similar readership as More in the USA

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Martine Liautaud, Philanthropic banker

Her resume, like her rise through the ranks of the business world, can give you vertigo! And yet despite rubbing shoulders with the heads of global finance since graduating, she's always kept her feet firmly on the ground. Well aware of what company life is like, Martine Liautaud strives to shatter the glass ceiling that all too often caps women's promotions & salaries. An investment banker at the head of her own company, *Liautaud & Cie.*, she's just partnered with Engie, the energy company, to set up the Women Initiative Foundation, an endowment fund and think-tank to promote gender equity in the world of business, both in France and internationally. The goal is to change mindsets and open offices in major cities like New York to support women entrepreneurs. Martine Liautaud is a woman with a mission: she aims to rebalance management committees – which today remain predominantly masculine. And to help spread the word, the advisor to several CEOs has just published a handbook on how to promote gender equity in companies - and the royalties of "*Breaking Through*" are all being donated to her foundation. A graduate from both the Paris University of Political Science and Stanford University, Liautaud is not new to philanthropy: she founded a voluntary mentoring association where corporate leaders help women entrepreneurs to scale up their companies after three years in business. Since setting it up end 2010, the Women Business Mentoring Initiative (WBMI) has already supported a hundred women across France who have set up or taken over a business. In a country where only 15% of entrepreneurs are women, such a help is sorely needed.