

## **Career Rx**

By Lisa Chenofsky Singer

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### **“Why I Am Leaving Goldman Sachs” Resignation**

Over the years as a human resources leader and career management coach, I have often wondered when a resignation letter like Greg Smith’s public resignation letter to the editor would arrive. For those of you who do not know this letter (<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/14/opinion/why-i-am-leaving-goldman-sachs.html?pagewanted=1&r=1>). It was written Greg Smith, who resigned his position as the executive director and head of Goldman Sachs’ United States equity derivatives business in Europe, the Middle East and Africa on Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

What is most amazing about this public resignation letter is that he wrote is from a values perspective. Greg talks to witnessing the changes in the firm’s integrity, the shift in culture, people and identity that he has experienced over the course of his 12 year career.

The structure or core strength of an individual and/or an organization is called into question when the focus is lost. When you have to question yourself on why something is happening that makes you uneasy, then it is time to carefully reflect on your values and determine how they align with what you are willing to do.

Greg’s values no longer aligned with his perceptions of Goldman Sachs’ values. His statement “I truly believe that this decline in the firm’s moral fiber represents the single most serious threat to its long-run survival” says it all.

How many times have you wanted to speak up and have chosen not to as you recognize that speaking out is *not in your best interest*. When the alignment has veered too far from your comfort zone, then it is time to either try to influence and change the situation, or plan your strategy to step away. Greg obviously needed to step away. I wish him well in his next endeavor.

Think about how many times in your career, have you said to yourself “this feels right!” When an alignment like this occurs between your values and the organization’s, that is incredible!

When I began my practice, my first thought was “love your career, live your talent & treasure your life successes”™ - this is the motto I live my life by. You only go through life once, so make it meaningful, make a difference and pay it forward.

*This column provides thought provoking strategies for getting unstuck along your career journey. A certified Executive and Career Coach can be instrumental in guiding you in your efforts to gain a new perspective. I invite you to contact me @ [Lisa@ChenofskySinger.com](mailto:Lisa@ChenofskySinger.com)*

*Lisa Chenofsky Singer is the Managing Director of Chenofsky Singer and Associates LLC [www.ChenofskySinger.com](http://www.ChenofskySinger.com), providing Executive and Career Coaching and Human Resources Consulting.*

*Lisa’s extensive human resources and coaching experience with Fortune 500 companies, small enterprises, medium-sized firms, and non-profit organizations gives her the unique*

*ability to bring together wide-ranging perspectives on career transitions, executive and leadership development. She has consulted with a wide variety of sectors — consumer goods, financial services, healthcare, media and entertainment, pharmaceutical and life sciences, publishing, professional services, technology, and non-profit. Lisa has a passion for motivational speaking, conducts career forums, and provides executive and career coaching.*

*Lisa's greatest strength is that she enables individuals and organizations to see themselves in new ways, freeing them to achieve their goals. Lisa can be reached at [Lisa@ChenofskySinger.com](mailto:Lisa@ChenofskySinger.com).*