

2020 Exchange | Biography

Ellie Aitken – Program Director | Executive Advisor

“The most significant barrier to female leadership is the actual lack of females in leadership. The best advice I can give to women is to go out and start something, ideally their own businesses. If you can’t see a path for leadership within your own company, go blaze a trail of your own.”

- Safra Catz



It’s Ellie’s ability to project gravitas – confidence, poise under pressure and decisiveness that sets her apart.

Having the unique ability to port her leadership skills across industry she is an influencer who commands the room, and that people are attracted to, given her humility, authenticity, generosity and charisma.

Ellie has honed her professional skills with over twenty-five years of education and experience in investment banking, philanthropy, business and commercial law which has allowed her to contribute a valuable combination of legal, financial and entrepreneurial skills to boards of directors, Chief Executives, management and other stakeholders.

Why 2020 Exchange

Ellie brings to 2020X a wealth of experience as well as a strong ethos and focus on people development.

The opportunity to work with like-minded executives from diverse companies and industries, sharing experiences and insights in a 'safe' environment is a truly valuable opportunity for all those involved and what aligns Ellie with 2020X.

Career History

Ellie was admitted as a solicitor to the Supreme Court of NSW in 2007. Having commenced her career as a financial research associate at JP Morgan she subsequently practiced as a solicitor in the Mergers and Acquisitions group, predominantly in the funds management sector, at Clayton Utz following her clerkship at Allens Linklaters.

Ellie is a member of the board of directors of veteran charity SoldierOn and the Australian Children’s Music Foundation, as well as being a founding member of the ocean conservation initiative, The Sapphire Project.

She was formerly an executive director of Aitken Investment Management, co-chair of the Australian Ballet’s Ambassadors’ board and a director of the Polo Association of NSW.

Ellie holds a Bachelor of Law Degree from the University of New South Wales, a Bachelor of Commerce Degree (Finance and Accounting) from the University of Sydney and a Master of Commerce with Honours from the University of Sydney. Ellie also graduated from the Australian Institute of Company Directors’ Course in 2017.