



# WELD National Executive Women's Series April 2021

Series Sponsor:



Grace Vandercruze

April 1, 2021  
Thursday

10:00am-11:15am EST

*For WELD Corporate  
Members &  
Corporate E-Members  
Only!*

*You will receive an  
invitation from  
Mindy Koenig -  
[mkoenig@weldoh.org](mailto:mkoenig@weldoh.org), if  
your organization  
qualifies for this event.*

*For sponsorship  
opportunities,  
contact Deepa Kellar at  
[dkellar@weldoh.org](mailto:dkellar@weldoh.org).*

## The Mountains We Face: When Climbing is Our Only Option

The double pandemic of COVID-19 and social injustice has both created and exposed incredible, systemic problems. We are at a crossroads where success is the only option. Business and community leaders will need to “dig deep” to solve daunting issues. Join WELD for an exciting session featuring **Grace Vandercruze, MBA, CPA, Founder and Managing Director at Grace Global Capital LLC, and Director, The Doctors Company**, who will share her insights on tackling difficult leadership challenges and achieving big goals. Grace was selected by Directors & Boards magazine as one of the “2018 Directors to Watch.” She serves on the Wharton Graduate Executive Board and was formerly a managing director at Swiss Re and an associate of the Financial Institutions Group at Merrill Lynch.

In her youth, Grace survived homelessness from a house fire which forced her family into a homeless shelter in New York, and she has overcome multiple financial and personal setbacks. These experiences fueled her passion for financial wellness and the achievement of big goals. Author of *Homeless to Millionaire: 6 Keys to UPLIFT Financial Abundance*, Grace uses firsthand knowledge of financial struggle and extensive experience in the financial services industry to help build financial literacy.

Grace has successfully climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, Elbrus and others and is a licensed sailor. She has been featured in two books, “Be Happy at Work, 100 Women Who Love Their Jobs and Why” by Joanne Gordon and “Doing it Ourselves: Success Stories of African American Women in Business” by Donna Ballard.

Registration closes March 30, 2021. Contact Mindy Koenig, [mkoenig@weldoh.org](mailto:mkoenig@weldoh.org), with any questions.





## About Our Speaker...



### **Grace Vandecruze, CPA, MBA** Managing Director Grace Global Capital LLC

Grace Vandecruze has over 25 years of experience in the areas of finance, accounting, internal controls and financial reporting for public companies, including senior roles with financial institutions. Ms. Vandecruze is the Founder and Managing Director at Grace Global Capital LLC, a consulting firm providing M&A financial advisory, restructuring, and valuation to insurance companies and financial regulators since 2006. Prior to forming Grace Global Capital, Ms. Vandecruze served as Managing Director at Swiss Re, where she was responsible for the firm's regulatory advisory practice in the insurance and financial services industries from 1999 to 2006. Ms. Vandecruze has extensive expertise in mergers and acquisitions and capital raisings, most notably she provided expert testimony on the valuation of Consec during the largest bankruptcy in the history of the insurance industry. Ms. Vandecruze has provided IPO advisory in the largest public offerings of insurance companies, throughout her career, Ms. Vandecruze has executed over \$25 billion in M&A and financing transactions. Ms. Vandecruze brings a unique combination of C-suite experience in banking, M&A, capital markets and accounting.

Prior to joining Swiss Re, Ms. Vandecruze was a Vice President at Head & Company, the first global private equity firm specializing in the insurance industry from 1996 to 1999 and an Associate in the Financial Institutions Group at Merrill Lynch from 1994 to 1996. Ms. Vandecruze is a CPA who began her career as an auditor in public accounting with EY from 1985 to 1988 before joining Grant Thornton where she worked from 1988 to 1992 becoming a Vice President. Ms. Vandecruze earned an MBA in Finance from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania where she currently serves on the Wharton Graduate Executive Board. Ms. Vandecruze holds a BBA in Accounting from Pace University. Ms. Vandecruze has served on the board of M Financial Group since 2015 where she is a member of the audit and wealth committees, and was recently appointed to the board of The Doctors Company where she is a member of the investment committee. Ms. Vandecruze is a licensed Certified Public Accounting in New York and is a member of the AICPA and the New York State Society of CPAs.

Ms. Vandecruze often serves as a keynote speaker at insurance conferences, including InsureTech Connect, National Association of Insurance Commissioners, M Financial Annual Marketing Meeting and The Baker Tilly Insurance Conference, and is widely quoted in the financial press including Wharton Business Radio, Innovator's Edge, Property Casualty 360, AMBest, American Banker, SNL Financial and the Insurance Journal. Ms. Vandecruze was selected as one of the "Directors to Watch" by Directors & Boards magazine, "Woman to Watch" by Business Insurance magazine, and she was recently awarded "Corporate Woman of the Year" by Pace University. Ms. Vandecruze has been active in the community having served on the boards of Resolution Life Holdings, SBLI, The Clay Center and Thomas Memorial Hospital. She is a licensed sailor and has participated in climbing expeditions to Bhutan, Annapurna, Kilimanjaro, Elbrus and Everest Base Camp.

Ms. Vandecruze has been featured in the books: "Be Happy at Work, 100 Women Who Love their Jobs and Why" by Joanne Gordon and "Doing it Ourselves: Success Stories of African American Women in Business" by Donna Ballard. In addition, Ms. Vandecruze recently authored the international best selling book, *Homeless to Millionaire: 6 Keys to UPLIFT Your Financial Abundance*.