JACKIE MESA

Chief Operating Officer of FIA and Senior Vice President of Global Policy

ABOUT JACKIE

Jackie Mesa is Chief Operating Officer of FIA and Senior Vice President of Global Policy, where she leads the association's operations and global policy and advocacy efforts on behalf of the cleared derivatives industry. She works closely with regulators, policymakers and market participants worldwide on issues including clearing, capital requirements, market structure and risk management. Jackie is a leading voice in FIA's regulatory engagement initiatives and advocacy efforts in the U.S., Europe and Asia. She represented FIA before the CFTC's Global Markets Advisory Committee. Jackie is also an active advocate for advancing women in financial markets through her board role with Women in Financial Markets (WIFM) since 2020.

GETTING INSPIRED BY JACKIE

What was the aspect of yourself that you had to work on the most to get to where you are now?

One of the most important lessons I learned is that leadership is not about trying to match someone else's image of what a leader should be or imitate leaders who came before you. Early in my career, I sometimes wondered whether my own leadership style was the "right" one. Over time, I realized that the best leaders are authentic. People respond to leaders who are genuine, transparent, and comfortable with who they are. Once I stopped second-guessing my approach and focused on leading in a way that reflected my values and personality, I became more confident and effective.
I also learned the importance of being comfortable with discomfort. Many of the biggest opportunities in my career came from taking on challenges that felt slightly beyond my experience at the time. Growth often happens when you step outside your comfort zone.

What key tip would you give for professionals to successfully develop in their careers?

Be curious and build relationships.
Technical expertise is important, but careers are often shaped by the people who are willing to learn continuously and invest in genuine professional relationships. Seek opportunities to understand different parts of your organization and industry, and don't be afraid to ask questions.
I encourage professionals to build relationships across their organization, throughout the industry, and with people who bring different backgrounds and perspectives.

People you meet early in your career may later become colleagues, clients, mentors, or business partners.. Our industry is small, so reputation and relationships matter. Strong relationships not only open professional doors; they also help you understand different viewpoints and bring people together to solve problems. It is equally important to give credit where it is due. Recognizing others' talent and expertise strengthens relationships, and people are far more willing to help when they feel their contributions are valued.

How do you see the future of clearing in 10 years?

I believe clearing will become even more important to the resilience and efficiency of global financial markets. As new market structures evolve, clearing may look a bit different, whether through faster movement of collateral, longer opening hours or different risk modeling, the role of clearing is ever more important. I think this is the most exciting time to work in the clearing space give the potential for rapid change and innovation.
Over the next decade, I expect to see greater use of technology, improved data and analytics capabilities, and a continued focus on enhancing operational resilience. We will also likely see clearing expand into new products and markets as participants seek the benefits of transparency, efficiency, and reduced counterparty risk.
At the same time, the industry's core mission will remain unchanged: providing stability and confidence during periods of market stress. The institutions that can successfully balance innovation with strong risk management will help shape the future of clearing.

JACKIE´S LINKEDIN

EACH European Association of CCP Clearing Houses

WIC Women in Clearing