



Barbara Schonhofer MBE

With a career spanning over 45 years in financial services and executive search, Barbara Schonhofer MBE is a highly respected Board Advisor, Career Coach, and Non-Executive leader, dedicated to guiding executives toward career success while driving positive change in the corporate world. As an entrepreneur, she has helped shape leadership within the insurance sector, supporting senior professionals in navigating career transitions and achieving their full potential.

Barbara's expertise in executive search was honed over decades, beginning with roles at an international financial services boutique and later as a Partner at Korn Ferry. She went on to co-found EJS Search, where she played a pivotal role in placing senior leaders in top financial firms. Over the past 25+ years, she has successfully advised and supported countless executives in reaching leadership roles and shaping the future of the industry.

Beyond executive search, Barbara is deeply committed to fostering different thinking and gender balance in the workplace. As Founder and Chair of ISC Group, she has built a global business network dedicated to championing women in re/insurance. In addition, as Co-Founder of GAIN, she helps drive initiatives that support neurodivergent talent in the insurance and investment sectors. Her leadership within these not-for-profit organisations reflects her passion for enabling underrepresented groups to succeed in the world of work.

As a trusted Board Advisor, Barbara provides strategic insight to senior executives of international insurance companies, offering guidance on career acceleration, board readiness, and leadership development. Her deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities faced by modern board directors has positioned her as a sought-after mentor and speaker at industry events worldwide.

In her latest venture, Barbara has co-founded Harlschon, a firm dedicated to helping senior executives accelerate, transition, or redefine their careers. Through Harlschon, she continues to provide invaluable career strategies and support to leaders navigating today's evolving professional landscape.

Barbara's impact extends beyond boardrooms and leadership coaching, she is a passionate advocate for innovative thinking and career strategy at every stage of professional life.