

Top 100 Most Influential Women in Finance

Selina Burdell

Co-founder and chief operating officer
LC Financial Holdings

NEW ENTRY - Selina Burdell set up a loan servicing and credit management business with her husband Paul in 1998, which acquires and manages European consumer and SME loans. When the financial crisis hit 10 years later, the amount of distressed debt and non-performing loan opportunities snowballed, boosting demand for work needed to service that debt, which Burdell's firm provided.

The increased demand resulted in the business splitting into two: asset manager LCM Partners and Link Financial, a loan servicing and credit management firm. Together, they form LC Financial Holdings, which is 49% owned by Canada's Brookfield Asset Management. As chief operating officer, Burdell is heavily involved in the day-to-day running of the firm and sits on the investment committee, helping decide which assets to buy.

From its roots in the UK, the company has expanded into Spain and then across Europe. It has also recently made moves into India through a partnership with a local business.

LCM operates two strategies: Credit Opportunities and SOLO, which lends to small and medium-sized enterprises. Its investors include some of the world's largest pension funds. Now, amid the cost-of-living crisis, Burdell expects a busy time ahead for the firm as there will be more consumers who cannot meet credit card and loan repayments.

Burdell says she is fortunate as a business founder to have had the flexibility to balance her work with family commitments when her children were younger; they are now grown up. She is passionate about diversity and inclusion - the firm's general counsel is Josephine Bennett and many among its investment team are also female. Outside work, Burdell chairs the fundraising board at the charity, Missing People.