# Leadership/#Disrupted

A new lens on leadership competencies





Financial Services - Banking Thought Leadership This paper continues our series that explores the growing importance of innovative and inclusive leadership in banking, and is based on a study of over 9,000 senior executives carried out over the past four years. By exploring the underlying competencies and behaviors, we look at how banks can best adapt their approach to developing their leaders.

#### **Dataset composition**

Total: 9,723 executives Gender: 6,952 male and 2,560 female executives Leaders: 1,391 CEOs, 5,062 C-Suite **Regions:** 3,923 EMEA, 3,787 Americas, 1,640 Asia Pacific **Sector:** 2,378 Financial Services, including 986 Banking Full methodology in appendix



## Faster Growing Firms Have Stronger Leaders

Our leadership assessment data suggests a direct correlation between stronger innovative and inclusive banking leadership and higher performing organizations.



With exceptional talent already working at exceptional organizations, how can your firm differentiate its approach to sourcing and promoting talent?

- Are you fully leveraging available data assets to better identify leaders with these competencies?
- Are you **targeting the specific leadership competencies that are needed to succeed** in the context of its operating environment?
- Are you **minimizing bias** in the selection and evaluation of these competencies?

### Target Competencies That Tackle Todays Needs

Success factors are not static over time. What makes for an effective leader in the years after a financial crisis is not necessarily what makes for a successful leader during a period of digital disruption, or changing societal and customer expectations.

Our assessment data shows that the demand for leaders with the characteristics and competencies associated with stronger innovation and inclusion leadership is growing as firms look to tackle these emerging challenges.

Banks are increasingly targeting experiential, creative and empathetic characteristics. Conversely, we are seeing a lower indexing on more compliant and cautious behaviors.

#### More in-demand C-Suite competencies



#### Less in-demand C-Suite competencies



RRA analysis of executive assessments, pre-2019 vs. 2020-21; n = 689



Continually refresh target competencies as new strategic priorities emerge. By using metrics that are sensitive to the changing nature of the business around them, leaders will improve an organization's ability to adapt to new ways of thinking and minimize the longer-term risk of the organization becoming obsolete.

## Focus on How Key Roles are Evolving

Three roles have seen a particular elevation in their importance and impact in banking, both due to COVID-19 and longer-term structural shifts in the industry. We have seen a corresponding shift in the competencies that are being prioritized for these roles.

#### Chief Financial Officers (CFOs)

Companies are looking to strategically reshape their businesses, creating demand for new types of financial officers. The role is increasingly cross-functional, driving transformation and playing a proactive role in influencing change in the company. Many CFOs are now also at the forefront of digitization.

#### **Chief Information Officers (CIOs)**

Beyond managing technology projects, CIOs now need to create value and advise on technology-led business models. Interpersonal skills are more important, both in terms of understanding the customer for client-centric technology, and internal influencing on projects that often span across complex organizational stakeholder networks.

#### Chief Human Resources Officers (CHROs)

CHROs had elevated roles during COVID-19, visibly helping CEOs manage the present and lead their companies into the future. They need to be the stewards of change across multiple stakeholder groups, staying abreast of the drivers of transformation, while remaining sensitive to the needs of an increasingly virtual employee base.



RRA analysis of executive assessments, pre-2019 vs. 2020-21; n = 111



Understand the elevated needs and impact of mission-critical roles within your organization, and make sure that you are targeting the necessary competencies to deliver against these in hiring, development and succession planning.

## Reduce Bias to Reach Your Full Potential

#### Data can help identify blockages and bottlenecks that prevent a talent pipeline from running optimally.

One challenge occurs when assessment processes over-index on certain competencies, creating a barrier to progress or glass ceiling for groups that exhibit those traits less frequently. One example in the selection of CEOs is the bias towards confidence, which is typically a male-oriented trait - and so we see fewer women CEOs.





of men in senior positions acknowledge a glass ceiling in banking<sup>2</sup>

1 Source: Boardex (2020) and Russell Reynolds Associates analysis 2 Source: Women in Banking (2012) Institute of Leadership & Management

Our cross-industry benchmarks show that women who are elevated to the CEO role tend to be stronger across a range of other competencies than their male counterparts.

		Inclusive Leadership	Innovation Leadership	
CEOs	Women	111	112	Women CEOs spike across range of factors:
	Men	103	105	Learning-oriented and ins     Focus on customer centri
	Women	104	102	Social connectivity
C-suite	Men	101	102	<ul><li>Steadier under pressure</li><li>Lack of cynicism</li></ul>

RRA analysis (2020) based on 2,236 executive assessments

### s a

- sight-led
- icity
- Value innovation and creativity

As such, some businesses may be failing to reach their full potential because of systemic selection bias. Breaking out of this cycle can be challenging, as employers tend to gravitate towards people who think and act like them, and so it can often be self-reinforcing.



Talent leaders should set up regular and objective evaluations of selection and promotion processes to identify and eliminate inherent biases in the way that talent is measured, with the aim of maximizing the potential of leadership teams.

## Appendix: Methodology

### Changing how we measure potential

The methodology was developed by our in-house psychologists in partnership with Hogan Assessments. It is based on studies of "best-in-class" senior leaders, mapped to a 95% confidence interval, and synthetically validated against a dataset of 5.5 million executives.

Innovation Leadership	Inclusive leadership		
	Intra-personal	Inter-personal	
Innovative	<ul> <li>Identifying motivations, privilege &amp; acumen</li> </ul>	Leveraging differences to win	
<ul><li>Disruptive</li><li>Bold in leadership</li></ul>	Reading situations/challenges	<ul><li>Fostering open dialogue</li><li>Developing with feedback</li></ul>	
Socially adept	<ul><li> Reflecting with empathy</li><li> Holding self accountable</li></ul>	Holding others accountable	
Determined			

These are derived from weighted aggregates of twenty eight psychometrics, normalized against our global senior executive assessment dataset:

- Adjustment
- Aesthetics
- Affiliation
- Altruistic
- Ambition
- Bold
- Commerce
- Compliance
- Diligent

- Dutiful
- Excitable
- Grounded
- Hedonism
- Inquisitive
- Interpersonal Sensitivity
- Learning Approach
- Leisurely
- Power

- Prudence
- Recognition
- Reserved
- Restrained
- Risk-tolerant
- Science
- Security
- Skeptical
- · Sociability

### Please feel free to contact us to discuss any of these topics further

#### Mary Caroline Tillman

**Financial Services** E: marycaroline.tillman@russellreynolds.com T: +1 212 351 2085 New York

#### Jane Bird

**Financial Services** E: jane.bird@russellreynolds.com T: +44 20 7198 1807 London

#### Sophie Saeed

**Financial Services** E: sophie.saeed@russellreynolds.com T: +44 20 7198 1863 London

#### **Chris Davis**

FinTech & Innovation E: chris.davis@russellreynolds.com T: +1 212 351 2590 New York

Sean Dineen Leadership & Succession E: sean.dineen@russellreynolds.com T: +1 617 722 6253 Boston

#### **Tina Shah-Paikeday**

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion E: tina.shah@russellreynolds.com T: +1 415 352 3362 San Francisco

#### **James Diggines**

**Financial Services** E: james.diggines@russellreynolds.com T: +65 6496 0606 Singapore

#### **Robert Voth**

**Financial Services** E: robert.voth@russellreynolds.com T: +1 312 993 0748 Chicago

#### **Mark Temple**

Financial Services Knowledge E: mark.temple@russellreynolds.com T: +44 20 7198 1811 London

#### **Claire-Louise McSherry**

**Global Technology & Operations for Financial Services** E: Claire-louise.mcsherry@russellreynolds.com T: +44 20 7343 3663 London

#### **Bennett Hanig**

Leadership & Succession E: bennett.hanig@russellreynolds.com T: +1 212 351 2089 New York

#### **David Lange**

Leadership & Succession E: david.lange@russellreynolds.com T: +1 212 351 2284 New York



### About Russell Reynolds Associates

Russell Reynolds Associates is a global leadership advisory and search firm. Our 470+ consultants in 46 offices work with public, private and nonprofit organizations across all industries and regions. We help our clients build teams of transformational leaders who can meet today's challenges and anticipate the digital, economic and political trends that are reshaping the global business environment. From helping boards with their structure, culture and effectiveness to identifying, assessing and defining the best leadership for organizations, our teams bring their decades of expertise to help clients address their most complex leadership issues. We exist to improve the way the world is led.

#### www.russellreynolds.com



Global offices

#### Americas

- Atlanta
- Boston
- Buenos Aires
- Calgary
- Chicago
- Dallas
- Houston
- Los Angeles
- Mexico City
- Miami
- Minneapolis/St.Paul
- Montreal
- New York
- Palo Alto
- San Francisco
- São Paulo
- Stamford
- Toronto
- Washington, D.C.

#### Europe

- Amsterdam
- Barcelona
- Brussels
- Copenhagen
- Dubai
- Frankfurt
- Hamburg
- Helsinki
- Istanbul
- London
- Madrid
- Milan
- Munich
- Oslo
- 0510
- Paris
- StockholmWarsaw
- Zürich

#### Asia/Pacific

- Beijing
- Hong Kong
- Melbourne
- Mumbai
- New Delhi
- Shanghai
- Singapore
- Sydney
- Tokyo