

May Nasrallah



May Nasrallah is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of deNovo Corporate Advisors, an Independent, Middle-East focused, best-in-class corporate finance advisory firm, offering international bulge bracket expertise to regional corporations. deNovo's activities include regional and cross-border mergers and acquisitions, restructurings and capital raising transactions covering clients across various services and industries.

deNovo Corporate Advisors under May's leadership has over a relatively short period of time established its reputation and track record as the pre-eminent boutique advisory firm in the region. deNovo has successfully executed numerous sellsides, buysides and stake sales on behalf of its continuously growing client base. May and deNovo's advice is consistently sought by the region's leading family groups, corporates and sovereign wealth funds as well as global firms seeking regional acquisitions.

Prior to founding deNovo, May spent over 15 years at Morgan Stanley in numerous capacities and geographies including New York, Hong Kong, London and Dubai. Most recently, she was Head of Investment Banking for the Middle East and North Africa region, where she established, led and grew Morgan Stanley's first-ever on-the-ground investment banking presence in the Middle East, based in the DIFC, Dubai.

May started her career at McKinsey & Company in New York. After receiving her MBA, May then joined Morgan Stanley in 1994 in the Mergers, Acquisitions and Restructuring Group in New York, followed by the Global Infrastructure and Project Finance Group. In 1996, she joined the High-Yield Capital Markets Group, focusing on Asian corporate and sovereign high-yield bond issuances where she spent a significant amount of time in Asia based in Hong Kong. May subsequently worked on a number of large leveraged buyouts for US companies and private equity funds. In 2000, May moved to London where she became responsible for European corporate leveraged financings for telecom, media and industrial companies and, following the dotcom crash, worked on restructuring the debt of a number of these corporates. In 2004, she set up and led the Liability Management Group for Europe and MENA, where she was instrumental in establishing Morgan Stanley's presence and dominance in sovereign and corporate debt optimization and restructurings. May also led the efforts to initiate Morgan Stanley's Islamic finance presence. In 2005, May was named Morgan Stanley's Head of Investment Banking for the MENA region, a position she held until retiring from Morgan Stanley in late 2009.

May graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ("MIT") with a Dual Major: Bachelor of Science in Economics and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. May received her Masters in Management and Finance from MIT's Sloan School of Management. May was a Member of MIT's Sigma Xi Honor Society and received numerous awards and recognitions for various competitions, initiatives and volunteer work during her years at MIT.

May speaks fluent Arabic, English and conversational French. She is married and is the mother of four boys.

Notable Accomplishments:

- In 2015, May was named Business Woman of the Year for the UAE at the Arab Woman Awards Ceremony; the award was bestowed by His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan bin Mubarak Al Nahayan
- Ranked in top 500 Most Influential Arabs in Arabian Business magazine in 2013 and 2012; Ranked in top 100 most influential Arab Women
- Featured in the Financial Times' List of The Leading Business Women in the Arab World
- Featured in the Women and Leadership Publication Case Study in the National Newspaper's Celebration of the 100th International Women's Day
- Selected as one of a small group of Arab Business Professionals by the UAE Prime Minister's Office to an exclusive Economic Forum with Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum and then U.S. President George W. Bush, during the first ever US President's Official Visit to the Emirate of Dubai
- Featured as Keynote Speaker in Multiple Global Business and Economic Forums and Conferences internationally and regionally addressing topics such as: Corporate Finance, Corporate Governance, Global Capital Markets, Initial Public Offerings, etc.
- Quoted in numerous business articles in international and regional news publications on various business and economic related topics

- Youngest Woman to be named Managing Director at Morgan Stanley and first Arab Woman Managing Director at Morgan Stanley
- Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Lebanese International Finance Executives (“LIFE”); previously served as Chairwoman of the Dubai Chapter for three years
- Member of MIT Senior Advisory Board for the GCC and EC Interviewer for candidates
- Previously Member of the Senior Oversight Committee for the American University in Dubai’s Business School
- Previously Member of the Board of Directors of Ajeej Capital MENA Fund, regional Asset Management Firm