

The 100 most influential of the decade

Without the 100 people we rank here, the past 10 years in private equity would have been different

Private equity today is not a mainstream part of investment management – but you can make a powerful case that it is on the verge of becoming one. Gone are the days of private equity the cottage industry. And even the sceptics will likely admit that over the past 10 years private equity has emerged as a genuine asset class – global, complex, and here to stay.

Responsible for this remarkable transformation, arguably even more so than the macro forces that have changed the world since this magazine first appeared, are the people included in this ranking. Every one of them, in our estimation, has made an important contribution to the story, positive or negative. Everyone one of them, be they fund managers or investors, politicians or regulators, bankers or union representatives, has had a profound impact on what private equity has become.

And in so doing, they all have helped determine its future.

“Editors’ choice” was the methodology we used to compile the ranking, and it was a challenging piece of work – think fierce debates going on in the news room. What was clear from the outset was that we would end up with movers and shakers from within and without the industry, with a mix

of enablers, destroyers, friends and foes.

Clearer still was that we wouldn’t be able to include everyone worthy of being included, and that you, the reader, would likely be finding some of our inclusions and omissions baffling or even disappointing. If you do, then please let us know. We’re very keen to hear your thoughts.

As long-standing readers of *Private Equity International* will know well, this isn’t the first time we’ve published a selection of the principal players in and around the industry. We’ve done it on several occasions in the past, and this iteration, the largest to date, is unlikely to be the last. Because to us this is a business in which people have always mattered greatly. They still do today, regardless of how much more “institutionalisation” of private equity we are likely going to see. And, for the record, in case it isn’t obvious: we think they always will.

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Need to know what LPs want? Auerbach and her colleagues have the inside track