

pink's

TOP 15 WOMEN IN BUSINESS

THE GLASS-BREAKERS

ELAINE A. SARSYNSKI

**CHAIRMAN AND CEO,
MASSMUTUAL INTERNATIONAL LLC;
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, RETIREMENT SERVICES,
MASSACHUSETTS MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.**

*Directs both retirement and international
business with more than \$54 billion*
in assets under management.*

BY DEBRA PALERMINO

If you asked me why I decided to leave a successful management consulting and leadership development practice three years ago, two words sum it up: Elaine Sarsynski.

Elaine and I worked for another financial services company two decades ago. Although I didn't know her personally at the time, she had a reputation then as a rising star in our investments division. In particular, she was recognized as a versatile leader who could handle difficult challenges and get them



resolved. Some 17 years later, a former mutual colleague asked me to help Elaine "think through a few things" in her new role at MassMutual. My plate was full at the time, but that's when I learned that it's hard to say "no" to Elaine. You just don't want to.

Elaine has accomplished so much since joining MassMutual three years ago. But what has impressed me most about her is that she brings the same zeal, energy and passion to helping others succeed, especially women, as she does to her job. She has a unique blend of respectfulness, humility and earnestness that enables her to connect with other women, whether it's in the office or community, or when she's traveling the globe.

Now I really know why I said "yes" to Elaine three short years ago – "yes" to help her initially, and later "yes" to join her full time at MassMutual once she made it clear it was the right career move for me. Elaine remains impeccably focused on the end result while having fun on the journey, and she attracts the trust and respect of others very quickly – just like she did with me.

Debra Palermino is senior vice president of corporate human resources for MassMutual.

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