

# ELISE CHOWDHRY

FOUNDER AND MANAGING PRINCIPAL -  
OPTIMUM ADVISORS



Elise began her career as an auditor at Arthur Andersen & Co but soon launched into middle market private equity finance, where she spent over two decades in increasingly senior roles. She has invested in and managed senior and mezzanine capital in private equity transactions at institutions including Heller Financial, JH Whitney and Fleet Financial.

Prior to founding Optimum Advisors LLC Elise was a Managing Director at CIT Group, where she held both investment and management positions in Corporate Finance and at CIT Bank. As a voting member of the CIT Bank Management Credit Committee and liaison between CIT Bank and Corporate Finance, Elise was known for her risk management acumen and her ability to assess and crystallize complex problems, design strategic solutions and execute multiple projects under tight timeframes. In that role she coordinated the integration of the 200+ employee Corporate Finance platform into CIT Bank, simplifying the credit approval process which helped drive an increase in CIT Bank Corporate Finance portfolio growth of more than 40% year-over-year.

Elise is passionate about helping middle market firms and companies take their businesses to the next level. Drawing upon her extensive career in middle market private equity finance and her human capital and operational risk background, Elise is uniquely positioned to assess people and organizations, identify operational gaps and opportunities and offer strategic guidance. She works collaboratively with leadership to establish a framework for operational excellence and achieve sustained growth.

Elise received a M.B.A in Finance from New York University's Stern School of Business, a M.S. in Professional Accounting from the University of Hartford and a B.A in Economics from Bates College. She is a Society of Human Resource Management Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP), Certified on Hogan Personality and Behavioral Assessments, and a Certified Public Accountant (inactive). She also serves as Chair of the ACG New York Marketing Committee.