

Laura Lester**Onward Capital**

Laura founded Onward Capital, a Chicago-based independent sponsor, in 2015. The firm makes control investments in value added distribution and manufacturing companies with revenues between \$15 million and \$125 million. Prior to Onward Capital, Laura spent over ten years at Code Hennessy and Simmons where she reviewed hundreds of investment opportunities and executed dozens of transactions across a variety of industries.

Early in her career, Laura worked in the Investment Banking Division of Lehman Brothers where she advised industrial companies and their boards on strategic alternatives.

Laura has served on private company boards spanning in size from \$15 MM to \$600 MM of revenues. Laura currently serves on the Board of Directors of Century Drill & Tool, LLC, Connecticut Electric, LLC and FSC Lighting.

Laura earned a BA in Economics from Cornell University and an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. She lives in the suburbs of Chicago with her husband and their three children.