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Isaac M. O'Bannon • Jun. 10, 2019

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Cathy Engelbert, the recently-retired CEO of [Deloitte](#) and the first woman to lead a Big Four professional services firm in the U.S, has been appointed Commissioner of the WNBA. The announcement was made by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, who noted that Engelbert will join the WNBA on July 17, when she will report to Silver.

“Cathy is a world-class business leader with a deep connection to women’s basketball, which makes her the ideal person to lead the WNBA into its next phase of growth,” said Silver. “The WNBA will benefit significantly from her more than 30 years of business and operational experience including revenue generation, sharp entrepreneurial instincts and proven management abilities.”

Engelbert was elected CEO by Deloitte's partners in 2015, where she led one of the

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"It is an absolute privilege to be joining the WNBA at such an exciting and important time in its history," said Engelbert. "I see tremendous opportunity to bolster visibility for the sport of women's basketball, empower the players, and enhance fan engagement. I look forward to using my business expertise and passion for basketball to promote women in the game and beyond, and to working with the teams and world-class athletes to help grow this league into a thriving business.

Engelbert received a BS in accounting from Lehigh University and is a CPA licensed in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey. During her time at Lehigh, Engelbert was a member of the university's basketball and lacrosse teams and served as a senior captain for both teams. On the court, she played for former Lehigh coach and Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famer Muffet McGraw. Engelbert's father, Kurt, played for Naismith Hall of Fame coach Jack Ramsay at Saint Joseph's University and was drafted in 1957 by the NBA's Detroit Pistons.

As a strong supporter of diversity and inclusion, Engelbert is the first woman to serve as chair of the Catalyst Board, a global non-profit organization that promotes inclusive workplaces for women, and also was the first woman chair of the Center for Audit Quality Governing Board. Engelbert has been listed as one of *Fortune's* Most Powerful Women for the last four years. She is ranked on Glassdoor's annual Employees' Choice Awards honoring the 100 Highest-Rated CEOs, as one of the AICPA/CPA *Practice Advisor* Most Powerful Women in Accounting, and among Crain's 50 Most Powerful Women in New York. Engelbert has also been recognized as one of *Working Mother* magazine's 50 Most Powerful Moms and one of *Fast Company* magazine's Most Productive People. Engelbert is married and has two children.

The WNBA's regular season tipped off May 24.

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