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By Irina Anghel, Bloomberg News (TNS)

Ernst & Young LLP picked Janet Truncale as its next chief executive officer, placing the first woman atop a Big Four audit firm's global network.

She will succeed Carmine Di Sibio on July 1, according to a statement from the London-based accounting giant. Truncale most recently was the regional managing partner for EY's financial services organization in the Americas, which includes 14,000 professionals, according to the statement.

"It will truly be an honor to lead this amazing organization," Truncale said in the

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Truncale has spent more than 30 years at EY after first joining the firm as an intern. She rose through the ranks of the company's financial services business, with stints overseeing the firm's businesses focused on initial public offerings and capital markets in recent years.

She served as the global client service partner and senior advisory partner for many of the financial services organization's largest clients, EY said in the statement.

When she takes over, Truncale, who describes herself as a working mom of three on EY's website, will be one of the most senior women in financial and professional services. She is taking the helm of an organization with roughly 400,000 employees in more than 100 offices around the world.

"It's a testament to the years many professional services firms have put into improving the diversity of their top team," Lisa Quest, a partner at the consultancy Oliver Wyman, noting that more women are now overseeing revenue-generating activities and have responsibility for profit-and-loss statements. "This is the culmination of years of investment in diversity and inclusion programs, as well as making sure that women actually get into proper feeder positions and P&L line responsibilities to become eligible and on the shortlist for these types of roles."

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