

**BIOGRAPHY OF LAURA FURSTENTHAL, SENIOR PARTNER,  
MCKINSEY & COMPANY**



“Curious optimist”

Laura is the leader of McKinsey’s North America Innovation Practice and former Managing Partner of the San Francisco Office. She serves clients across the public and private sectors including healthcare, insurance, transportation, consumer, and other industries. She is an expert in business building, including development and launch of new products, services, business models, and experiences, as well as digital and analytics transformations. Her clients include fast-growth innovators (from 50-person start-ups) to industry leaders, public and social sector entities, and investors.

Working across industries, Laura focuses on delivering successful innovation, bringing creative approaches and proven methodologies, as well as helping to define a healthy culture of innovation. In this capacity, she has helped establish innovation-transformation partnerships with large incumbents, breakthrough innovators, not-for-profit foundations and public sector entities (including State of CA via DMV’s “Innovation Garage” and CDPH pivots to respond to COVID and define the Future of Public Health). These efforts often include establishing a clear innovation vision and aspiration, ensuring the organization has an effective operating model to deliver internal and external innovation, using design thinking approaches to prototype and A/B test key assumptions, and scaling the go-to-market approaches for product and service concepts.

Beyond client service, she is the leader of McKinsey’s annual Women’s Leadership Summit and co-convenes the quarterly Women in Government Roundtable. She has authored publications in journals including *McKinsey Quarterly* and *Nature*, and speaks regularly at innovation, healthcare industry, and women’s leadership conferences. She serves on multiple boards, including California Academy of Sciences. She is also the mother of two children, Rory (18) and Evan (12).

Laura holds an AB in Biology from Harvard University and a PhD. in Cancer Biology from Stanford University School of Medicine.