

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

## Stuart Weitzman appoints Valentino executive as new CEO

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*Gigi Hadid for Stuart Weitzman, fall 2016*

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By STAFF REPORTS

Italian fashion house Valentino is seeing another executive shakeup with the announcement of the departure of its United States CEO, Wendy Kahn.

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Since 2008, Ms. Kahn has served as Valentino USA and V.F.G., USA & Canada's CEO, where she oversaw all of the brand's channels and businesses, but she will be leaving her position at the Italian maison later this summer. Effective Sept. 13, Ms. Kahn will begin as footwear label Stuart Weitzman's new CEO.

Shoes to fill

While at Valentino, Ms. Kahn was promoted from senior vice president of sales, marketing and retail to CEO. She held her senior vice president role at Valentino from 2006 to 2008.

Prior to her work with Valentino, Ms. Kahn worked at LVMH for a decade. While at LVMH, brands she held senior leadership roles at brands such as Marc Jacobs, Cline and Emilio Pucci.

"Wendy's success in developing global luxury brands and extensive general management experience make her the ideal candidate to lead Stuart Weitzman, building on the brand's strong foundation," said Victor Luis, CEO of Coach, Inc., the owner of Stuart Weitzman.



*Stuart Weitzman, fall 2016 campaign*

"She is highly regarded as a brand champion and for her ability to drive growth in both wholesale and retail channels and across categories including footwear, apparel and accessories," he said.

Echoing Mr. Luis' statement, brand founder and executive chairman Stuart Weitzman said, "In Wendy, we have found a leader that respects our culture, understands luxury brands and offers us the leadership skills and management experience to enable us to realize our full potential."

Ms. Kahn will replace current Stuart Weitzman CEO Wayne Kulkin. As he steps down from CEO, Mr. Kulkin will start the next chapter of his career as a consultant for Coach, Inc. ([see story](#)).

"I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank Wayne Kulkin, who over the last 25 years, working closely with executive chairman, Stuart Weitzman created this leading American luxury designer footwear brand," Mr. Luis said. "We look forward to leveraging Wayne's expertise as we develop our multi-brand opportunity in the growing global footwear category."

In addition to Ms. Kahn's exit from the brand, Valentino just announced that its co-creative designer Maria Grazia Chiuri would be heading to French atelier Christian Dior, with her first collection set to debut in September ([see story](#)).