**Monica Brand Engel**

**Co-Founder and Managing Partner**

**QUONA**

**Monica Brand Engel,** co-founder and Managing Partner at Quona Capital, leads the firm’s investment strategy across Africa and the Middle East, as well as cross-border investments. Monica began her career in Silicon Valley, where she helped launch a $50 million multi-bank lending intermediary to finance small businesses. She also previously worked at Calvert Ventures and Anthuri Ventures—early-stage equity vehicles based in Bethesda and Cape Town, respectively—before joining Accion to lead its product innovation group. While at Accion, Monica worked in Mexico with Gentera (née Compartamos) Bank—the largest microfinance institution in Latin America—which went public in 2007 (NSDQ: GENTERA:MM). Using the IPO proceeds, Monica founded Accion’s Frontier Investments Group, the predecessor to Quona Capital. Today Quona is a $790 million venture firm focused on fintech for inclusion in emerging markets.

A recognized voice in fintech and impact investing, Monica is a regular speaker at notable global events including Money20/20, Milken, Dubai Fintech Fest, and GIIN, among many others. She has authored and contributed to multiple books, including one written during COVID on [Women in Leadership](https://ssir.org/books/excerpts/entry/how_women_lead).

Monica is half-Peruvian and blessed with a fantastic husband and twins.