

# About the Board Institute

Since 2007, DirectWomen has hosted the Board Institute - a two-day program with the goal of positioning exceptional women lawyers for service as directors of major corporations. The Board Institute is led by Hillary A. Sale, Agnes Williams Sesquicentennial Professor of Leadership and Corporate Governance and Professor of Management, Georgetown University; Director, Cboe U.S. Securities Exchanges, Cboe Futures Exchange, and Cboe SEF and Legg Mason and Putnam Closed End Funds; Advisory Board Member, Foundation Press.

DirectWomen identifies a small group of leading women lawyers to participate in the annual Board Institute based on an assessment of their ability to provide the experience, independence, and business judgment required for board effectiveness. The Board Institute provides working sessions designed to help participants develop their value proposition and personal board-search strategies. During the Board Institute, participants learn how to demonstrate their considerable skills and experience in ways that will meet the needs of today's corporate boards.

Over 280 women have participated in the Board Institute over the past 18 years. Our Board Institute alumnae have held 215 board seats for major companies including: Visa Inc., American Express Company, McKesson Corporation, Valero Energy Corporation, The TJX Companies, Inc., Marathon Petroleum, and Williams.



At the Board Institute, the class meets with an extraordinary faculty of CEOs, C-suite executives, and directors of public companies to discuss key issues facing corporate directors such as the board's nominating and governance roles, navigating the terrain, and other relevant topics. The class also meets with DirectWomen alumnae with extensive board experience and key board search executives.

Thank you to all 2025 faculty members for making this year's program possible.

**The application for DirectWomen's 2026 Board Institute is open until November 24, 2025, at 12:00 pm Eastern.**

**Visit DirectWomen's website for more information or email DirectWomen's Administrative and Events Specialist, Yessenia Echevarria, at [yechevarria@directwomen.org](mailto:yechevarria@directwomen.org).**

# 2025 Board Institute Faculty Members

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**Nisha Kumar Behringer**, Former Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer, Greenbriar Equity Group, LP; Director, Aberdeen, Birkenstock Holding plc, Legg Mason and Putnam Closed End Funds, RealTruck, Inc., The India Fund, and Stonepeak Infrastructure Plus Fund

**Alan L. Beller**, Senior Counsel, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP; Member, PricewaterhouseCoopers Assurance Quality Advisory Committee

**April Miller Boise**, Director Trane Technologies; Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, Intel Corporation



**Tamara Box**, Partner and Former Managing Partner, Europe and Middle East, Reed Smith LLP; Chair, Interpath Ltd

**Louis E. Caldera**, Senior Lecturer, Harvard Business School; Former Secretary of the Army; Director, Granite Construction Incorporated and Meritage Homes Corporation

**Thomas T. Daniels**, Partner and Senior Director, Spencer Stuart

**Cynthia Dow**, Managing Director and Boston Hub Leader, Russell Reynolds Associates

**Lance F. Drummond**, Retired Global Business Executive; Director, AvidXchange Inc. and United Community Bank

**Suzanne Rich Folsom**, Former General Counsel, Philip Morris International Inc. and United States Steel Corporation; Director, Defense Metals Corp., Ecore International, and Encyclopaedia Britannica

**Thames Fulton**, Managing Director, RSR Partners

**Chuck Gray**, Partner and Co-Head, North American Board and CEO Practice, Egon Zehnder

**Maria C. Green**, Former Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Ingersoll Rand; Director, Littelfuse, Inc., Tennant Company, and WEC Energy Group, Inc.

**Sharon Price John**, President and CEO, Build-A-Bear Workshop; Chairperson, The Toy Association

**Stacy J. Kanter**, Former Head of Global Capital Markets and Co-Chair Global Diversity Committee, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP; Director, Oppenheimer Holdings Inc. and Applied Therapeutics, Inc.

**Anastasia D. Kelly**, Senior Advisor to the Chair and Executive Director of Client Relations, DLA Piper; Director, Huntington Ingalls Industries, Inc.

**Nora E. LaFreniere**, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Otis Worldwide Corporation; Director, Dana Incorporated

**Susan S. Lanigan**, Former Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Dollar General Corporation and Chico's FAS, Inc.; Director, Simmons First National Bank Corp

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**Shelly Lazarus**, Chairman Emeritus and Former CEO, Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide; Director, Blackstone, Inc., Organon, and Rockefeller Capital Management

**Roberta D. Liebenberg**, Senior Partner, Fine, Kaplan and Black, RPC; Principal, The Red Bee Group

**Laurel McCarthy**, Consultant, North American Board Practice, Spencer Stuart

**Karen G. Narwold**, Former Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary; Albemarle Corporation; Director, Calumet Inc., Ingevity Corporation, and Standard Lithium Ltd.

**Stephen D. Newton**, Managing Director, Russell Reynolds Associates

**Julie C. Norris**, Senior Client Partner, Board & CEO and Legal Services Practices, Korn Ferry

**Hillary A. Sale**, Agnes Williams Sesquicentennial Professor of Leadership and Corporate Governance and Professor of Management, Georgetown University; Director, Cboe U.S. Securities Exchanges, Cboe Futures Exchange, and Cboe SEF and Legg Mason and Putnam Closed End Funds; Advisory Board Member, Foundation Press

**Rafael Santana**, President and CEO, Wabtec Corporation; Director, The Travelers Companies, Inc.

**Lauren E. Smith**, Board Practice Co-Leader and Managing Partner, Diversified Search Group

**Jill A. Soltau**, Former CEO, J.C. Penney Company, Inc. and JoAnn Stores Inc.; Director, AutoZone, Inc.

**Brande Stellings**, Principal, Vestry Laight LLC

**Gaby Sulzberger**, Director, Acorns, Auxmoney, Eli Lilly and Company, and Mastercard; Partner, Centerbridge Partners

**Laura Simone Unger**, Former SEC Commissioner and Acting Chair; Director, eToro

**Andrea L. Zopp**, Managing Partner, Cleveland Avenue, LLC; Director, Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, Intelligent Growth Solutions, and Relativity ODA LLC

