



**DIRECTWOMEN**

ACCELERATING BOARD OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

# **2025 Board Institute Class Biographies**

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## Christine J. Chao

Christine is an experienced Fortune 100 executive with CEO experience and deep expertise in the transportation, logistics, supply chain, and e-commerce areas. She has lived, worked, and led teams in Europe and Asia in addition to North America.

Christine is currently Interim Chief Executive Officer of Foremost Group, a privately owned international shipping company. She assumed this role in February of 2024 after an unexpected crisis. The

eco-friendly, modern fleet is approximately 5 million metric tons deadweight, transporting more than 20 million tons of goods annually and chartered to blue chip companies such as Bunge, Cargill, Louis-Dreyfus, MOL, and NYK who together with each of their Fortune 500 clients and other leading international companies determine which dry-bulk products Foremost vessels transport. She has been responsible for all operations, finances, and general health and strength of the company, including all employees worldwide. Prior to stepping in as Interim CEO, Christine had been General Counsel of Foremost Group since 2008. As General Counsel, she is responsible for all legal, compliance, and regulatory matters and has been instrumental in quadrupling the number of assets and tripling the number of employees by setting strategy, managing risk, and problem solving.

Christine has extensive corporate and commercial law experience having worked in senior legal positions for three Fortune 200 companies: GE, Federal Express, and Ultramar Corporation. At Ultramar, she worked on board matters as well as all corporate matters required of a public company. She gained additional significant global experience when she worked with FedEx, Managing Director/Regional General Counsel, initially in Hong Kong (where FedEx executed its first ever joint venture) and subsequently in the United Kingdom. She was actively involved in a diverse array of legal, regulatory, governmental affairs, and compliance matters and was awarded FedEx's Five Star Award, bestowed upon less than 0.25 of FedEx's top performing employees (approximately 295,000 at the time). Upon repatriation, Christine worked at GE and worked on a broad range of transportation transactions before joining Foremost Group as General Counsel.

Christine has extensive nonprofit board experience including serving as Vice Chair of the board of trustees for her alma mater Colgate University, a leading liberal arts university with an undergraduate population of over 3300 students and an annual operating budget of nearly \$300mn. She holds a BA from Colgate and a JD from Columbia University, School of Law. She is conversational in Mandarin Chinese and is a dual US/UK citizen.



# Samantha Hale Crispin

Samantha Hale Crispin is a seasoned M&A lawyer and C-suite executive of the international law firm Baker Botts (with 11 offices and over \$800 million in annual revenue), serving as global Chair of the Corporate Department and on the firm's Executive Committee (or board of directors). She is a nationally recognized deal maker with over 25 years of experience advising executive teams and their boards of directors on value creation through transformative M&A and other strategic capital raising transactions.

Samantha serves as global Chair of the Corporate Department - one of five global department chair executives in the organization. She has direct responsibility for formulating and executing global strategy, operational oversight, and performance management for the Corporate Department. Direct key initiatives include pricing and profitability, practice and geographic expansion, talent compensation, acquisition and retention, succession planning, lawyer development, and market positioning. In her role as a member of the firm's Executive Committee, she plays a key role in global strategy, long-term firmwide planning and firm governance. Samantha is known as a problem solver and brings a calm and solutions-oriented demeanor to high-stakes discussions, tactfully conveying complex ideas and building consensus among diverse stakeholders.

Samantha has spent the last 25 years negotiating hundreds of bet the company M&A deals and guiding clients through IPO and other transformational capital raising transactions with a particular focus on the Energy, Power, and Infrastructure and TMT verticals. Among others, she has represented BKV Corporation in its IPO and several strategic growth transactions in upstream, power and energy transition; infrastructure-focused Arcosa and Fluor with capital markets-based capital raising and strategic M&A transactions; Atmos Energy with strategic initiatives; Liberty Media and related companies with capital-markets based capital raising and various strategic M&A transactions, in addition to a wide array of privately-held and PE-backed companies on such matters. As a result, she is well versed in financial statements, projections, valuation methodologies, and bank financing arrangements. She regularly works with C-suite executives to provide creative solutions for achieving strategic growth goals while evaluating and mitigating associated risk. She understands how to focus on the things that matter and how to achieve consensus to get the deal done.

Samantha has deep experience in the board room, regularly representing publicly-traded corporate clients and their boards of directors when evaluating strategic and transformational transactions, controlling stockholder matters and complicated governance and disclosure matters. In particular, she has spent significant time guiding publicly-traded boards and independent committees through fiduciary duty, disclosure and litigation considerations in connection with complex and highly strategic related party matters. She is adept at navigating board/management dynamics and takes a broad, long-term perspective when analyzing challenges and opportunities, effectively guiding her clients toward impactful and sustainable decisions.

She also serves on the board of trustees of The University of Texas Law School Foundation, which manages the endowments and privately-sponsored funds that support The University of Texas School of Law. Currently at more than \$250 million, The University of Texas School of Law endowment

ranks as one of the largest law school endowments in America.

Samantha has been recognized as a “Top Women in Dealmaking” by The Deal, as one of "The Most Powerful Business Leaders in Dallas-Fort Worth" by D CEO Dallas 500, as a "Stand-Out Lawyer" by Thomson Reuters and for Corporate/M&A in Texas by Chambers USA.

Samantha received her J.D. from The University of Texas and her B.A. from the University of Richmond with degrees in Economics and Political Science.



# Angelica Espinosa

Angelica Espinosa is a seasoned C-suite executive and board advisor with more than two decades of leadership across energy, infrastructure, utilities, and global industrials. She brings deep expertise in governance, enterprise risk, regulatory and legal strategy, with a proven track record of guiding public companies through high-stakes transformations and complex global markets.

She currently serves as Senior Vice President, Chief Legal, Compliance & Corporate Affairs Officer at Portland General Electric (NYSE: POR), where she leads policy, communications, legal, compliance, ethics, and corporate governance. She also chairs the Portland General Electric Foundation, directing philanthropic investments in energy equity, STEM education, and environmental resilience. In 2024 –2025, she served as Interim Chief Human Resources Officer, leading executive compensation, talent strategy, and DEI policy initiatives during a critical leadership transition.

Angelica has advised boards and executive committees on audit, compensation, governance, and ESG oversight. As a Corporate Secretary and former Chief Risk Officer, she has overseen governance structures, board succession, regulatory engagement, and enterprise risk integration across North America, Latin America, and Europe. She is recognized for aligning legal, governance and regulatory strategy with business performance and for navigating complex issues such as activist investor campaigns, cyber risk, and regulatory change.

Her career spans the full energy value chain—fossil fuels, renewables, distribution, and customer-facing services—equipping her with a unique perspective on the transition to sustainable energy. At Sempra Energy, she played a key role in governance management during an activist investor campaign, secured regulatory reforms enabling LNG exports, and oversaw trading operations during the Texas Freeze, ensuring uninterrupted service for nearly 20 million customers. Earlier at, GE Oil & Gas (now Baker Hughes), she built and led global legal and compliance teams, advised on cross-border joint ventures, divestitures, and acquisitions, and navigated DOJ oversight and nationalization of foreign assets.

A global executive, Angelica has lived and worked across the Americas and Europe, with responsibility spanning more than 100 countries. This international perspective, combined with her ability to influence regulators and build coalitions, makes her a trusted leader at the intersection of business, policy, and governance.

She has served on nonprofit and subsidiary boards, advising on governance, audit, and community investment. Angelica holds multiple law degrees and is widely respected for her regulatory fluency, cross-cultural adaptability, and purpose-driven leadership.



## Jessica A. Garascia

Jessica A. Garascia is Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary and Chief Administrative Officer at AAR CORP., a highly regulated, publicly traded company with \$2.5 billion in sales, which serves the aviation aftermarket. Ms. Garascia manages over 50 AAR teammates in the legal, compliance, trade compliance and government contracts functions. Previously, Ms. Garascia was Deputy General Counsel at USG Corporation, a then- publicly traded building manufacturer with \$7 billion in sales, and prior thereto, a corporate

attorney at Jenner & Block, LLP.

Jessica has risen to the top of every organization that she has joined, quickly becoming a trusted counselor who has been tasked with managing an organization's most sensitive and complex projects. At AAR, she was responsible for the successful resolution of a shareholder derivative suit, a False Claims Act whistleblower matter and a Foreign Corrupt Practices Act investigation, as well as the divestiture of two businesses and the acquisition of five companies, including the largest acquisition in AAR's history. She was also responsible for overseeing four international joint ventures.

At USG, she was key in guiding the company and board through the hostile takeover of USG for \$7B by the Knauf family, as well as overseeing 10 acquisitions and two divestitures. At both AAR and USG, Ms. Garascia was a close advisor to the board, where she regularly advised on sensitive legal and regulatory matters.

Jessica is seen as a business partner to turn to in times of transition or stress, having been chosen to oversee the AAR human resources team, comprised of 80 teammates, during the six-month period when the organization was undergoing a leadership transition and needed a steady hand. In addition, Jessica was tasked with starting and overseeing AAR's ESG program, launching its first sustainability report in 2021, with the program subsequently receiving numerous awards and accolades.

Jessica is an active member of the Chicago community, serving as a member of the Museum of Science and Industry's President's Council and a member of the Economic Club of Chicago. Garascia graduated from Oberlin College with a bachelor's degree in politics and earned a Juris Doctor from Indiana University, Maurer School of Law (*magna cum laude*, top 5%).



## Kendall Handler

Kendall Handler is a seasoned public company executive and board member with expertise in strategic oversight, transformative transactions, corporate governance, human capital management, executive compensation, and risk management. With more than a decade of experience leading legal, transactional, and governance initiatives across sectors including technology, media, digital marketplaces, and home services, she currently serves as Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, and Corporate Secretary of IAC

(NASDAQ: IAC), a publicly traded holding company of leading businesses including Dotdash Meredith and Care.com. Founded by Barry Diller in 1995, IAC has a history of incubating and spinning off successful companies, including, during Ms. Handler's tenure at IAC, the Match Group (NASDAQ: MTCH, a leading online dating platform), Vimeo (NASDAQ: VMEQ, a leading video SaaS provider), and Angi (NASDAQ: ANGI, a leading digital home services marketplace).

Reporting to IAC's Executive Chairman, Ms. Handler participates directly in the strategic oversight of IAC's businesses. She also serves as a trusted advisor to the executive leadership team and board of directors on matters of strategy, risk, corporate structure, compliance, executive compensation, human capital, and corporate governance. She oversees the company's legal, compliance, and human resources functions, and has helped guide the organization through transformative transactions including the tax-free spin-offs of Vimeo and Angi and the acquisition of Meredith Corporation, leadership transitions across IAC and its businesses, and the design and implementation of executive compensation programs.

Prior to assuming her current position in 2022, Ms. Handler led the company's M&A legal function, partnering directly with the CFO, corporate development team, and business unit leaders. She played a key role in evaluating and executing acquisitions, divestitures, and growth investments across IAC's broad portfolio of consumer internet and media businesses, working closely with deal teams to evaluate opportunities, assess risk, and execute transactions across the deal lifecycle. In this role, she helped execute key IAC investments and acquisitions, including Care.com, Turo, and MGM Resorts International.

In addition to her executive responsibilities, Ms. Handler brings direct governance experience through her board service. She served on the board of directors of Angi Inc. from 2021 to 2025; from 2021 to 2023, she served on the board of directors of Vimeo Inc. (NASDAQ: VMEQ), a leading video platform; and she currently serves on the board of Turo, Inc., the world's largest car sharing marketplace. She serves on Turo's Compensation Committee.

Ms. Handler is also a board member of Tech:NYC, a nonprofit advocacy organization representing New York's technology sector. Ms. Handler began her career as a corporate associate at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. Ms. Handler earned her J.D., *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School. She holds a B.A. in Economics and Spanish, with highest distinction, from the University of Virginia. She currently resides in Greenwich, Connecticut with her family.



## Christie A. Hill

Chris is a senior executive with over 30 years of legal and business experience and a proven track record of guiding international public companies and their boards through both transformational and turbulent change. Leveraging her more than 25 years of boardroom experience as chief legal officer and corporate secretary at Fortune 100, ASX Top 20, and other global public companies, Chris has helped corporate boards navigate through some of their most consequential decisions, including strategic alternative reviews, sales of the business, CEO transitions, and responses to global operational crises. Her skills

across multiple functions and industries, including technology, gaming, and telecommunications, coupled with her expertise in regulatory matters and crisis management, well round her as a corporate fiduciary in volatile times.

From February 2020 to February 2025, Ms. Hill served as Chief Legal Officer of Aristocrat Leisure Limited (ASX: ALL), a Sydney-based, ASX Top 20 game content and technology company and mobile games publisher licensed in more than 300 jurisdictions and operating in over 90 countries. During her tenure and frequent travels to Australia, she served as Chair of management's Enterprise Governance Committee and implemented governance, risk management, and strategic frameworks that underpinned the board's fiduciary duties and empowered the company to achieve its five-year strategy more than doubling its market capitalization (\$13.4 billion to \$29.8 billion) and increasing its global revenues by more than 50% (\$3.0 billion to \$4.6 billion) —, notwithstanding the COVID-19 pandemic and wars in Ukraine and Israel, where the company has significant operations requiring the relocation of thousands of employees and their families. She also transformed and upleveled a team of more than 100 legal, governance, and compliance professionals and overhauled outdated global processes and technologies to accelerate the company's strategy.

Prior to joining Aristocrat, Chris spent over seven years (2011 to 2019) at The Dun and Bradstreet Corporation (NYSE: DNB), a global business information and analytics company operating in over 190 jurisdictions, with nearly 6,000 employees and \$2.3 billion of annual revenues in 2019. Her tenure as D&B's Chief Legal Officer and Head of Global Corporate Citizenship was bookended by navigating the board through two CEO transitions as well as shepherding the company's \$6.9 billion going-private transaction in 2019. Additionally, she spent significant time in China leading a six-year FCPA matter that culminated in a favorable settlement of civil US enforcement actions, permanent closure of the Chinese business, and criminal prosecution in China of the subsidiary and local leaders. She also spearheaded responses to several high-profile cybersecurity incidents, modernized D&B's supply chain organization, launched the company's formal ESG program, and successfully marshalled the company's government relations rebuttal to hostile regulatory campaigns in Washington, DC and Beijing.

Ms. Hill sharpened her government relations and crisis management skills during her time at the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Financial Stability in 2009 and 2010. As the top SES Oversight Liaison and Reporting Executive for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP), she led a 30+ person team charged with driving greater transparency on various TARP programs intended to stabilize the US economy during the Global Financial Crisis. Chris and her team were charged with responding to inquiries from politicians, global media, and various TARP oversight bodies to drive greater transparency over TARP initiatives. To fulfill these responsibilities, Chris was required to find common

ground among competing stakeholders, weigh potential risks and opportunities, and make informed decisions with imperfect information in a high-stakes, ever-changing environment – skills that have served her in both the boardroom and her business roles.

Earlier in her career, Chris served as the VP, Corporate Governance and Ethics, and Corporate Secretary of Sprint Nextel Corporation, a then–Fortune 100 company where she was a direct report of the CEO and actively partnered with the board in responding to a range of shareholder activism, from private investment funds to public pension funds and labor unions. In each instance, the board successfully negotiated favorable outcomes, avoiding contested public campaigns, negative publicity, and business disruptions. Chris began her career in 1986 as an M&A lawyer at Jones Day before joining Honda of America Mfg., Inc. in 1992, where she structured and negotiated complex transactions for Honda’s manufacturing operations in the US.

Ms. Hill received her J.D. (with Honors) from The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, and her B.A. (*summa cum laude*) from The Ohio State University.



## Tanya M. Jaeger de Foras

Tanya Jaeger de Foras is a forward-thinking global executive with over 20 years of leadership experience across complex, highly regulated industries including pharmaceuticals, healthcare, consumer durables, food and beverage, and luxury retail. A proven enterprise leader and trusted boardroom advisor, she has served on public and private company boards and driven high-impact strategies across corporate transformation, M&A, ESG, and crisis management.

Tanya is Chief Legal Officer, Corporate Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer and a member of the executive leadership team at Ingredion, a Fortune 500 global leader in nature-based ingredient solutions. She has direct responsibility for global strategy in legal, regulatory affairs, government relations, and ESG, and plays a leading role in corporate governance, risk oversight, and enterprise-wide compliance and transformation. She chairs the company's Executive Compliance Committee and co-chairs the Cybersecurity and Information Governance Committees. Tanya also serves as executive sponsor to the company's Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee.

A director of Rafhan Maize Ltd, a Pakistan publicly traded international subsidiary with \$300M+ in revenue and 1,000+ employees, Tanya has served as a member of the Audit, Human Resources, and Operations Committees. She brings deep governance insights and experience advising boards on strategy execution, market expansion, risk management, and regulatory complexity across global markets.

Tanya is widely recognized for her leadership in crisis and reputation management. She guided Whirlpool's executive team and board through one of the most high-profile product safety recalls in European history, involving cross-border government investigations, consumer protection campaigns, and a public inquiry following the Grenfell Tower tragedy. Her ability to navigate complex geopolitical and regulatory environments has made her a go-to strategic partner for boards during moments of transformation and scrutiny.

Throughout her career, Tanya has led and advised on numerous global M&A transactions, post-deal integrations, carve-outs, and restructuring initiatives. Her experience includes strategic reorganizations at Pfizer, global distribution redesign at Luxottica, divestitures in China at Whirlpool, and Ingredion's recent strategy transformation using the "Playing to Win" model. Her strengths lie in cross-functional leadership, international operations, and aligning governance and risk with business growth.

Tanya's global operating experience spans North America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. She has lived and worked in six countries and managed diverse teams across 27+ jurisdictions. She brings a uniquely international perspective to today's interconnected boardroom challenges, including ESG, digital governance, geopolitical risk, and stakeholder expectations.

A purpose-driven leader, Tanya serves on the boards of the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Girls Inc. of Chicago, and the advisory board of the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences. She is an active member of the Economic Club of Chicago and The Chicago Network, and a frequent speaker on global leadership, integrity, and sustainability. Tanya also serves on Ingredion's Inclusion & Belonging

executive committee and is executive sponsor of the company's business resource groups for LATINX and disabled employees.

Tanya holds a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service, *summa cum laude*, from Georgetown University, and a J.D., *cum laude*, from Harvard Law School. She is conversational in French, German, Italian, and Spanish. A dual Canadian and E.U. citizen with U.S. residency, she brings cultural fluency, strategic acumen, and operational expertise to help public boards thrive in a fast-moving global economy.



## Jennifer A. Johnson

Jennifer A. Johnson is a seasoned Fortune 500 C-suite executive with a biotechnology Ph.D. and over 20 years of global experience in the food, chemical, pharmaceutical, and agriculture industries.

She brings a unique blend of scientific and business expertise to drive business-enabling solutions in complex, regulated industries. Jennifer was recently appointed the Chief Legal Officer for Corteva, Inc. (NYSE:CTVA; \$16.9B 2024 revenue), a global pure-play agriculture

company that provides a diverse mix of seed, crop protection, and digital products and services to address the world's most pressing agriculture challenges.

As the former General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of International Flavors and Fragrances, Inc. (NYSE:IFF; \$11.5B 2024 revenue), a global leader in creating flavors, fragrances, food ingredients, health, and biosciences products, Jennifer advised the board on many business-critical issues. She counseled the IFF board during negotiations with activists Sachem Head and Icahn Associates, through two CEO transitions, and during three board refreshes. She regularly counseled the board on succession planning, executive compensation, corporate governance, compliance, and risk management.

Jennifer's experience also includes executing on many business-critical projects, including delivering IFF's balance sheet through five divestitures totaling over \$6B, integrating two public companies (each with over \$5B revenue), delivering synergies after a transformational merger, and leading the response to a global antitrust investigation and resulting class action litigations. Previously, she held key positions in the legal team at DuPont (NYSE:DD; \$16.7B 2021 revenue), focusing on commercial and intellectual property strategies for its biotechnology businesses. She began her career at Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP, where she represented pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, including Eli Lilly, AbbVie, and Syngenta, in patent litigation.

Jennifer serves on the advisory board of the New York Botanical Garden and previously served on the board of directors of the California Life Sciences Association. Jennifer has also served as a mentor to a biotech startup through the FAST California program and has taught Biotechnology Law at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, and Patent Law and Patent Policy at Howard University School of Law. Jennifer received a Ph.D. in Plant Biology and a B.S. in Genetics and Plant Biology from the University of California, Berkeley, and a J.D. from the University of Washington. She is based in New York City.



## Natasha G. Kohne

Natasha G. Kohne is a highly regarded business leader, strategist and trusted advisor to public and private-equity backed companies and their boards across industries spanning from technology and financial services to consumer, healthcare, industrial, and defense. With extensive experience in U.S. and international markets, and as a Senior Partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, she has been instrumental in building the firm's global footprint and new markets in the Middle East and Europe and has led the sovereign wealth fund

practice overseas and emerging technology focus in the U.S. Ms. Kohne launched and led Akin's Abu Dhabi office in the United Arab Emirates, set the strategy, secured significant business opportunities, and built a talented team to drive immediate and long-term growth, leading to revenue generation of tens of millions of dollars.

Ms. Kohne's leadership and ability to scale businesses led her to launch and co-lead Akin's global artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data protection practices, where she is known for her business acumen and solution-oriented approach to cutting-edge problems. She has advised hundreds of public and private companies and their boards on mergers and acquisitions, digital transformations, and cyber crisis management and has been described by her peers as "extremely knowledgeable on all issues relating to privacy law and . . . extremely commercially minded." Both worldwide and in California, the fifth largest economy in the world, she has been recognized globally in Chambers for artificial intelligence in 2025 and as one of California's top cybersecurity and artificial intelligence lawyers for the last five years.

In her role as a key strategic advisor for multiple leading sovereign wealth funds worth trillions of dollars, family offices in the billions of dollars and foreign investors worldwide, Ms. Kohne combines commercial instinct, operational leadership, and a collaborative stewardship to protect and create long-term value for investors and shareholders across several continents and industries. Her leadership role with sovereign wealth funds has led to guiding and providing mission-critical advice to government leaders, embassies, board members, and investors in geopolitical crisis management, government investigations, international conflict, public communications, governance, and risk assessments.

Since 2008, Ms. Kohne has been a partner at Akin, a top 25 global law firm with more than 900 lawyers and \$1.4 billion annual revenue. Ms. Kohne's management and oversight responsibilities include serving as a member of the firm's Management Committee (2017-2023), Diversity Equity and Inclusion Partnership Subcommittee (2022 to present) and Partnership Committee (2014-2016).

Ms. Kohne has also been honored as one of the "Woman Worth Watching" from the Diversity Journal and is accredited as a Certified Information Privacy Professional by the International Association of Privacy Professionals. She received her J.D. degree from Harvard Law School, *cum laude*, in 2000 and attended Columbia College, Columbia University, *summa cum laude*, 1996.



## Nancy J. Laben

Nancy Laben is a strategic leader at the intersection of law, risk, and reputation, with a track record of guiding global organizations and boards through complex regulatory, geopolitical, and societal challenges. She brings deep expertise in technology, including artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, along with significant international business experience, enabling her to help companies navigate innovation responsibly and scale globally with integrity. With a strong belief that good governance and ethical leadership are the foundation of long-term growth and value creation, she brings a collaborative yet

decisive style to the leadership table and the boardroom. Nancy's experience spans both public and private sectors, making her an effective bridge between innovation and accountability, and between corporate purpose and performance.

As an Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer at Booz Allen Hamilton, a \$10B+ publicly traded advanced technology firm focused on national security, defense, and citizen services, Nancy oversees a broad array of areas including Corporate Governance, Legal, Ethics, Enterprise Risk, Compliance, Government Affairs, Marketing, Media Relations, Communications, Sustainability, and Community Philanthropy. Her ability to see around corners, guide during ambiguity, and lead calmly through complex change has made her the trusted advisor to the CEO and the board. She serves on Executive Leadership Team, as well as numerous other committees.

At Booz Allen, Nancy was a key architect of the firm's evolution from a legacy government contractor to a publicly traded tech-enabled innovator. She didn't just support the transformation—she helped lead it. From reimagining enterprise risk and legal frameworks required to take the company from a private equity held enterprise to fully publicly traded organization to launching the company's corporate affairs, government relations team and charitable Foundation, Nancy built the capabilities necessary for the new strategic direction.

Her experience inside the boardroom is extensive and she brings the rare combination of operational insight and boardroom fluency. Nancy has attended every Booz Allen board meeting since 2013, first as General Counsel and Corporate Secretary and now as a direct liaison to the board in her executive role. She has a deep understanding of director expectations, fiduciary duties, risk oversight, investor concerns, and the current evolving global economic and technology landscape. She has worked closely with board chairs and committee leaders, navigated sensitive issues with discretion, and helped prepare directors to make fully informed decisions during periods of crisis, growth, and strategic pivot. She understands not just the mechanics of board governance but the culture and dynamics that define a high-functioning board.

Prior to Booz Allen, Nancy held senior roles at AECOM, Accenture, and IBM, where she led global litigation, M&A, crisis response, and regulatory transformation among many other areas. Her cross-continental career—spanning North America, Europe, and Asia—has honed her ability to lead across cultures and navigate global risk.

She currently serves on several nonprofit boards including the Wolf Trap Foundation (Executive

Committee; Chair, Nominating Committee) and the Booz Allen Foundation (Founder and Treasurer), and held leadership roles on the boards of the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession and the National Association of Women Lawyers Foundation.



## Meredith M. Lackey

Meredith Lackey serves as a key senior executive with Southern Company (NYSE: SO), a Fortune 200 diversified energy company with annual revenues exceeding \$25B, where she has held a wide range of leadership roles including SVP, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary, EVP of External Affairs and Nuclear Development, and Chief Compliance Officer. She currently leads Southern's system-wide compliance efforts, including initiatives around AI Governance, data privacy, compliance risk assessment and mitigation, and third-party

risk management. Throughout her 25-year career, she has served as an accomplished business leader and key advisor to the board for companies operating in complex legal and regulatory environments, with a unique combination of legal and non-legal roles within both public and private industrial organizations. Meredith possesses a unique combination of broad-based legal, compliance, governance, human resources, risk management and regulatory affairs business expertise.

Meredith joined the Southern Company in 2016 as SVP, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary for Georgia Power Company, Southern's largest operating subsidiary, and has since been promoted to roles with increasing responsibility, including Georgia Power's EVP, External Affairs and Nuclear Development. Her accomplishments include leading Georgia Power's 2022 operations strategic plan, which charted a transformational fleet transition for Georgia Power's operations and led the filing of its 2022 rate case with the Georgia Public Services Commission (GPSC), which resulted in a three-year rate order that supported key investments in grid resiliency, renewables and fleet transition, and operational improvements. Meredith also led the company's 2024 prudence proceeding before the GPSC on rate recovery for the construction of the country's first new nuclear units in over 30 years, Plant Vogtle Units 3 & 4, resulting in recovery of over \$7.5 billion of capital and construction costs.

In her role as the chief legal and compliance officer for two major energy companies, she transformed the legal departments to high-performing teams, in each case resulting in significant cost savings and improved legal support for and alignment with the company's business strategy. She has played a critical role in corporate governance for both public and private companies, serving as Corporate Secretary and advisor to the board as well as audit and operations committees on key issues regarding effective governance as well as legal, regulatory, and enterprise risks.

Prior to moving in-house, Meredith worked as a commercial litigator for two international law firms, Baker Botts in Washington, D.C., and Jones Day in Atlanta, Georgia.

Throughout her career, Meredith has been dedicated to serving her community and was appointed by two Governors first to serve on the Georgia Judicial Nominating Commission and then to serve on the Grace Commission (targeted at fighting human trafficking). She has been actively involved in organizations that support women and children including serving on the boards of Camp Twin Lakes, the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation, and Breakthru House.



## Kimberly Banks MacKay

Kimberly Banks MacKay is an accomplished C-suite executive with 30+ years of global multi-disciplinary experience driving growth in highly regulated public and private companies and nonprofit organizations. With deep experience in finance, healthcare and manufacturing, Ms. MacKay brings broad expertise leading global teams overseeing corporate governance, crisis management, enterprise risk management, business continuity, sustainability, investor relations, legal and regulatory affairs, strategic corporate transactions, data privacy, safety, and compliance. In multiple capacities, she serves as a trusted advisor to CEOs, executive management teams and boards, advising on M&A and securities, reorganizations, governance, board recruitment and executive compensation matters.

Ms. MacKay currently serves as SVP, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary of West Pharmaceutical Services, Inc. (NYSE:WST) (“West”) the leading provider of containment and delivery systems for injectable medicines, with \$3B in global sales, a market cap of \$17B, 11,000 employees, 24 manufacturing sites, and operations in 40+ countries. Under her leadership at West, Kim has reimaged the strategy for all functions within her purview, resulting in, among other accomplishments, 20+ corporate sustainability awards, accelerated revenue capture, increased operational transparency, the creation of dedicated business continuity, enterprise risk and real estate functions, as well as multi-jurisdictional regulatory strategies for key products. She has supported \$745M in revenue growth since FY2020.

Prior to West, she served as SVP, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of The Segal Group, Inc., one of the largest privately held professional services firms specializing in employee benefits consulting, investment management, and insurance, where she transformed the legal and compliance functions to align with the strategic goals of the enterprise. As GC and Corporate Secretary to two different companies, Ms. MacKay has engaged in over 125 board and committee meetings, gaining valuable experience managing the information to be discussed, balancing member relationships, and ensuring appropriate execution of board responsibilities.

Ms. MacKay also serves on the Audit and Compliance Committee of Bayada Home Health Care’s board of directors and is an executive committee member of the board of Community Foundation of New Jersey. Bayada Home Health Care is a global leader in providing home clinical care with \$2B+ in revenues and operations in 28 states and eight countries. The Community Foundation of New Jersey manages \$1B+ in philanthropic assets that support a wide range of community needs.

Ms. MacKay earned her A.B. in Economics from Princeton University and her J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law.



## Gwyn Goodson McNeal

Gwyn Goodson McNeal is a senior executive with over 30 years of leadership experience across multiple industries, including real estate, aviation, insurance, and manufacturing. Ms. McNeal is the Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer, and Corporate Secretary at Extra Space Storage, Inc. During her 20 years at Extra Space, she has acted as a business partner working with all members of the executive team during the transformation of the company from a small-cap, newly public company to a multi-billion-dollar company and member of the

S&P 500. Ms. McNeal has overseen the modifications and improvements to the company's corporate governance and executive compensation strategy and has been a trusted advisor to the board in identifying director candidates with skill sets needed during the evolution of the company.

Ms. McNeal serves as an independent director on the board of Eastern Air Holdings, Inc., a private air travel and cargo service company based out of Kansas City where she chairs the Compensation, Nominating and Governance Committee. Ms. McNeal works with management to oversee strategy, material risks and business opportunities, with the goal of ensuring the company provides exceptional service coupled with operational excellence. The board's responsibilities have also included reviewing and approving the acquisition of additional aircraft and the acquisition of Hillwood Airways.

In addition to Ms. McNeal's C-suite role, she has served as a director on several Extra Space subsidiaries, including the Company's two captive insurance companies, ESM Reinsurance Limited, a Cayman Islands limited liability company and ESM Utah Insurance Company, a Utah corporation. In her role as director of these captive insurance companies, Ms. McNeal has been responsible for overseeing audits of the companies, approving the overall coverage issued by such companies, determining the maximum retained risk and approving investments of corporate assets, with the overall goal of ensuring that such companies are in full compliance with the insurance regulations applicable to each company.

Ms. McNeal has extensive experience with mergers and acquisitions, executive compensation, succession planning, human capital management and corporate governance. In her role as Executive Vice President at Extra Space, Ms. McNeal provides guidance to the CEO and other members of the executive team on these and other issues. Ms. McNeal reports to the board regularly and works directly with the various committees on executive compensation, identification of board candidates and succession planning.

In 2023, Ms. McNeal was integral to Extra Space's acquisition of Life Storage Inc., a \$14 billion REIT. Ms. McNeal led multiple legal teams to complete the acquisition in less than 5 months, working directly with the board to ensure the board met all of its fiduciary duties, working with the SEC to receive approval of the merger and leading the HR team through benefit and 401(k) plan transitions, change of control agreements, and facilitating a training plan to integrate a field workforce of over 2,000 employees.

Prior to joining Extra Space, Ms. McNeal served as General Counsel to 3Form, Inc., a manufacturing company specializing in architectural resin and glass. At the time of her employment, Ms. McNeal

assisted in several rounds of angel investments followed up with investments of private equity.



## Karna Nisewaner

Karna Nisewaner is an executive with over 30 years of experience in technology. From her engineering project designing an autonomous vehicle in college through her years at multinational computing companies, Karna has grown her technical breadth. During her 14-year career in the legal department at Cadence Design Systems (NASDAQ: CDNS), a multinational software company headquartered in San Jose that provides electronic design automation (EDA) solutions to the semiconductor industry, she leveraged her technical background in her work with the government, navigating complex and evolving

government policies. She also developed a now \$100 million per year license compliance program at Cadence. From teaching computer programming at a polytechnic in Singapore to managing international teams while traveling and speaking at company sites worldwide, she has a broad global leadership and development perspective.

As the former General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Cadence, she oversaw all legal, stock administration, and government compliance for the \$80B+ company. She managed a team of 50 legal professionals in a company of around 13,000 employees. She has significant experience scaling teams, supporting the company's 30x market cap growth, and expanding teams internationally into multiple markets. She also engaged with the US Government on the semiconductor ecosystem and AI. She has experience leading multinational strategic transactions, including public and private target acquisitions, carveouts, asset purchases, large bond offerings, and strategic investments. She presented on Sustainable Design using digital twin technology and worked with the World Economic Forum's AI Governance Alliance.

Karna was a director of several Cadence subsidiaries and domestic operating companies. Having served as Corporate Secretary to the board and all board committees at Cadence, Karna has extensive experience in board governance, audit, executive compensation matters, fiduciary duties, and risk oversight.

Karna served for six years on the nonprofit Palo Alto Community Child Care board, the largest childcare provider in Palo Alto with a \$10 million annual budget and led them as chair through the start of the pandemic in 2020. In 2020, Karna ran for the Palo Alto School Board. Karna was a WIPL General Counsel of the Year Honoree. Karna is a member of the Class of 2025 of the DirectWomen Board Institute.

She holds a JD from UCLA and a BSE from Princeton University, with a certificate in Engineering Management Systems.



## Amy L. Perry

Accomplished C-suite executive with over 20 years of experience in the energy sector, bringing expertise in strategic planning, M&A, corporate governance, investor relations, board management, and ESG leadership. Demonstrated success in maximizing stakeholder value through strategic transactions, organizational optimization, and effective risk management.

From 2014 through her recent retirement, Amy Perry was a member of the senior executive team at NuStar Energy L.P., serving as Executive Vice President-Strategic Development and General Counsel. NuStar was a publicly traded, NYSE-listed midstream logistics company with operations across the United States and Mexico. In 2024, Ms. Perry led the successful \$7.3 billion sale and merger of NuStar to Sunoco LP, delivering a 33% premium for NuStar's shareholders. In addition, she managed NuStar's strategic planning, investor relations, corporate development and capital project development. She also served as the company's General Counsel and Governance, Ethics and Compliance Officer.

Ms. Perry's transaction experience includes leading NuStar's strategic divestiture from 2019 through 2023 of \$750 million in non-core assets, heading up acquisitions of stock and assets across NuStar's footprint and executing corporate restructuring initiatives. This extensive deal experience has given her valuable insights into complex capital structures, financing strategies, and the regulatory landscape of the energy sector.

Ms. Perry has extensive public company board experience, having partnered with NuStar's board of directors to establish and execute on strategic initiatives, corporate governance, and risk management. She created and delivered comprehensive strategic plans and played an instrumental role in mergers, capital markets transactions, and strategic acquisitions/divestitures. As a former corporate secretary, she developed deep expertise in SEC requirements, governance best practices, and effective board operations.

Ms. Perry also spearheaded a company-wide optimization initiative that delivered \$100 million in cost savings over two years, and she established and chaired the company's Cyber Governance Committee, integrating cybersecurity oversight into the company's enterprise risk management framework.

Before joining NuStar, Ms. Perry practiced corporate, mergers and acquisitions and securities law at DLA Piper in New York City and at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Austin, Texas, where she advised companies and venture capital investors on financing, corporate structuring, governance and M&A.

Ms. Perry is active in the San Antonio community and currently serves on the board of directors of Girl Scouts of Southwest Texas. She has previously served on the boards of The Winston School and The Witte Museum. She also provided pro bono legal support, including serving as Corporate Secretary, for Haven for Hope of Bexar County, a homeless transformation campus in San Antonio.

Ms. Perry holds a Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law, a Master of Arts in Sociology

from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (Phi Beta Kappa, *magna cum laude*) from the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she also worked as a Research Assistant leading multi-disciplinary quantitative research.



## Z. Scott

Z Scott is an independent board director, a nationally respected business executive, and a seasoned partner to boards and corporate leaders. As president of Chicago State University, she has responsibility for all the business and operational functions of the organization, as well as acting as the executive leader and public face of the university. Prior to her current role, Ms. Scott advised public and private companies and their boards on complex governance and compliance matters in the retail and global manufacturing industries.

Her work covered international operations in China, Brazil, Mexico and India, and often included compliance risk assessments and internal investigations. In 2022, she was elected as an independent director at ComEd, an Illinois utility company of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NASDAQ: EXC). She has also served on the boards of major nonprofits and governmental entities.

Ms. Scott was appointed in 2018 as President of Chicago State University, an Illinois 4-year public university, where she manages all aspects of profitability and growth and works very closely with the board of trustees. Thus far, in her seven years at CSU, Ms. Scott has led the university through the global pandemic; developed and began execution of a new strategic plan; hired a strong executive leadership team; successfully negotiated new union contracts; improved governance, budgeting discipline, and state appropriations; facilitated and enhanced relationships with government officials and regulators; engaged new strategic partners; met and managed capital and infrastructure challenges; and reestablished the CSU Foundation.

For over ten years, Ms. Scott was an Equity Partner in three global law firms where she focused on consulting with private and global public companies on government regulatory and compliance issues. She advised boards, general counsels, internal auditors, and Chief Compliance Officers on governance and corruption risks arising from foreign investments and operations. She partnered with CEOs and boards on government investigations and senior employee misconduct.

Before private practice, Ms. Scott worked as a federal regulator with the United States Attorney's Office, where she served as a key member of the office's leadership team, and later as Illinois' inaugural Executive Inspector General. As Executive Inspector General, Ms. Scott established and led a new state agency focused on compliance investigations and ethics education.

Ms. Scott serves on the boards of the Economic Club of Chicago, The Institute for College Access and Success, The Chicago Network, Intersect Illinois (state's economic development agency), and Lurie Children's Hospital. Her prior board service includes Chair of the Chicago Housing Authority, the third largest public housing agency in the U.S. Her leadership skills have been recognized. Crain's Chicago named her a 2023, 2024, 2025 Who's Who in Education and in 2019, named her as one of Chicago's Most Powerful Women in Business. In 2022, she was recognized as a Director to Watch by Directors & Boards magazine. She is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago and the Commercial Club.

A graduate of Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Ms. Scott was inducted into the law school's Hall of Fame in 2019. She received her BS in Journalism from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.



## Wanji J. Walcott

Wanji Walcott is a distinguished C-suite executive and trusted partner to the CEO, other executives, and the board of directors, and is recognized for her deep expertise in digital advertising, technology, and ecommerce. As a key member of Pinterest's executive leadership team, in addition to overseeing all legal, compliance, trust and safety, corporate governance, government and public affairs, Wanji also plays a pivotal role in shaping the company's strategic direction. She effectively leverages her experience in regulated industries to shape

the company's work on critical matters including public policy issues, privacy, inclusive search, online safety, youth mental health, and responsible use of AI. As Chief Legal and Business Affairs Officer and Corporate Secretary, Wanji plays an active role with the Pinterest board of directors, providing strategic guidance and ensuring that all board activities align with regulatory requirements and best practices in corporate governance, and has been instrumental in helping to refresh the Pinterest board. Recognized for her ability to cultivate strong relationships, Wanji fosters open communication between the board and management. She regularly presents reports on legal risks and emerging trends, equipping the board with the insights needed to make informed decisions. Her role as an effective liaison enhances the board's understanding of the business, corporate initiatives, and strategic goals.

Before joining Pinterest in 2022, Wanji held significant corporate leadership roles, including Chief Legal Officer at Discover Financial Services and General Counsel at PayPal. Her substantial business and legal acumen were further honed at American Express and Lockheed Martin, where she held in-house legal positions. Her early career was spent in private practice, specializing in sophisticated technology transactions.

Wanji's leadership and commitment to excellence not only enhance Pinterest's mission but also reflects her passion for fostering a more inclusive and equitable business landscape. Her commitment extends beyond her role at Pinterest as she has previously served on the board of directors of Foresight Acquisition Corp II, a healthcare SPAC, and currently serves on several influential nonprofit boards, including the Economic Club of Chicago, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and the Chicago Botanic Garden.



## Lynn Watkins-Asiyanbi

Lynn Watkins-Asiyanbi is a strategic, executive leader who has tackled complex challenges in the manufacturing and transportation/logistics sectors across several industries.

Currently, Ms. Watkins-Asiyanbi serves as Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary for CECO Environmental Corp. (NASDAQ: CECO), a diversified industrial company. In that role, she partners closely with the board and is a member of the senior executive leadership team. She is the former Chief Administrative and Legal

Officer, Corporate Secretary, responsible for human resources (including executive compensation and benefits), corporate communications, and legal and continues to serve as corporate secretary. She is actively involved in mergers and acquisitions and integration activities as well as corporate governance.

Ms. Watkins-Asiyanbi began her post-graduate career at Cargill in its Strategy and Business Development Leadership Program. Upon completion of that program, she moved to the corporate finance group at DLA Piper LLP, working on commercial finance and debt restructuring transactions. She then joined the corporate and securities group at Baker & McKenzie LLP, concentrating on multi jurisdiction mergers and acquisitions, including cross-border joint ventures and the implementation of multi-country tax-driven, corporate restructuring projects. Ms. Watkins-Asiyanbi transitioned to in-house counsel with U.S. Foods, Inc. (pre-IPO) where she focused on transactional matters in procurement, transportation logistics, and national sales and managed the company's intellectual property portfolio. As Associate General Counsel at W.W. Grainger, Inc. (NYSE: GWW), she supported the Global Supply Chain organization including global sourcing, product management, transportation logistics, and international businesses. As Deputy General Counsel, Division General Counsel for the Liquid Foods Division and the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer for John Bean Technologies Corporation (NYSE: JBT), she was responsible for 19 locations, including 10 non-U.S. sites and worked with her business partners on a variety of strategic matters. She was responsible for supporting, on a corporate-wide basis, the HR-team and IR team. She served as legal advisor to the Compensation Committee for the board of directors.

Ms. Watkins-Asiyanbi is also very involved in the Chicago community. She received the 2017 Business Leader of Color award from Chicago United. She currently serves as the board Chair for Women Employed, Inc., a board trustee for the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, an advisor to John G. Shedd Aquarium board of trustees, and a member of the University of Wisconsin board of visitors for student affairs. Ms. Watkins-Asiyanbi is also a 2016 Fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago and is an active member of Jack and Jill of America, Chicago Chapter and a life member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Despite her busy schedule, she still finds time to devote to her husband, Charles, and two sons, Nicholas and Zachary.