



MODERN
GOVERNANCE
100

Diligent Recognizes
Exemplary Leaders
in Governance with the
2020 Modern Governance 100





A Commitment to Governance in Challenging Times

Modern governance is the practice of empowering leaders with the technology, insights, and processes that fuel good governance. As today's business landscape grows increasingly complex, organizations are tasked with evolving their governance practices to keep pace. Globalization, expanding regulations, and emerging technologies pose significant challenges for today's organizations, but also present various opportunities. In the face of change and volatility, leading organizations are recognizing that good governance can actually be a competitive advantage—a practice we call [modern governance](#).

Diligent Recognizes Exemplary Leaders in Governance with the 2020 Modern Governance 100

Diligent's Modern Governance 100 program provides directors and leaders in governance the opportunity to recognize corporate secretaries, general counsels, and other governance professionals for their commitment to good governance and driving change at their organizations. During unprecedented times, this vital work takes on an added layer of significance.

As stewards of modern governance, these individuals excel in their role – even in times of uncertainty. They are forward thinkers who ensure business continuity and enable effective (now virtual) board meetings. They encourage their organizations to use best practices in modern governance and are constantly looking for ways to help their companies thrive as the world adjusts to a new normal.

Diligent shares heartfelt congratulations to all 2020 Modern Governance 100 recipients.

Read more about the hard work and modern governance journey of spotlight recipients below.



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Amanda Murphy

Executive Assistant, Executive Assistant to Group General Counsel & Company Secretary, Charter Hall

Nomination

“Amanda is an experienced Executive Assistant to the Group Company Counsel to Charterhall and is the leader and expert in her organisation regarding all things related to Diligent. She has been an immense supporter of Diligent’s offerings and sees how Diligent’s products can make a material improvement to the governance to the board and committees. She is definitely deserving of the nomination.”

Jerome Ching, Customer Success Manager, Diligent

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“It was a wonderful surprise to be recognised in the Modern Governance 100 by Diligent.”





Chad White

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Brookdale Senior Living Inc.

Nomination

“Chad has guided Brookdale’s Board/NCG Committee on several recent governance enhancements. As EVP, General Counsel and Secretary, Chad has been an excellent connector of the Board, corporate mgmt., and internal auditors. As Brookdale looks back on the past year, Chad’s leadership and efforts have proved instrumental in partnering with the management team to accelerate the declassification of the Board, onboarding three new directors, including a new non-executive chair, restructuring the Company’s 2 largest lease portfolios & selling its largest joint venture interest. His commitment drives Brookdale to be a leader in fairness, accountability, responsibility, and transparency. In 2019, Chad was critical in Brookdale’s win of a high profile proxy contest brought by an activist investor. His insights and work throughout the many months of this contest were instrumental in changing the direction for a positive outcome. Key was gaining the support of the company’s largest stockholder in the contest while simultaneously restructuring a large lease relationship and selling the Company’s 51% interest in a \$1 billion joint venture, enhancing the company’s financial position. This successful proxy contest defense included a board refresh, and Chad has participated in onboarding for three new corporate directors, including a new independent chairman. A significant 2020 contribution was Chad’s role in restructuring the company’s largest lease relationship during a pandemic! His contributions have benefited all stakeholders and have focused on shareholder value.”

Julie Davis, VP Communications, Brookdale Senior Living

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I am honored to have received this recognition and grateful for the nomination.”





Debra Blackett

Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel, Z Energy

Nomination

“Debra is Chief Governance Officer and General Counsel for Z Energy. She is a vital support for the board in its drive for world class corporate governance. Debra ensures that the environment supports great governance, ensuring that the board meetings run smoothly and facilitating a seamless process for board members around board papers, meeting agendas, minutes and resolutions. In addition she acts as a key adviser to the board around corporate governance issues, leading changes to processes and practices to reflect best practice and promoting discussion at board level around emerging governance issues, including arranging key note speakers to join board meetings and provoke debate around topical issues. She also plays a key role in ensuring co-ordination across the board’s various committees and back into the organisation.”

Abby Foote, Board Chair, Z Energy

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I strongly believe that corporate governance is fundamental to our lives as corporates are increasingly important parts of our lives including the allocation of jobs and resources to our communities, their values including commitments to climate change and human rights issues, including most recently corporate governance responses to the Black Lives Matter movement. My personal driver is about the Z Board being the best corporate citizen it can be as well as doing the best job it can for all its stakeholders and I believe continuous improvement and focus on international best practice, as well as substance over content, is how we achieve that. I feel incredibly honoured to be nominated for this as it is so deeply aligned with my sense of purpose and personal values.”





Dottie Deremo

Principal Partner & CEO, The Deremo Group

Nomination

“Dottie is the former CEO of a \$70 million not for profit. Since leaving that role, Dottie has been consulting at not for profits of varied sizes. She has a unique ability to listen and assess each client on their own level. She is able to facilitate change based on THEIR need, not what SHE thinks they need. Her services range from governance, succession, and strategy to leadership, structure, sustainability, and business renewal solutions. She is instrumental in maximizing leaders’ and organizations’ full potential to produce great and sustainable results through her consulting, executive coaching and speaking. I have experienced first-hand in several organizations the impact that Dottie makes. I am consistently in awe of her effectiveness with individuals at all levels. She is unequalled in her work.”

Judith Trepeck, SVP-Customized Training and Partnerships, MICPA

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“Modern governance ensures that a company not only stays on course but also assists leadership to reinvent the future for the betterment of society. Modern governance goes beyond profit by including company and global sustainability in its strategic imperatives. I am so honored to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100 elite group of consultants devoted to helping companies do well by also doing good.”





Elece Hempel

Board President, Petaluma Health Care District

Nomination

“Elece Hempel has been playing an active role in many of Petaluma’s organizations for several years. I specifically can testify to how she conducts the Petaluma Health Care District Board of Directors, of which she is Chairperson and of which I am part. Ms. Hempel has been on the front line during intense and complicated negotiations in order to secure a suitable operator for our local hospital. She has played, and continues to play, an essential role in maintaining the board cohesiveness. More recently, Ms. Hempel has been effectively implementing and facilitating virtual Board meetings that have been running smoothly for all participants, including the public. She is able to bring together people with diverse opinions and points of view in a non-threatening, but assertive way. I strongly recommend Elece Hempel as an Exemplary Governance Professional”

Gabriella Ambrosi, President and CEO, Sequoia Senior Solutions

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“What an honor, strong governance empowers us all to be better leaders.”





Hannah Chouikhi

Company Secretary, BGL Group Ltd

Nomination

“Hannah is a highly motivated and diligent individual who has played a lead role in getting our Board governance fit during the recent pandemic. She thinks about all aspects of our Board and Subsidiary Board effectiveness and is proactive in both shaping our agenda and in influencing the way we work. She plays a key role in the recruitment and onboarding of all Directors to the Board and is trusted by all for her rigorous follow through. She is the focal point for all Board communications and plays a role way beyond the usual remit of a Company Secretary. She has exceptional interpersonal skills and is a very valued member of our team.”

Debbie Hewitt, Chairman, BGL Group Ltd

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“As a Company Secretary, a lot of the work I do is very discrete and in the background, with only a few stakeholders having visibility of the range of work that is undertaken behind the scenes by me and my team to co-ordinate busy Board agendas and projects with swanlike elegance. To be nominated for the award by the Chairman is a wonderful recognition of the hard work and commitment I have to supporting the Boards in driving best practice and maintaining high standards of corporate governance.”





Inês Martins Rodrigues

Company Secretary and Corporate Affairs Director, Ageas Group Portugal

Nomination

“The role of the Company Secretary stands out from other functions, mostly due to the trust that is needed towards each member of the governance. In a context where processes and meetings take place remotely, the need for this trust is doubled. This being said, and taking into consideration Inês’ profile, the new context could only be a challenge, not a concern. She managed the day-to-day operations of Corporate Secretariat, leading complex governance processes on a remote environment. She also reinforced the evidence of being in control of the governance system of the Ageas Portugal Group, ensuring a permanent connection between all stakeholders and making sure that corporate bodies continued to take decisions whenever needed, with all the information necessary for a sound and prudent management. This is especially relevant as the Corporate Secretariat of Ageas Portugal Group includes not only the core insurance companies and respective holdings (already with supervisory requirements towards financial regulators), but a wider scope of entities, including joint ventures with specific governance requirements and additional stakeholders to liaise. Finally, Inês Martins Rodrigues also demonstrated technical skills to cover M&A operations, aside the regular functions of the Corporate Secretariat.”

Steven Braekeveldt, CEO, Ageas Group Portugal

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“The corporate support areas bring added value to companies, in the pursue of most efficient and compliant management, but it is not always visible to the various stakeholders. Therefore, this recognition stands out as the appreciation and the acknowledgement of the daily support provided to members of the governing bodies and the entire organization as the contribution for an exemplary performance and successful results.”





Jay Joynes

Compliance Program Manager, CRICO

Nomination

“I would like to nominate Jay because of his commitment to leveraging technology and ensuring security and regulatory compliance in CRICO’s Board operations. Jay is a progressive thinker around the application of technology to our Board operations. He is innovative and extremely forward thinking in this area and because of his commitment to efficiency, we have been moving forward rapidly.”

Luke Sato, SVP & Chief Medical Officer, CRICO/RMF

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I have a strong dedication to improving operations and communications in Board environments. It is extremely gratifying to be recognized for these efforts and galvanizes my commitment to continuing this important work.”





Jean-Philippe Perraud

Director, NEDonBoard / Institute of Board Member

Nomination

“Jean-Philippe develops the Board Best Practices® series that support directors in being effective in the boardroom for the sustainable success of your organisation. It ensures boards understand the ever-changing directors’ role, duties and responsibilities. It sets practices for effective, modern and robust governance.”

Elise Perraud, COO, NEDonBoard

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I feel honoured that the work we do to drive board best practices is recognised. There’s much hard work to encourage good governance. I didn’t expect it but considering what our team have been working towards for the past few months, this is an inspiration to keep going. I am grateful to Diligent for recognising the amazing work that our team does.”





Jennifer Cox

Asia Pacific and Oceania Entity Compliance and Governance Leader, EY

A selection of the 11 nominations Jennifer received

“Jen is the perfect nominee for this award. She has been driving this platform to several multi national clients and has successfully able to drive the knowledge within the client and internal EY groups. She has proficient skills in modern governance which helps our clients to meet their goals and achieve high results. Thanks Jen for your extraordinary support to our clients and teams internally.”

Sudheesh Nair, Consultant, EY

“Jennifer has been instrumental in our team, and at EY firm-wide of raising awareness of the specific subject matter that is corporate governance. Jennifer brings her own real-life practical experience as a company secretary both in Ireland and in Australia when she shares and imparts her knowledge in this area. She is recognised and has firmly established herself as the subject matter expert at EY and with EY’s clients in the corporate governance sphere.”

Esther Krikhoff, Manager, EY

“Jennifer leads EY’s outsourced company secretarial and corporate governance practice in APAC and Oceania. Under Jennifer’s leadership the ECG team provides end-to-end market leading services to the market. Jennifer built this market leading business from scratch and continues to extend the offering and pivot in ways that continue to delight clients. Jennifer is a visionary leader, with deep industry experience, business acumen and an engaging professional style, that draws clients and colleagues alike into transformation journeys, at a time when sound governance to support corporate resilience is more important than ever. I nominate Jennifer as an exemplary governance professional without reservation.”

Natalia Crnomarkovic, APAC Law Innovation Hub & Oceania Law Technology Leader, Director, EY

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I am absolutely honoured to be recognized by my colleagues and peers as a Modern Governance professional. It is a challenging time for many of our clients and so playing such an active role in helping our clients achieve success when it comes to modernizing and digitalizing their governance processes is extremely rewarding.”





Judi Coleman

Office Manager and Executive Assistant to the EVP/CFO and VP/CIO, GBMC Healthcare System

Nomination

“Judi Coleman is the Office Manager and Executive Assistant to the EVP/CFO and VP/CIO, GBMC HealthCare System. She has been the point person and champion of the implementation, training and development of all those supporting the GBMC Board of Directors & Committees and the Gilchrist Board of Directors & Committees for Diligent Boards. She is innovative, helpful, upbeat and always has a can do attitude. Her support to everyone throughout the system has been invaluable to the success of Diligent at GBMC and Gilchrist Hospice Care, part of the GBMC Healthcare System. She deserves this recognition for exemplifying the Greater Behaviors of the organization: Respect, Excellence, Accountability, Teamwork, Ethical Behavior and Results. I am happy to have her as a trusted colleague.”

Lee Greenbeck, Executive Assistant and Office Manager, Gilchrist Hospice Care

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“Joyful... the world has been topsy turvy lately and when I received the email I was filled with delight. It brought a huge ray of sunshine and positivity into my world.”





Jennifer B. Rubin

Partner and Member of Employment, Labor and Benefits Section, Mintz

Nomination

“Jennifer B. Rubin is an accomplished employment lawyer at Mintz with over three decades of experience advising employers and corporate boards on employment issues. Her clients range from start-ups to Fortune 50 companies and business executives in the technology, financial services, publishing, professional services, and health care industries. Notably, Ms. Rubin is a prominent thought leader on the #MeToo movement’s impact on the American workplace, gender parity in the boardroom, and more. Over the past year, she has addressed the impact of influential California laws, including independent contractor bill AB 5, and SB 826, California’s ground-breaking gender parity law for public company boards, and expressed her expertise in publications such as Law360 and Bloomberg Law. She has also been a key leader with 2020 Women on Boards, a global education, public awareness, and advocacy campaign urging corporations to meet or exceed 20% women directors on their boards by the year 2020. While a featured speaker for past 2020 Women on Board events, Ms. Rubin was recently asked to assume a leadership position as co-Chair of the San Diego 2020 Women on Boards event. She will also be a featured speaker for the 2020 Women on Boards program in San Diego regarding the impact and current legal challenges to SB 826, as well as other initiatives pending before the California legislature relating to diversity of public boards. Ms. Rubin also is a prolific author on board governance issues. She Co-Authoring an article, Board Oversight of Human Capital Risk – Is it Time to Appoint a Chief COVID Officer?, which appeared in the Harvard Business Review in May of 2020. She also authored an articles, Gender Mandate for Corporate Boards: A Year in Review, which appeared in the San Francisco Daily Journal in March 2020 and Managing Diverse Board Personalities to Achieve Consensus which appeared in Corporate Counsel in January of 2020.”

Renee Winchell, Marketing Manager, Mintz

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“It is truly an honor to be recognized for work relating to bringing gender and racial equity issues to the forefront of corporate governance.”





Kim Hancock

Executive Officer & Board Liaison, IRT Group

Nomination

“Kim manages our Executive Services Team for IRT Group which has been seen primarily as simply a low level executive administration function. Through upskilling her own knowledge on company secretary duties Kim has enabled our Company Secretary to ‘get out of the weeds’ and delegate a range of strategic and tactical tasks to Kim and the EST team, providing headroom for our Company Secretary to hone in and further develop our board and governance maturity. This role continues to evolve as Kim and our company secretary explore better ways of working, both for, and through the board, for the benefit of IRT. I commend Kim Hancock as a worthy nominee to the Modern Governance 100.”

Patrick Reid, Group CEO, IRT Group

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“Finding out that I was nominated definitely was a surprise. Those who know me know that I’m happy to be in the background making sure things work and are happening.”





Lisa Deramond

Company Secretary, Australian Energy Market Operator

Nomination

“Lisa is an experienced company secretary and is the leader and expert in her organisation regarding to all things related to Diligent. She has been an immense supporter of Diligent’s offerings and sees how Diligent’s products can make a material improvement to the governance to the board and committees. She is definitely deserving of the nomination.”

Jerome Ching, Customer Success Manager, Diligent

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I’m very appreciative to be nominated for the Modern Governance 100.”





Madonna Okpaleke

Legal Counsel, Triton Group

Nomination

“Madonna has dedicated her life and career to uplifting poor communities in Nigeria. She has been on think tanks that have advised past Presidents of Nigeria, she has worked with NGO’s to build hospitals in rural areas to mitigate infant mortality rates, she started an NGO that feeds people on the streets, and has volunteered at Miami Rescue Mission, Feed my starving Children, Loaves and Fishes, African Disaster Rescue Initiative and AMURT. Madonna worked as a prosecutor with NDLEA, and has worked in the Supply Chain and Agricultural Sectors. She is currently doing an MBA at the University of Oxford’s Saïd Business School (Where she was awarded the 30% Club’s Women’s Scholarship to support Women of merit and courage), and has Law degrees from Cornell University, Nigerian Law School and the University of Lagos. I nominate Miss Okpaleke because I believe the world needs more caring, supportive and fierce African women like her. For someone who shys away from recognition and preferences to work in the background, I believe Madonna is the perfect role model for this award.”

Linda Osifo, Chief Finance Officer, Play Foundation

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I am speechless but truly honored. I love working in the background, but effecting change in any environment I find myself, so this is a wonderful surprise.”





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Margaret Beagen

Legal Resources Manager, Hancock Natural Resource Group, Inc.

Nomination

“I have worked with Margaret (Meg) for nearly eight years and have always found Meg to be proactive in supporting the good governance for HNRGI and our subsidiaries. She has fully supported two comprehensive governance reviews and is always diligent in ensuring Directors meet their responsibilities but also supporting processes and structures that ensure we are efficient with Directors time. She works well with all Directors and is highly respected by all in the company.”

William Peressini, CEO, Hancock Natural Resource Group

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“It is an honor to be nominated in the Modern Governance 100. It is great to have a resource such as Diligent, a leader in modern governance framework, and be recognized by such leader.”





Mark Heine

EVP, General Counsel & Company Secretary, EROAD

Nomination

“Mark is an exceptional General Counsel, highly proficient in governance and corporate law matters and able to advise the board in a very practical way. He is also very proficient in patent law which is extremely useful for EROAD, an innovative technology company. The EROAD board have strong confidence in Mark. EROAD is a mid-cap company listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange, Mark regularly engages with institutional and large shareholders as well with regulatory authorities on governance matters. In addition to serving the EROAD board Mark is a key member of the EROAD senior leadership team. Mark comfortably works with both the board and the management team. Mark has recently lead the design and implementation of a new risk management framework for the business working with the Board, its Audit and Risk Committee and with staff in the business to ensure we have a best practice approach to risk management and that risk management is embedded into the daily workings of the business. Mark has successfully transitioned from legal practice to corporate general counsel and has considerable scope and potential to advance in the profession.”

Graham Stuart, Chair, EROAD

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“It was a real honour to be recognized. It reflects on the excellent work that my team has been putting in to improve EROAD’s corporate governance processes.”





Mbali Ngcobo

Legal Assistant: Corporate and Company Secretarial, Massmart (Pty) Ltd

Nomination

“Throw Mbali in the deep end and she will come up swimming. Dealing with a number of minority shareholders and restructuring a number of companies and urgent meetings within her stride. Her record keeping is impeccable. If it was something before her time she is not shy to reach out until she gets her records in order and in line. She is a fountain of knowledge.”

Percious Mokoena, Paralegal, Masscash (Pty) Ltd

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I am so touched for this. It truly shows that you never know who is watching. It confirms one of my favorite sayings ‘Bloom where you are planted’”





Megan Barnes

Head of Company Secretariat, National Grid plc

Nomination

“Megan took over as Head of Secretariat in January 2020 and in the last 6 months as we all know has faced a completely unprecedented period. With a new change of leadership Megan has led the team extremely effectively whilst pushing positive change to support the highest standards of governance across the business. Megan’s leadership fosters hard work and development, recognises individuality, encourages innovative thinking and supports the wider team and organisational goals. In the past 6 months she has embraced further additions in the technology space to support good governance through new verification software as part of the Annual Report process, enhancing our board paper process by implementing additional technology, this has also improved paper writing throughout the business to enhance information reaching the board and support effective decision making. Megan has been key in supporting and engaging the Board during the pandemic to make sure the leadership can operate ‘BAU’ during challenging times across a range of time zones also. Through hard work and commitment to remaining a professional secretariat, Megan has led a team that have continued to support both the regular meeting schedule and additional Board and Committee meetings to the same high standards as those before the pandemic. Despite the extra pressures faced as a result of working ‘virtually’ National Grid’s secretariat have published an Annual Report and Accounts (published in June 2020), with an enhanced Section 172 and employee voice reporting in line with the Companies Act and Corporate Governance Code, this has already been recognised by independent consultants as ‘excellent’. Megan also led a smooth AGM process, which took place on 27th July as a closed meeting. Supporting the Chairman and CEO to make sure all requirements were met but also engaging shareholders through a Shareholder Webcast for questions to be asked and answered.”

Nick Ivory, Company Secretarial Assistant, National Grid plc

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I have only been in my latest role for 8 months when I was nominated, so it was quite a surprise, but it is really great to be recognized.”





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Melissa Conway

Deputy Company Secretary, Metro Bank

Nomination

“Melissa has worked extremely hard in a difficult period in the Bank’s History to keep the Board 100% on track with all listed and legal requirements. She is young, smart and extremely helpful.”

Monique Melis, Managing Director, Metrobank

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I am delighted and very proud to be recognised in the Modern Governance 100, which champions excellent governance practices and highlights the important work being done by governance professionals in business.”





Michael R. Pfeiffer

Executive Vice President, General Counsel, Realty Income

Nomination

“Michael’s work as General Counsel, Chief Administrative Officer and Investment Committee member has, for the last 20+ years, exhibited a total commitment to fiduciary zeal, an accepting and diverse culture and outstanding shareholder returns for this S&P 500 Company. I served as Michael’s CEO for 17 years from 1997 to 2014 and know, that while very much appreciated within the Company, his contributions have not been widely recognized externally. I have served on three publicly Company boards over the last 26 years and my wife has served on seven. We both believe this talented executive exemplifies the best intent and practices of effective Governance, ESG, Diversity and Community while delivering outstanding results to shareholders. Sincerely, Tom Lewis, Director; Alexander & Baldwin (NYSE: ALEX), Sunstone Hotels (NYSE: SHO) Sara Lewis, Director & Audit Chair; Sun Life Financial (NYSE: SLF) and Weyerhaeuser (NYSE: WY), Director; Healthpeak Properties (NYSE: PEAK) and Trustee & member of the Executive Committee; The Brookings Institution.”

Thomas Lewis, Director, Sunstone Hotels & Alexander & Baldwin

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I am humbled at being recognized by my peers for this award.”





Mojolaoluwa Olaifa

Founder/ Lead Consultant, Zyden Consult

Nomination

“With specific focus on foreign participation, private equity, debt capital, finance and advisory, Mojolaoluwa has built a reputation as the go-to for foreign participants seeking legal guidance and insight into the Nigerian commercial sphere.

Mojolaoluwa has carved a niche for herself in subject matters such as Corporate Strategy, Finance and Investment, Private Equity and Debt Capital and duly services the needs clients, who are spread across over Africa, Asia, Europe and the United States of America on these subject areas. She currently is focusing on helping start-ups and SMEs in Africa access affordable legal protection and representation by collaborating with legal experts from diverse fields to offer more for less.

Mojolaoluwa is the founder, Zyden Legal Consult, an USGEEA Alumni, an Associate Fellow of the Royal Commonwealth Society, alumna of the USAID Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Accra Regional Leadership Centre and she now stands as a fellow, an Ebedi International Writers’ Residency Fellow and the Founder of Leaders of Today.”

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“It is a great honour to be considered qualified for such an esteemed award. It feels good to know that the great work we do here at Zyden for all our wonderful clients and business partners does not go unnoticed and is recognised globally.”





Monica Mushi

Head of Legal & Company Secretary, Letshego Bank Tanzania

Nomination

“Ms Mushi has diligently executed her duties as both Head of Legal and Company Secretary, keeping the BoD informed and on schedule for all planned and emergency meetings whilst handling legal matters, both contractual and litigious, to safeguard the institution.”

Noel Sangiwa, Non Executive Director, Letshego Bank Tanzania

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“It feels so good and privileged.”





Nneka Abulokwe

Founder and CEO, MicroMax Consulting

Nomination

“Dr Nneka Abulokwe, OBE is an exemplary and well-respected governance professional who, as part of her novel doctoral research, developed a new typology of governance, people-centric governance. She currently serves on several boards and provided exemplary advice and guidance on business continuity and cyber hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic in her capacity as non-executive or independent director, Cambridge University Audit & Risk committee; in addition to nominations on a new board instilling good governance practices in her capacity as Chair, Board Nominations Committee, Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) London. She is the founder and CEO of a boutique firm which provides board advisory services tech, digital and people-centric governance. Prior to which she was employed full time on the board/executive committee of one of the leading European tech companies, Sopra Steria, where she successfully made governance a strategic enabler. She has been widely recognised for her contribution to the domains of tech and governance, she has ranked top 10 several times in Financial Times BAME executive role model and top tech executives; named finalist - Governance Professional of the year 2018, Governance Institute; feature article Governance & Compliance magazine (front cover and middle page spread) Governance Institute; feature article Forbes - talking on topics such as boardroom governance and diversity. Subject matter expert with regular appearance on BBC News 24 & BBC World Service and most recently on Bloomberg global news on the lack of boardroom diversity. Dr Abulokwe is a regular conference keynote speaker including the most recent Governance Institute annual global conference, 2019.”

Alexandra Williams, Executive Assistant, MicroMax Consulting

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I am truly honoured and very excited to be recognised in the Modern Governance 100. I am passionate about the intersection of people, good governance and technology to achieving business objectives.”





Renerose Tan Ng

Board Secretary & Governance and Compliance Advisor, ICRISAT

Nominations

"I am honoured to nominate ICRISAT's Board Secretary and Governance & Compliance Advisor, Ms. Renerose Tan Ng, to be recognised as one of the Modern Governance 100, given the opportunity. We are delighted as we listened to her onward-looking views about going paper-less, cost-savings, and efficient ways of conducting board business. If my memory serves right, it took her about 2-3 months to encourage a Board that is naturally not too tech-savvy to migrate to Diligent Boards but she never gave up and it became one of our success stories of adapting to change. I believe that migrating to Diligent Boards was one of her great initiatives in enabling the ways we can modernise the way how we can effectively deliver corporate governance. It's a sigh of relief to know that our board business need not to be hampered by restrictions of face-to-face meetings due to the global pandemic this year. One small success can go a long way."

Paco Sereme, Governing Board Chair, ICRISAT

"I have known Mrs. Tan for the past 4 years and more recently in my role as ICRISAT Board member. She has ably served the Board in organizing meeting, summarizing meeting highlights, and providing background information to the board as well as the various sub-committees. She has excellent organizational skills as well as good networking ability. She has provided excellent insights to the board and has made sure we are all familiar with diligent boards for accessing, annotating and highlighting relevant points. I was especially impressed with her skilful organization of a 10+ hour of virtual board meeting over 5 days by seamlessly connecting several board members located in North America, Africa, India and Australia. She not only scheduled the meetings but run the various presentations extremely well and handled the tough juggling act of switching back and forth between presentation when board members asked for clarification. I consider her exemplary and would like to recommend Mrs. Tan for this opportunity to help her hone her skills to further enable good governance and drive change in the organization."

Yilma Kebede, Council Member, ICRISAT

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

"It is both an honor and pride to be recognised as one of the stewards of Modern Governance. I personally believe that to be able to fully realise the potential of a governance body, we should be able to adapt to changing demands and culture. It has been very rewarding for my organization to be fully equipped with what they need to effectively make decisions while facing challenges in meeting face-to-face, competing priorities, and also unforeseen disruptions such as the COVID-19 pandemic. I am grateful that the power of inclusive decision making has become evident in the process of modernising the way we do governance, and I can say it's a success of the whole organization not just of one person. I share this recognition to all my colleagues who have been supportive and willing to embrace a new platform, and that is Diligent Boards."





Rodolfo A. Roballos

Corporate Secretary, Ledesma SAAI

Nomination

“Rodolfo has a vast experience in Board Management. In Ledesma, the company in which he’s worked for the last 25 years, he is a high level Manager who for the past 5 years has had a role as Executive Assistant for the Board. He has helped Ledesma’s Board to transform into a new, modern and more professional Board. He is also a consultant for Corporate Governance practices, mainly in family companies and is permanently studying and aiming to be up-to-date on everything related to Corporate Governance.”

Maria del Pilar Copello, Director’s Assistant, Ledesma SAAI

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“It is a privilege and an honor. I have focused on learning and developing skills in corporate governance practices for the last 10 years, especially in family companies, I am passionate about this subject because it plays a key role in the sustainable success of companies and in the general improvement of society. This recognition comes as a reward and a validation of this path.”





Rohan Abeyewardene

Corporate Sectary, Vicinity Centres

Nomination

“Vicinity is an ASX listed entity operating in retail property. The impacts of COVID-19 on our business have been marked and have required constant adjustment to our operating procedures and rhythms. Consistent with this, board engagement and involvement has been amplified throughout this period, with weekly board meetings for the initial 3 months of the pandemic and subsequently fortnightly. In addition, the usual round of management and board committee work has continued. Rohan has been key in ensuring that timely and complete information is provided to our board to enable them to have insight to the performance of the business, and that agendas for the very frequent board meetings are meaningful. He and his team also provided CoSec support throughout a \$1.2bn accelerated capital raising, one of the largest in Australia during this period and assisted with the delivery of annual reporting. All of this has been one while working remotely with two young children. Both our CEO and Chairman view him as being an outstanding young professional. He is always thoughtful and displays great insight. His approach is truly collaborative, and he seeks to add value to the business in all that he does.”

Carolyn Reynolds, General Counsel, Vicinity Centres

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“It is a privilege to be recognised in the Modern Governance 100. As governance professionals, we do what we do because we’re passionate about adding value to our organisations and helping deliver great outcomes for our stakeholders rather than to receive accolades or attention, but it’s always really appreciated when our work is recognised, and particularly in this instance knowing that my nomination came from the inner sanctum of my organisation.”





Sana-Ullah Bray

Group Company Secretary, Sanlam Group

Nomination

“Sana-Ullah is always on top of his game. He works very hard and is consistent in his application of Governance for both the board and executive management. He also plays a very active role in industry associations (Institute of Directors) and is always encouraging of board and executive management to stay abreast of all trends, changes in legislation and execution of their fiduciary roles. He is extremely detailed and rigorous and has been juggling a lot of things with such ease. He goes the extra mile and gives counsel to the Chairman and Group CEO on communication matters when there are leadership changes. He is certainly one of the kind and a reliable source of strength for the board and executive management.”

Sydney Mbhele, CEO, Sanlam Group

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I feel humbled and privileged to be recognized by my fellow colleague for this prestigious acknowledgment as a Champion for Good Governance within my organisation and broader South Africa.”





Scott Stanton

Corporate Attorney, Mintz

Nomination

“Mintz Member Scott M. Stanton is well known in both California and nationally for the depth and breadth of his corporate experience, the thoughtful counsel he provides to an impressive range of clients, and as a prominent thought leader on corporate governance issues. Scott is a distinguished thought leader and speaker on issues related to corporate governance in San Diego and beyond. In May, Scott helped lead the Corporate Directors Forum director training program held in Mintz’s San Diego office, which aimed to prepare individuals to better position themselves as board-ready candidates by providing the essentials of corporate governance. The event was particularly timely given the new California mandate requiring the inclusion of women on boards. The six-hour seminar covered the most critical elements of directorship. He is also a regular speaker at Association of Corporate Counsel and Corporate Directors Forum events in San Diego. Scott recently completed a two year term as Chair of the Corporate Directors Forum, a San Diego-based non-profit organization that is the largest regional association of corporate directors in the United States and offers regular, interactive education programs for directors, officers and business leaders. Notably, in 2015, Scott received the Corporate Directors Forum’s C. Hugh Friedman Director of the Year award for his for extraordinary contributions to corporate governance. Scott led the Corporate Directors Forum through significant positive changes to increase revenues, enhance offerings and raise the organization’s profile, and he continues to serve on its Executive Committee. Most recently, Scott was named to Diligent’s inaugural “Modern Governance 100” list, which recognizes hardworking governance professionals globally who are driving real change across their organizations. Notably, Scott was the only law firm partner in the United States to receive the honor.”

Renee Winchell, Marketing Manager, Mintz

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I am honored to be recognized for my work in governance. Effective corporate governance improves businesses and markets in ways that enhance economic opportunities and the quality of modern life.”





Sherrey Luetjen

Senior Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, Banner Corporation

Nomination

"I currently serve on the board of Banner Corporation (NASDAQ: BANR) - a bank holding company in Washington state and serve on the Risk & Compensation Committees. During these unprecedented times, Sherry Luetjen has been a steady force in providing strategic support to the board. She has a naturally collaborative style of problem-solving and calm presence during a crisis. Over the past few months, as the COVID-19 pandemic caused massive disruption, Banner's board had to quickly support and guide the company through credit risks and the execution of the SBA (Small Business Administration) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to support small businesses. In addition to these enterprise risks, the board was very involved as most of the country was shifting to mostly working remotely. We continue to meet weekly and share best practices from other companies through the early days of the pandemic, and even now, as the country attempts to re-open. In a short timespan, the management team did a fantastic job of developing many creative ideas while automating the PPP program with evolving rules from the SBA. Sherry's support as SVP, Assistant General Counsel, has made all our jobs tremendously easier, and we are so grateful."

Merline Saintil, Board Director, Banner Corporation

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

"It is humbling to be nominated for this honor, knowing there are so many governance professionals around the world who provide outstanding support to their organizations. I am fortunate to be working with a management team and Board of Directors who are focused on governance best practices and continuous improvement. For me, being recognized in the Modern Governance 100 is also reflective of these leaders' commitment to governance excellence and our success in working together to drive this effort forward in our organization."





Sunday Ekwochi

Secretary, Access Bank

Nomination

“Mr. Ekwochi has served as company secretary of Access Bank PLC for over 8 years, as well as managed relationship across boards of the bank subsidiaries across 2 continents. His management of board affairs, the members and adherence to Corporate Governance standards have been exemplary.”

Adeniyi Adekoya, Board Member, Access Bank PLC

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I am elated by this recognition and it is indeed and strong impetus for me do more with my space of influence to advance the cause of good governance.”





MODERN
GOVERNANCE
100

Suzanne Davies

Vice President Legal & Corporate Secretary, Ensign Energy Services Inc

Nomination

“Suzanne is the best General Counsel I have worked with and I have been on several Boards. She not only handles the legal work mostly herself for the +15 countries worldwide where Ensign does business, she does it diligently (no pun intended) and gets all of the material to the Board on a timely and professional manner with minimal support staff. She is always on top of governance issues and ensures that the Board is well informed. Also instrumental in quarterbacking virtual meetings setup and troubleshooting. She does this with two young kids and doesn’t miss a beat.”

James Howe, Director, Ensign Energy Services Inc

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“I am very flattered to be nominated by such an experienced director, this in itself is very rewarding.”





Trâm Phi

SVP, General Counsel, DocuSign

Nomination

“Trâm is an amazing General Counsel and Consigliere to her CEO, Dan Springer. Trâm works closely with me and the Board of Directors on key legal issues, trends, board agenda/governance and decisions. Trâm always provides choices with pros/cons along with recommendations. She joined DocuSign 2 years ago; cleaned up the legal department by streamlining processes; eliminating unnecessary tasks and bureaucracy and hiring key talent and developing her team. Trâm also interacts with various outside counsel as necessary and is a respected member of the DocuSign executive team.”

Maggie Wilderotter, Board Chairman, DocuSign

How does it feel to be recognized in the Modern Governance 100?

“Corporate governance is a priority for all public companies in this environment, and I appreciate the recognition on this very important topic.”

