



## THE PROXY SEASON PREVIEW 2024 FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 / MEET OUR SPEAKERS:



**Brian Stafford**  
President and Chief  
Executive Officer; Diligent

**Brian Stafford** is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Diligent, the leading Governance, Risk and Compliance GRC SaaS company, empowering more than 1 million users and 700,000 board members around the globe to make better decisions, faster. With well over \$600 million in revenue, Diligent helps organizations connect their entire GRC practice to bring clarity to complex risk, stay ahead of regulatory changes and deliver impactful insights, in one consolidated view.

Brian assumed the role of CEO in March 2015 and is responsible for the global business strategy and execution for the company. During his time as CEO, Brian has drawn several leadership accolades including being named Entrepreneur of the Year 2023 New York winner by EY, being recognized as one of The Top 50 SaaS CEOs of 2022 by The Software Report and winning the People Focused CEO of 2021 at the Great Employers of the Year Awards.

He previously served as a Partner at McKinsey & Company, where he founded and led its Growth Stage Tech Practice. Brian is the co-author of Governance in the Digital Age and serves on the board of directors of Diligent and the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Brian holds a master's degree in computer science from the University of Chicago and a bachelor's degree in science from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Brian lives in New York City with his wife and their three young children.



**Lauren Taylor Wolfe**  
Co-Founder, Managing  
Partner; Impactive Capital

**Lauren Taylor Wolfe** is Co-founder and Managing Partner of Impactive Capital, a \$3 Billion active impact investing firm. Impactive Capital helps companies allocate capital effectively and ethically to drive more sustainable, profitable and valuable businesses over the long run. Prior to founding Impactive Capital, from 2007 to 2017, Lauren was a Managing Director at investment firm, Blue Harbour Group, where she led investments in the technology, consumer and business and healthcare services industries. Prior to joining Blue Harbour in 2007, Lauren was a Portfolio Manager at SIAR Capital, where she invested in small capitalization public companies and private companies. Lauren received an M.B.A. from The Wharton School at University of Pennsylvania and a B.S. Magna Cum Laude from Cornell University. Lauren has been active on various public and private boards including, \$4 Billion TEV Envestnet Inc [NYSE: ENV], \$10 Billion TEV HD Supply [Nasdaq: HDS], 30% Club Steering Committee, an Angel Member of 100 Women in Finance.



**Andrea Ranger**  
Shareholder Advocate;  
Green Century Capital  
Management

**Andrea Ranger** is a shareholder advocate with Green Century, leveraging the funds' and the firm's clout as a shareholder to drive companies to adopt more environmentally sustainable policies and practices. She works to identify climate risk in portfolio companies and addresses risk at the enterprise and systemic levels. Through her advocacy work, Ranger has pressed companies to adopt science-based greenhouse gas reduction targets and develop climate transition plans. She continues to engage some of the world's largest insurers who offer policies to the fossil fuel industry pressing them to develop an exit strategy for this coverage in alignment with the goals of the Paris Agreement. Prior to joining Green Century in 2020, she served as an environmental and technical consultant on utility energy efficiency programs and green school projects, coordinated residential solar projects and taught high school biology. She holds a BA in biology from Arcadia University and an MPP in Public Policy from Tufts University.



**Antoinette Giblin**  
DMI Newswire Editor;  
Diligent Market Intelligence

**Antoinette Giblin** is Diligent Market Intelligence's (DMI) Newswire Editor, overseeing news coverage across activism, voting and compensation. She also manages DMI's weekly in-depth articles examining trends across shareholder activism, investor stewardship and corporate governance.



**Bob Herr**  
Director of Corporate  
Governance;  
AllianceBernstein

**Bob Herr** is a Senior Vice President and AB's Director of Corporate Governance. Mr. Herr joined AllianceBernstein in 2023. He oversees the firm's proxy voting, corporate governance and engagement functions, and serves as Chair of the Proxy Voting and Governance Committee. Herr's prior experience includes serving as the Head of Investment Stewardship at Lord Abbett, Manager of Corporate Governance and Stockholder Services at Bristol-Myers Squibb and Corporate Governance Analyst at Morrow Sodali. He has worked in the financial services industry since 2010. Herr earned a BA in economics from Wake Forest University.



**Chris Kiper**  
Managing Director, Co-  
Founder and CIO,  
Legion Partners

**Chris Kiper** currently serves as the Chief Investment Officer of Legion Partners Asset Management. Kiper co-founded Legion Partners in 2010 and also serves as a Director of Lifecore Biomedical, which engages in development and manufacturing services for injectable pharmaceuticals and medical devices. Prior to Legion, Kiper was a vice president of Shamrock Capital Advisors, a private investment vehicle of the Roy Disney family and served as a portfolio manager for the Shamrock Activist Value Fund. Prior to Shamrock, Kiper founded and operated Ridgestone Small Cap Value Fund. He began his career as an auditor with Ernst & Young. Kiper is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and is a Certified Public Accountant.



**Edward Apsey**  
Co-Head of ESG  
Engagement and  
Stewardship; CIBC US

**Edward Apsey** co-manages environmental, social and governance (ESG) stewardship and engagement at CIBC Private Wealth US, based in Washington, D.C. In this role, he supports the investment team with the development of the firm's ESG investment process and its engagement with portfolio companies.

Prior to joining the firm, Edward served as executive director of Custom Research at Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS), where he spent over 20 years managing governance strategies for institutional investors. During his time at ISS, Edward led the development of climate and sustainability solutions, evaluating the disclosure and performance of companies for client stewardship and engagement teams. Edward earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature from the University of Central Florida.



**Ele Klein**  
Partner  
Schulte Roth & Zabel

**Ele Klein** is co-chair of the M&A and Securities Group, co-chair of the Global Shareholder Activism Group and serves as a member of Schulte Roth & Zabel's Executive Committee. He practices in the areas of shareholder activism, mergers and acquisitions, securities law and regulatory compliance. He represents activists, investment banks and companies in matters ranging from corporate governance and control to proxy contests and defensive strategies. His recent representations have included representing Trian Fund Management in The Walt Disney Company; Engine No. 1 in Exxon Mobil; Politan Capital at Masimo Corp. and Centene Corp.; TCI in Canadian National; JANA Partners in Zendesk, New Relic and Mercury Systems; D.E. Shaw in FLEETCOR Technologies, Inc., Fidelity National Information Services, Inc., FedEx and Verisk Analytics; Corvex Management at Anaplan; Starboard Value in RB Global, Inc. (f/k/a/Ritchie Bros.), Papa John's International and Acacia Research; Elliott Management in Marathon Petroleum, Akamai Technologies and Hess Corp.; Farallon Capital at Exelixis, Inc.; Irenic Capital Management at News Corp.; Greenlight Capital in General Motors; Cevian Capital in Autoliv, ABB and LM Ericsson; Caligan Partners in Knowles Corp. and AMAG Pharmaceuticals; venBio Select Advisor in Immunomedics; Saba Capital in First Trust; Oasis Capital in Stratus Properties; Altimeter Capital Management in United Continental Holding; SRS Investment Management in Avis Budget Group; and Anchorage in connection with board representation at Houghton Mifflin. Ele works on numerous activist campaigns and related transactions every year for some of the largest private investment groups and investment banks in the United States and abroad. In addition, he advises on private investments in public equity (PIPEs), initial public offerings and secondary offerings, venture capital financing, and indenture defaults and interpretation, and he counsels clients in the regulatory areas of insider trading,

short selling, Sections 13 and 16, Rule 144, insider trading and Regulation M/Rule 105. Ele is recognized as a 2022 Dealmaker of the Year in The American Lawyer for his work at Exxon Mobil for Engine No. 1, the largest proxy fight in history, which resulted in the addition of three directors to the Exxon Mobil board of directors. He is also ranked as a leading lawyer in Chambers USA, The Legal 500 US, New York Super Lawyers – New York Metro Top 100 and Super Lawyers Business Edition. He has served as a moderator and speaker at numerous conferences and events addressing Shareholder Activism, regulatory and reporting issues, PIPEs, M&A deals, the capital markets and other topics of interest to the alternative investment industry. He is a regular contributor to the Shareholder Activism Insight report and The Activist Investing Annual Review, produced annually by Activist Insight in association with SRZ. Ele received his J.D. from Yale Law School where he was senior editor on The Yale Law Journal.



**Elizabeth  
Gonzalez-Sussman**  
Vice Chair, Shareholder  
Activism Practice; Olshan  
Frome Wolosky

**Elizabeth Gonzalez-Sussman** advises hedge funds and other large investors in activist-related engagements with boards and management teams to maximize shareholder value, including behind-the-scenes engagements, withhold campaigns, proxy contests, and making unsolicited acquisition proposals. She is vice chair of Olshan’s Shareholder Activism Practice and a member of the firm’s Corporate/Securities Law Group.

Elizabeth possesses a clear understanding of market practices, deep knowledge of the law, and extensive experience in advising clients on all aspects of shareholder activism. A talented lawyer and an excellent negotiator, she zeros in on the key issues, helps clients evaluate their situations, devises actionable, strategic plans, and provides exceptionally practical advice based on both her clients’ immediate goals and their long-term vision.

Hedge funds and other large investors in shareholder activist situations regularly rely on Elizabeth for legal and strategic guidance on everything from large stock accumulations, private engagements, letter-writing campaigns, consent and exempt solicitations, submitting shareholder proposals, negotiating settlements, running proxy contests, and making unsolicited offers.

Corporate directors and management teams at both public and private companies retain Elizabeth for advice when board-related issues or disputes arise. She has negotiated settlements for various investor groups at well-known companies including Primo Water Corporation, Kohl’s Corporation, and Bed Bath & Beyond. She represented an investor group in its successful proxy campaign for control at EQT Corporation and advised on the successful unsolicited acquisitions of Perry Ellis International by its founder George Feldenkreis, and R.R. Donnelley & Sons by Chatham Asset Management.

Both public and privately held companies also rely on Elizabeth’s guidance in mergers and acquisitions, capital-raising transactions, tender and exchange offers, and general corporate and securities law matters, including SEC reporting and corporate governance.

Elizabeth has been recognized as a “Leading Lawyer” in Corporate/M&A: Shareholder Activism by Chambers USA, achieved Tier 1 “Leading Lawyer” recognition in The Legal 500 United States guide for M&A/Corporate and Commercial: Shareholder Activism - Advice to Shareholders every year since 2020, and has been recognized numerous times by Crain’s New York Business. She also was profiled in Business Insider as one of the top go-to lawyers for activist investors.



**Jacqueline Condron**  
VP, Proxy Voting &  
Governance; Mellon  
Investments

**Jacqueline (Jackie) Condron** is the firm's Governance and Proxy Voting Manager and Chair of Mellon's Proxy Voting Committee. In this role, Jackie maintains end-to-end responsibility for Mellon's proxy voting process in partnership with teams across BNY Mellon Investment Management Center and Middle Office. Jackie is an industry expert in the proxy space with in-depth knowledge of proxy processes, SEC regulated proxy voting issues and compliance. Previously, she served as a director of ESG & Governance Consulting, part of the Human Capital Solutions team at Aon, plc where she helped lead a team of consultants responsible for researching, assessing, and advising US and international companies and boards on ESG strategy, executive compensation, human capital management, and shareholder rights. Jackie also held positions of increasing responsibility within BNY Mellon's Proxy Voting & Governance Research team where she helped design and manage the firm's proxy voting guidelines and voting process. Jackie earned a Juris Doctorate from Northeastern University School of Law, a Bachelor of Arts in international affairs, cum laude, from Northeastern University, and she attended the Institute of Public Administration in Dublin, Ireland.



**Jake Rascoff**  
Director, Climate Financial  
Regulation; Ceres

**Jake** is Director, Climate Financial Regulation within the Ceres Accelerator for Sustainable Capital Markets. He is director for climate disclosure and securities regulation, working to ensure the Securities and Exchange Commission and other regulatory agencies account for climate risks in their investor protection work and regulation of U.S. capital markets. Jake was previously Assistant Legislative Director and Legislative Assistant for Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI), covering climate, energy, and climate-related financial regulatory and tax policy. Before that, he worked on energy and climate policy for Congressman Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-05) and Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO), and as an Investment Banking Analyst at Goldman Sachs, working on the Natural Resources Equity Capital Markets team to help clients in the oil and gas sector raise capital. He is based in Washington, DC.



**Jason Booth**  
Shareholder Activism Editor;  
Diligent

**Jason Booth** is a senior editor overseeing Diligent Market Insights (DMI) coverage of shareholder activism and activism vulnerability. Prior to joining DMI, he was editor of China Money Network, covering the Chinese venture capital market. Jason previously worked for activist shareholder fund Steel Partners, managing communications in support of multiple proxy contests in the U.S., Japan and Korea. Earlier in his career, Jason spent more than ten years working as a financial journalist for the Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Business Journal and South China Morning Post.





**Josh Black**  
Editor-in-Chief; Diligent

**Josh Black** is the editor-in-chief of Diligent Market Intelligence (DMI), a news and data service focused on shareholder engagement, executive compensation, and ESG. Josh has worked for DMI's predecessor companies, Activist Insight and Insightia, since 2013 and is a noted expert on shareholder activism and corporate governance. He is regularly quoted in financial media on these topics.



**Patricia Olasker**  
Partner; Davies

One of Canada's leading lawyers in shareholder activism and mergers and acquisitions, Patricia spearheads the activism practice of Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg, advising both activists and issuers. As one of the country's pre-eminent law firms, Davies has been involved in almost all high-profile activist campaigns in Canada, representing activists including Elliott Management in relation to Suncor Energy, Pershing Square in connection with Canadian Pacific and Allergan/Valeant, Mantle Ridge in respect of CSX, Aramark and Dollar Tree, Legion Capital in respect of Primo Water, JANA Partners in respect of Agrium, MHR Fund Management in respect of Lions Gate, Scout Capital in respect of Tim Hortons, Oaktree Capital in respect of Rayonier/Tembec, and defending issuers including SunOpta Inc., TransCanada Corporation, Sherritt International, Telus Corporation, Slate Asset Management, Invest REIT, Turquoise Hill Resources, IAMGold Corporation and Aleafia Health. Patricia is a member of the Ontario Securities Commission's CEO Advisory Council and is a past chair of their Securities Advisory Committee. She is also an adjunct professor of law at Osgoode Hall Law School where she teaches advanced mergers and acquisitions. Patricia was named one of the leading female transactional lawyers in the world for 2023 by IFLR1000 and was honored as one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women by WXN. She is recognized in Chambers Global: The World's Leading Lawyers for Business as a Band 1 lawyer in Corporate/M&A and in the Lexpert/American Lawyer Guide to the Leading 500 Lawyers in Canada in Corporate Finance and Securities; Corporate Commercial; and Mergers and Acquisitions. Patricia was named Toronto's 2020 Lawyer of the Year in Mergers and Acquisitions Law by Best Lawyers in Canada, was honored with a Lexpert Zenith Award as one of Canada's Leading Women Lawyers and was named among the Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers in Canada by Canadian Lawyer.



**Patricia Pina**  
Head of Product Research & Innovation; Clarity AI

**Patricia** leads the Product Research & Innovation team at Clarity AI, where she works with financial institutions and companies to help them implement strategies for sustainable finance. She is responsible for developing evidence-based methodologies across sectors to support end-to-end sustainability analysis related to investing, corporate research, benchmarking, and regulatory reporting. Before joining Clarity AI, Patricia was the East Africa Regional Director for IDInsight, a global advisory, data analytics, and research organization on social impact. She also worked for Dalberg Global Development Advisors, Deworm the World and McKinsey & Company. Patricia holds a bachelor's degree in Aeronautical Engineering from the Spanish Polytechnic University, a master's degree in Aeronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a Master of Public Administration in International Development from the Harvard Kennedy School.



**Patrick Sweeney**  
Portfolio Manager; Ancora  
Advisors

**Mr. Sweeney** serves as a Portfolio Manager in the firm's Alternatives group for the activist strategy. Patrick previously served as an equity analyst for the activist strategy after joining Ancora in an institutional marketing role in 2013. Prior to joining Ancora, Patrick worked as a Corporate Banking Analyst at PNC Financial Services. His time at PNC was spent in the healthcare and public finance group, handling the corporate banking needs of large healthcare providers and municipalities in the Midwest. Patrick received his Bachelor of Science degree in finance from John Carroll University.



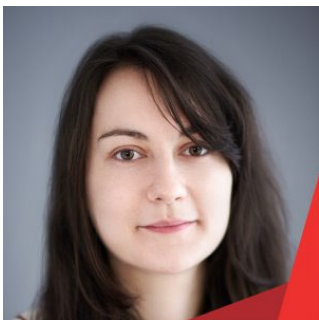
**Rachit Gupta**  
Head of Global Research;  
Diligent

**Rachit Gupta** (MBA) is the Head of Global Research at Diligent. He has responsibility for leading Diligent's core ESG research and data products strategy and joined in December 2022. Previously Rachit was the ESG Stewardship Manager at Capital Group. As Stewardship Manager, he had responsibility for leading Capital Group's stewardship and engagement efforts. He was responsible for Capital's Proxy Voting Policy and sat on Capital Group's Guidelines Committee. He has 15 years of responsible investment experience. Prior to Capital, Rachit had stints with Aviva Investors and had been the co-head of Institutional Shareholder Service's UK research function. Earlier in his career, he also covered small- and mid-cap companies. Rachit is a member of Financial Reporting Council's Stakeholder Insight Group (SIG). He holds an MBA (Finance) degree from ICFAI Business School, India and a bachelor's engineering degree in biotechnology from GGSIP University, India. Rachit is currently based in London.



**Rebecca Kim**  
VP, Investment Stewardship;  
Neuberger Berman

**Rebecca Kim** is a Vice President, Investment Stewardship at Neuberger Berman. In this capacity, she contributes to the firm's work on issuer engagement and corporate governance across the investment platform, develops and implements the firm's proxy voting guidelines, and supports the development of thought leadership through research and writing on active ownership and ESG topics. Prior to joining Neuberger Berman in 2020, she was an Associate at Dimensional Fund Advisors where she led engagements with management and board members on ESG issues, along with the firm's proxy voting efforts. Rebecca earned a BA in Applied Psychology and Human Development from Boston College and a MA in Economics and International Studies from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.



**Rebecca Sherratt**  
Publications Editor; Diligent

**Rebecca Sherratt** is Publications Editor at Diligent Market Intelligence, overseeing special reports related to investor stewardship, shareholder activism and corporate governance. She was formerly the editor of stewardship magazines Insightia Monthly and Proxy Monthly.



**Richard Peterson**  
VP, Strategy and Innovation;  
Diligent

**Richard Peterson** recently joined Diligent as a Vice President leading Data and Innovation Strategy. Richard is currently engaged with advanced AI and machine learning initiatives and data and analytics product development and solutions. Previously, Richard was leading Data, AI and ESG Enterprise Solution Strategy at FIS. Richard has over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry, including various senior roles in sales, origination, and strategy. He has also held positions in investment banking at JPMorgan, Guggenheim, and Citigroup. Richard holds an MBA from the University of Chicago in Finance and Economics and a BBA from Emory University in Finance and Management.



**Ryan Nebel**  
Vice Chair, Shareholder  
Activism Practice; Olshan  
Frome Wolosky

**Ryan Nebel**, consistently recognized as a leader in his field, Vice Chair of Olshan's leading Shareholder Activism practice Ryan Nebel represents hedge funds and other investors providing strategic advice and legal guidance on all aspects of shareholder activism.

With a nuanced understanding of the intricacies involved, Ryan excels in handling the most contentious and complex challenges in the corporate realm. Shareholder clients rely on his astute counsel on corporate governance matters, Schedule 13D investments in public companies and activist strategies. Creative, practical and very hands-on, Ryan manages shareholder and board engagement, proxy contests, withhold campaigns, consent solicitations, settlement negotiations, hostile takeovers as well as issues impacting shareholders in the context of changes in control, mergers, acquisitions and dispositions.

Ryan always advises clients to seek assistance with potential investment ideas early on so he can help them evaluate the target, structure an activist strategy, avoid potential pitfalls and optimize their position for success. With the right strategy in place, he helps clients drive shareholder value and achieve their goals.

He has advised many notable activist investors in high-profile situations including Engaged Capital at Shake Shack, Ryan Cohen at GameStop, Sachem Head at US Foods, Elliott Management at eBay and Starboard Value in its full board victory at Darden Restaurants.

Ryan has been named an "Up and Coming" lawyer by Chambers USA, recognized as a "Next Generation Partner," "Recommended Lawyer" and a "Key Lawyer" in The Legal 500 United States guide for M&A/Corporate and Commercial: Shareholder Activism - Advice to Shareholders and named a New York "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers.





**Sara Murphy**  
Chief Strategy Officer; The  
Shareholder Commons

**Sara** joined The Shareholder Commons in 2020 after 22 years working in sustainable investing and environmental and social advocacy. Sara began her career working for NGOs in the international development and disaster response fields. In 2001, she transitioned into Sustainable and Responsible Investment (SRI) research for the Investor Responsibility Research Center (IRRC). In 2005, Sara moved to Frankfurt, Germany to work as a senior sustainability analyst for Fortis Investments' SRI fund management team. Fortis Investments was acquired by BNP Paribas Asset Management during Sara's tenure. Sara moved back to Washington, DC in 2011, where she launched her independent consultancy on sustainable investing and corporate responsibility. She joined The Shareholder Commons out of a firm belief that system stewardship--rather than the idiosyncratic stewardship that dominates the investment landscape--is the only way to protect our ongoing prosperity.



**Sarah Alfandari**  
Chief Executive Officer;  
Dalton Investments

**Ms. Alfandari** is Chief Executive Officer and President for Dalton Investments. Prior to joining Dalton Investments, Sarah was a Managing Partner with Longchamp Asset Management, a French asset management company which she co-founded in 2013. As head of the Non-Investments teams for over 7 years, Ms. Alfandari was notably in charge of business development which included a strategic partnership with Dalton Investments for the structuring and distribution of their investment expertise in UCITS formats. After starting her career in New York as sales analyst within Société Générale Corporate & Investment Banking's Equity Derivatives division, Ms. Alfandari joined Morgan Stanley where she led the FundLogic Alternatives UCITS Platform's marketing team. Ms. Alfandari holds a master's degree in Business Administration from ESCP Business School with a major in Finance from which she graduated valedictorian and a bachelor's degree from Paris University Dauphine.



**Steven Balet**  
Partner; Strategic  
Governance Advisors

Drawing on more than two decades advising public companies and hedge funds on transactions, proxy contests, shareholder proposals and other corporate governance matters, Steven assists companies facing conflict with their shareholders on matters ranging from ESG proposals all the way up to proxy contests. Over the last decade, Steven has advised on a number of the largest contested M&A and Shareholder Activism situations, including Bristol-Myers Squibb Company merger with Celgene Corporation, Occidental Petroleum Corporation's acquisition of Anadarko Petroleum Corp, Rio Tinto Limited defense against BHP, Perrigo Company PLC's defense against Mylan N.V., and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited's acquisition of Shire plc, Steven has also advised numerous companies facing shareholder activism, including Callon Petroleum, Carrizo Oil & Gas, Inc., E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Perrigo Company PLC, Transocean Ltd, and Koninklijke DSM N.V.. Steven has also consulted with and developed activism preparedness plans for many S&P 500 companies. Mr. Balet also regularly consults with many companies on a host of ESG issues, with extensive experience helping issuers engage institutions, and third party advisory groups such as ISS, on issues of diversity, climate risk, governance and compensation. Steven was formerly a Managing Director and Head of Corporate Governance and Activist Engagement at FTI Consulting. Prior to his tenure with FTI, Mr. Balet held senior leadership roles at SCB Advising, Okapi Partners and MacKenzie Partners, including three years as head of MacKenzie's London Office.



**Townsend Belisle**  
Founder and CEO;  
Haystack Needle

**Townsend Belisle** is the Founder and CEO of Haystack Needle, a strategic design and production company based in New York, serving clients all over the globe. As an Executive Producer and Creative Director, he advises the senior management of public and private companies on the production of creative communications and marketing campaigns. Townsend has over 25 years of experience producing brands, events, websites, videos and search, social and print campaigns - all with the support of specialized, branded teams that he has curated over the years. Townsend has extensive expertise working with C-suite, marketing and communications leaders to produce strategic communications solutions and to create, refine and strengthen their long term reputation programs. He has produced hundreds of corporate communications campaigns, brand launches, M&A transaction announcements, IPOs, restructuring endeavors, proxy campaigns, and investor days. Prior to founding Haystack in 2008, Townsend was an Executive Producer at other notable New York production and creative agencies, including Broadstreet, Eyeball and Razorfish. He began his career in the entertainment sector, working for Merv Griffin, developing the branding platform for William Morris Agency, and later representing talent such as John Legend. Townsend holds a BA in economics and music from Skidmore College.



**Yumi Narita**  
Executive Director of  
Corporate Governance;  
Office of the New York City  
Comptroller

**Yumi Narita** joined the Office of the Comptroller's Bureau of Asset Management (BAM) as the Executive Director of Corporate Governance in the Corporate Governance and Responsible Investment Unit in December 2019. The Comptroller serves as investment advisor, custodian and a trustee to the New York City Pension Funds, which hold approximately \$242 billion in assets (as of October 2023). In her role as Executive Director, Narita is responsible for developing and implementing active ownership programs for public equities, including overseeing proxy voting guidelines and strategies, engaging portfolio companies on their ESG policies and practices and advocating for regulatory reforms to protect investors and strengthen investor rights. She currently sits on the board of directors of the Council of Institutional Investors, the Independent Steering Committee of Broadridge and on the Advisory Board of the Weinberg Center for Corporate Governance. Narita has 19 years of experience in the ESG industry. Prior to BAM, Ms. Narita was the Global Head of Corporate Governance at Alliance Bernstein and Vice President on the BlackRock Investment Stewardship team.