

# Corporate Secretary Forum 2021

*Improving social and environmental governance  
Prioritizing board risk oversight*

Thursday, November 4 2021  
Virtual event

## AGENDA

All times are in ET

09.30 am **Platform opens: Meet the attendees**

09.55 am **Welcome to the Corporate Secretary Forum 2021**

Opening remarks from the chair

[Ben Maiden](#), editor-at-large, [Corporate Secretary](#)

10.00 am **Assessing the 2022 risk agenda: Prioritizing board risk oversight**

As the pandemic along with political and economic volatility continue to affect global companies, corporations need to ensure they are constantly evolving to keep pace with potential disruption. This session is designed to help governance professionals establish the best strategy to support their company's risk oversight, and act as the key coordinator between management and boards. Attendees can learn:

- How governance professionals can help anticipate future risks and ensure the right topics are on the board agenda
- How to ensure correct documentation of board oversight of management actions on key topics such as the pandemic and human capital
- What lessons have been learned over the last year, and how companies can redesign their risk-management policies in response.

[Ben Maiden](#), editor-at-large, [Corporate Secretary](#)

[Brandon Egren](#), associate general counsel and assistant secretary, [Verizon](#)

[Abby Roberts](#), senior director, product marketing, [Datasite](#)

[Brian Short](#), partner, [Ballard Spahr](#)

11.00 am **Refining ESG governance in relation to executive compensation**

With the pandemic shining a brighter spotlight on companies' credentials as social and environmental actors, ESG progress is increasingly acknowledged alongside traditional KPIs. This session will help governance professionals understand both how boards can successfully navigate executive compensation questions and how - or whether - to link those to ESG performance. We will discuss:

- How to identify and determine the most appropriate process to measure executive compensation against a company's ESG story

- How governance professionals can work with boards and committees to train and guide on ESG performance and set realistic timeframes and goals
- How to report on key linkages between executive compensation and ESG targets.

Laurie Havelock, editor-at-large, **Corporate Secretary**

Matt DiGuseppe, vice president, research and ESG, **Diligent**

Rosanna Weaver, wage justice and executive pay program manager, **As You Sow**

Derek Windham, vice president, associate general counsel, **HPE**

11.45 am

### **Meet the attendees: Networking**

Take some time to meet other attendees via a quick, one-to-one video chat. You have five minutes to introduce yourself and share contact details before you're on to meeting the next person!

12.00 pm

### **The skills matrix – Reporting on board composition and when to consider board refreshment**

In the face of greater corporate focus on specialized issues such as cyber-security and human capital management, it is important to ensure a board's expertise matches the company's strategic goals. Coupled with the new rules on board diversity listing standards, establishing a diverse board is crucial to keep up with global trends and requirements. In this session attendees can:

- Hear how governance professionals can support oversight on key emerging risk and compliance issues by addressing board composition and skillsets
- Understand how governance professionals can report on their directors' expertise through skills matrixes in the proxy statement
- Get ideas on how to create a succession plan that supports a forward-looking and strategic board.

Ben Maiden, editor-at-large, **Corporate Secretary**

Jacob Jenkelowitz, corporate secretary, **Brighthouse Financial**

Byron Loflin, global head of board engagement, **Nasdaq**

Lopa Zielinski, EVP, corporate secretary and head of governance USA, **HSBC**

1.00 pm

### **Key developments in ESG regulation and reporting**

With concerns around the timing and requirements of SEC mandatory ESG disclosures, and the Biden administration's promises to make climate change a key priority, corporate interest in global and local ESG policies is increasing. This session will round up the latest regulatory developments in the ESG space. Attendees can get updates on:

- New SEC disclosures on climate change: are companies getting ready for mandatory disclosures, and what are they doing to prepare?
- How the new IFRS Sustainability Standards Board could affect a company's future disclosures

- What the latest EU legislation on CSRD could mean for US issuers.

Michael Rosen, head of ESG strategy and engagement, **Chief Executives for Corporate Purpose**

Melodie Craft, vice president of legal affairs and risk management, **McGrath RentCorp**

Granville Martin, head of Americas policy and outreach, **Value Reporting Foundation**

Phil Redman, offering manager, ESG, **OneTrust**

1.45 pm

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2.00 pm

### **Proxy season takeaways: Environmental accountability and the key rise of shareholder proposals**

The 2021 proxy season has proven to be a potential disrupter for governance professionals, with record levels of support for shareholder proposals in a number of environmental and social areas. As companies assess findings from this year's proxy season, it is important to start looking ahead to next year, plan your report and ensure best practice for the year ahead. To help corporate secretaries get prepared, this session will cover:

- What record levels of investor proposals mean for governance professionals
- Best practice insights into preparing for and responding to activist investors over the coming months
- What lessons corporate governance professionals can take forward to ensure robust stakeholder engagement in 2022.

Ben Maiden, editor-at-large, **Corporate Secretary**

Mary Francis, corporate secretary and chief governance officer, **Chevron Corporation**

Rose Marie Glazer, deputy general counsel and corporate secretary, **AIG**

Krishna Veeraraghavan, partner, **Paul Weiss**

2.45 pm

### **Evolving the discussion on diversity, equity and inclusion: How is the industry progressing?**

Diversity, equity and inclusion efforts have been among the top governance priorities over the last year. As the industry looks ahead to 2022, it is important to assess where the industry stands now, how governance professionals can support a company's progress and where to focus your attention. In this session, attendees can discuss:

- The steps companies have taken in the last year to increase diversity in their boards and workforces, and how governance professionals can support this

- Some of the notable state-specific changes and developments, and how these are changing the overall landscape
- How companies have disclosed on their diversity, equity and inclusion policies and what shareholders are looking for.

Steve Wade, head of event content, **Corporate Secretary** and **IR Magazine**  
 Nita Chhinzer, associate professor, department of management, **University of Guelph**

Courtney Kamlet, vice president, associate general counsel and corporate secretary, **Vontier**

Marvin Owens, chief engagement officer, **Impact Shares**

3.30 pm

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3.45 pm

### **How governance professionals can improve shareholder engagement in a digital world**

With people spending more time online than ever before, the potential marketing benefits of embracing digital strategies are enormous. From AGMs to internal communications with the board, this session will discuss:

- How to improve shareholder communications during proxy meetings and AGMS
- How to communicate effectively with different shareholder audiences
- How governance professionals can take inspiration from the companies leading the way with embracing digital strategies.

Steve Wade, head of event content, **Corporate Secretary** and **IR Magazine**  
 Richard Babineau, director of issuer solutions, **Mediant**

4.15 pm

### **Beyond the AGM: Navigating meetings uncertainty**

As the industry grapples with continued ambiguity around guidelines and industry interest in in-person meetings, before year-end is a good time to discuss how to structure and plan an effective approach. To help companies leverage both in-person and virtual elements for the greatest success, in this session attendees can:

- Understand how to gauge the state of play when planning for engagement meetings, and hear how other companies are currently planning
- Discuss when and how to move to a hybrid AGM model
- Learn how to prioritize when it comes to virtual board materials and agendas, and how to maximize the use of management and directors' time.

Ben Maiden, editor-at-large, **Corporate Secretary**  
 Simon Bryan, managing director, Americas, **Lumi**

Kristina Fink, vice president, deputy corporate secretary, **American Express**  
Eileen Kamerick, non-executive director, **ACV Auctions, Legg Mason Closed  
End Funds, AIG Funds, Associated Banc-Corp and Hochschild Mining**

5.00 pm

**Closing remarks and end of forum**

Ben Maiden, editor-at-large, **Corporate Secretary**

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