

Directors to Watch 2015



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An anniversary is always occasion for reflection. This, the 10th anniversary compilation of Directors to Watch, is part of an ongoing effort by *Directors & Boards* to promote and support diversity in the boardroom. When we began this series in 2006, that support already had a long history with the journal. An article published early in the tenure of our editor, Jim Kristie, was titled “Finding the Blue Chip Woman Director.” The year was 1981.

Back then, boards were typically “male, pale, and stale,” an epithet that has not softened with the passage of time. Boards have always been challenged, at one level or another, with new risks and new opportunities arising at what seems to be an increasing pace. In 2006, for example, many boards had not ever faced a sustained financial crisis. Sarbanes, Oxley, Dodd and Frank were names on a congressional roster, not markers in a legislative and regulatory redefinition of director service.

The first few editions of Directors to Watch included a mix of genders, colors, races, and experience. Over the past several years, the series has been devoted to female directors. The idea is to showcase women directors of an age and level of experience that makes it a safe bet that they will continue to contribute to and help define the corporate governance agenda for publicly traded and privately held companies.

The Directors to Watch Class of 2015 faces the whole traditional array of threats to good governance and board best practices. In addition to topics like executive compensation, enterprise risk management, protection of corporate reputation, and social responsibility, our honorees are facing new challenges such as cybersecurity and the rise of activist shareholders and investors.

Next year *Directors & Boards* celebrates its 40th anniversary of continuous publication and service to boards everywhere. We plan to continue to drive the topic of gender diversity on boards. The studies have been made, the statistics are in, and the facts can't be disputed — having a variety of experience, perspective, background and gender makes for enhanced governance and better results across the board.

For this upcoming 40th anniversary edition, the Directors to Watch feature will revisit some of our past honorees and report back on where they are today and how they have moved the ball for board best practices. Until then, take a look at these dozen superstars who are our choices at mid-decade.

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Directors to Watch 2015



[**Cheryl Mayberry McKissack**](#)

Director, PrivateBancorp Inc., Deluxe Corp.



[Gail A. Lione](#)

Director, Sargento Foods Inc., Badger Meter Inc., F. Dohmen Co.



[Maureen Breakiron-Evans](#)

Director, Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp., Heartland Payment Systems Inc.



[Gabrielle Sulzberger](#)

Director, Whole Foods Market Inc., Brixmor Property Group Inc.



Margo Georgiadis

Director, McDonald's Corp., NorthShore University HealthSystem



Shan Atkins

Director, Darden Restaurants Inc., SpartanNash Co., SunOpta Inc.



Colleen B. Brown

Chairman, American Apparel Inc.

Director, TrueBlue Inc., Port Blakely Companies



Phyllis Cochran

Director, New Flyer Industries Inc., Spartan Light Metal Products



Cassandra Kelly

Chair, Pottinger; Director, Flight Centre Travel Group



Connie D. McDaniel

Director, Total System Services Inc., RidgeWorth Funds



Nancy McKinstry

Director, Abbott, Russell Reynolds Associates



Patricia B. Morrison

Director, Splunk Inc.

Nominate a 'Director to Watch'

"Directors to Watch" is an annual feature in *Directors & Boards* magazine designed to highlight our support for gender diversity in the boardroom and corporate governance best practices. Appearing in the feature is not contingent on advertising or any other financial commitment. We acknowledge the help and guidance of Diversity in Boardrooms (www.diversityinboardrooms.com), WomenCorporateDirectors (www.womencorporatedirectors.com), our advisory board, and past honorees for nominating the Directors to Watch Class of 2015.

If you would like to support “Directors to Watch” or nominate a director for inclusion in *Directors & Boards*, please send your candidate’s name, current primary corporate and board positions, full contact details for your nominee, and a sentence or two on why you believe this person is a “Director to Watch” to Scott Chase via email at scottchase@verizon.net.

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