The Agenda Future 50

Board-ready candidates for tomorrow's toughest challenges



October 2025

A Note from Agenda's Editor

Dear Readers,

The surging speed of business and tectonic shifts in the technological, workforce and regulatory landscapes make it critical to recruit strategic, future-forward directors who can help companies navigate this emerging business context with agility.

Agenda, the Financial Times' publication for corporate directors, and our partner Equilar, aim to help our audience identify talented individuals who can help their boards meet the moment. This directory includes 50 vetted and board-ready candidates with the transformative skills and vision board leaders say they seek.

Those featured on our list of 50 were confirmed by the well-respected board directors and other governance experts on our nominating and selection committees to have the future-forward skills, business acumen and judgment necessary to add value to a board.

We encourage you to make use of this directory as you consider board succession planning for today's needs — and tomorrow's.

Kind regards,
Melissa J. Anderson
Managing Editor
Agenda

A Note from Our Partner at Equilar

On behalf of Equilar, I am honored to participate in the Agenda Future 50 directory and would like to express my gratitude to Agenda for spearheading this important initiative. Business is continually redefined by emerging technologies, evolving workforce priorities and increasing regulatory requirements. Boards must adapt with agility and foresight to meet the demands of this era and those to come.

The Future 50 list serves as a thoughtful resource for those seeking directors prepared to address the complexities of modern governance. By featuring accomplished leaders from a diverse range of professional backgrounds, the directory expands the available talent pool for boards, enabling organizations to make strategic appointments.

We are especially pleased that the Future 50 will be integrated into the Equilar Diversity Network within our ExecAtlas platform. This will enhance visibility for emerging leaders and provide expanded access for companies dedicated to strengthening governance. While diversity remains an essential driver of corporate performance and resilience, the directory highlights the multifaceted expertise needed for the boardroom of the future.

Thank you again to Agenda for championing this vision and including Equilar in this significant endeavor.

Sincerely,
David Chun
Founder and CEO
Equilar

Nomination Committee

- Ascend Pinnacle
- Association of LGBTQ+ Corporate Directors
- Black Corporate Board Readiness Program
- Latino Corporate Directors Association
- Equilar
- Nasdaq

Selection Committee

- Joseph Boateng, Chief Investment Officer, Casey Family Programs
- Herman Bulls, Vice Chairman, Americas, JLL, and Director at Fluence Energy, Host Hotels and Comfort Systems, USA
- Anna Catalano, Director at Ecovyst, FrontDoor, Hexion and HF Sinclair
- Julie Hembrock Daum, Chair, North American Board Practice, Spencer Stuart
- Robert Gerard, Director at H&R Block
- Thane Kreiner, Co-founder, Black Corporate Board Readiness Program at the Leavey Executive Center, Santa Clara University
- Amanda Packel, Co-executive Director, Rock Center for Corporate Governance and Co-director, Stanford Directors' College, Stanford Law School
- Helle Bank Jorgenson, Global Managing Director, Board Development, Board Intelligence
- Barry Lawson Williams, Retired Managing Partner, Williams Pacific Ventures, and former Board Director

Methodology

This directory is the product of multiple groups that shared their time and expertise.

Nominations for the guide were sourced from Agenda's subscribers, attendees at the Outstanding Directors Exchange conference in June 2025, and our nominating committee members, who were asked to submit the names of up to 15 individuals.

We sought nominations of up-and-coming individuals who (a) serve on no more than one publicly traded company board, (b) have not been included in an Agenda directory in the past, and (c) fit the following criteria:

- Are able to demonstrate future-forward experience, such as, but not limited to, artificial intelligence, workforce transformation, change management, etc.
- Are qualified to serve on Fortune 1000 boards within 12 months of publication of the directory
- Have demonstrated an ability to govern senior managers and make strategy decisions for a $2.5 billion company with a global supply, manufacturing and distribution network
- Have given consent before being nominated and are able to serve on new boards

Candidates could also exhibit one or more of the following preferred qualifications:

- Current or former C-suite executive or general counsel
- Current or former head of a national operating company or division
- Retired public accounting partner with management experience
- Entrepreneur with success launching and managing their own company
- Recognized as an audit committee financial expert
- Current or former university president or dean of business or law school
- International experience as a manager
- Current or former head of a nonprofit or a non-governmental organization (NGO) with global offices and operations
- Overseen at least $30 million in sales, 100 employees, in more than one discipline within an organization and in more than one managerial role

Methodology *continued*

We received nearly 200 nominations of qualified individuals. Our selection committee read each of their résumés and application materials and assigned scores of one to three to produce a ranking. Our team of journalists then performed a thorough background check and interview to vet each of the top selections and produce a short biographical sketch for inclusion in this directory. Descriptions of age, gender, race, ethnicity and LGBTQ+ status included in the bios were provided by the honorees.

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Samantha Kappagoda

Independent Director
Credit Suisse Funds

Hudson Valley, N.Y.

Leadership Experience

Kappagoda specializes in analyzing and modeling trends and patterns across global asset classes, markets, regions, sectors and industries. She began her career working in hedge funds, which exposed her to crises and market events, geopolitical risks and supply chain issues. In addition to her public board work, she is an independent director at the University of Toronto; chief data scientist and co-managing member of Numerati Partners; and a visiting scholar at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University.

Aside

Kappagoda is a skilled gardener, a trait she inherited from her mother. After purchasing her home in the lower Hudson Valley of New York, she planted 1,000 daffodils.

Expertise and Relevant Experience

- Data science
- AI governance

Public Company Boards

Current: Credit Suisse Asset Management Income Fund and Credit Suisse High Yield Bond Fund

Education

M.A., Economics, University of Toronto; MBA, Analytic Finance, Statistics and International Business, University of Chicago

B.S.c., Mathematics, Imperial College London

Age	57
Race or Ethnicity	South Asian
Gender	Female

Contact Info

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Thank You

We would like to thank the Equilar team (including David Chun, Belen Gomez, Olivia Simon and Courtney Yu) for partnering with us on this project. Their contributions helped bolster the integrity of our selection process.

We would like to thank the members of our nominating and selection committees for generously granting their time and expertise to this project. Their attention, careful consideration and imprimatur ensured the high quality of this directory.

Thanks to Chris Larson, Lindsay Frost and Emma Sandler for their careful vetting and writing, and thank you to Maureen Brody, Michael Ferraro and Jenny Spaulding for their copy editing, communications and design contributions.

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