



# Linda Harris

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## **Senior Counsel Dentons US LLP**

### **Board Membership of Interest**

I am interested in serving on boards involved in most industries. My greatest experience is in nonregulated industries, such as manufacturing, consumer products or services, distribution or certain transportation, but I would be interested in regulated industries requiring a broad based corporate lawyer. I am flexible as to location.

### **Board Member Characteristics**

I am a corporate lawyer with over 33 years of business law experience. My specialty is M&A and I have worked closely with clients for over three decades assisting not only in acquisitions, but also integration of businesses, restructurings, internal growth through joint ventures, franchising and licensing, financings, and creative means of distribution. I have learned a great deal from clients in a vast array of industries in my role as counselor and have a great deal to offer management. I am a critical thinker, excellent communicator and a collaborator who has assisted many CEOs and other top management employees in dealing with high level and often sensitive and complex problems. Unlike most corporate lawyers, I also have had a great deal of experience in turnaround and bankruptcy work. I have expertise in Corporate Governance and am very interested in this subject.

### **Company Profile**

I am a partner at Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, a law firm with approximately 13 offices throughout the US and in Brussels. Sonnenschein is a corporate law firm of approximately 750 lawyers and I am a member of the corporate group. The firm services all types of businesses, from Fortune 10 to private family businesses, in virtually every type of legal need.

### **Functional Expertise**

As an M&A veteran of 30 plus years, I function as the quarterback within my law firm to address all M&A issues. Therefore, I am responsible for coordinating all areas of legal expertise required to accomplish the due diligence, consummation and integration of an acquisition, including in the areas of executive compensation, benefits, environmental, real estate, IP and regulatory. While my depth of expertise in these areas varies, I am intimately familiar with all of them.

### **Current Professional Experience**

As a law firm partner (and expense to clients), I am responsible for creating value for clients and operating my practice in a manner which is profitable for my firm. I do not have specific P&L responsibility beyond my general responsibility as an owner of my firm. However, the bankruptcy and restructuring work which I do for clients has caused me to be intimately aware of, and creative about addressing, the financial and operational issues clients face relating to gaining improved profitability.

### **Are you a financial expert?**

No



THE CHICAGO NETWORK

### **Other Industry Experience**

My M&A experience has involved off shore acquisitions and sales, mostly in Latin America and increasingly my clients are investing in China. My clients and work have spanned many industries, including health care, franchising of consumer services and products, wholesale distribution, airlines, higher education, manufacturing all types of products, including food service equipment and high end packaging, and financial services.

### **Public and Private Company Boards**

I am not currently on any corporate boards though I am a de facto member of the Board of The Chas. Levy Company (attend all meetings as outside counsel to company).

### **Non-Profit Boards**

The Anti-Defamation League (15 years on board), The Joffrey Ballet (approximately 10 years – since the Ballet came to Chicago); currently serving on the Governance Committee; Chicago Chamber of Commerce (approximately 12 years); The Women's Business Development Center (on board for approximately 17 years; currently Vice Chair); Women's Issues Network (formerly Chairman of Board - organization is no longer operating.)

### **Professional Associations and Civic Affiliations**

American Bar Association, Economics Club, The Chicago Network. Member of the Board of the Chicago Chamber of Commerce

### **Education and Interest**

University of Michigan, BA, Ed. 1971 Columbus School of Law, Catholic University, JD 1974. Spanish major in undergrad; love travel, film and the arts.