

Allison Ranney

Alison Ranney specializes in leading senior level searches for mission-driven organizations and educational institutions across the country. She leads the Chicago Office of Koya Leadership Partners. Alison's leadership in her field has been featured in publications, including a 2017 article in Crain's that noted "Koya Leadership Partners' Alison Ranney is remaking what leadership looks like across the country." Alison has successfully conducted searches for a range of clients at the CEO, President, Executive Director, Provost, Dean, COO, CFO and Vice President levels as well as members of their Boards of Directors. She has expertise working with foundations, educational and cultural institutions, human and social service organizations, professional organizations and other mission-driven clients, as well as colleges and universities. Representative clients include The Fidelity Foundations, The Rockefeller Foundation, the John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Obama Foundation, the United Way and the American Red Cross. Alison also has deep expertise in Higher Education having led searches for the University of Chicago, the University of Michigan, Harvard University, Stanford University, Northwestern University and the University of Pennsylvania, among others. Prior to joining Koya, Alison was with Russell Reynolds Associates, the global executive search firm. At Russell Reynolds, she led the development of the Nonprofit practice in the Midwest and received the firm's inaugural award for Excellence in Client Service.

Alison began her career at Skadden, Arps, where she was a corporate attorney with a focus on mergers and acquisitions. She also served as Vice President at the real estate development firm responsible for Prairie Crossing, the award-winning conservation community, and as an executive with AT&T Wireless where she specialized in joint ventures. With a strong commitment to civic involvement, Alison serves on the Boards of Public Radio International (PRI) and the Goodman Theatre. She has also served on the boards of World Business Chicago and Forefront. Alison served on the Board of Directors of WBEZ/Chicago Public Media for 12 years and chaired the CEO Search Committee for the highly successful current CEO. Alison was on the Founding Board of City Year Chicago and the Board of Ryerson Woods Conservation Area.

For her alma maters, Alison has served on the Visiting Committee of the University of Chicago Law School and the Alumni Council of Phillips Academy. She is a member of the Commercial Club, the Economic Club and The Chicago Network. Earlier in her career, she was selected as an Emerging Leader by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Alison is on the Board of Directors of the flagship bank of Wintrust Financial Corporation where she is active on the Compensation & Nominating, Audit and Business Development Committees. Alison received her B.A., magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, in Urban Studies from Brown University. She earned her M.B.A. from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and her J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School.