Access to Experts

Donna Dabney , Executive Director, Governance Center , The Conference Board

Donna Dabney joined The Conference Board as executive director of the Governance Center, in August 2012. In her current position, Donna leads the efforts of The Conference Board in the area of corporate governance.

Prior to joining The Conference Board, Dabney was vice president, corporate secretary, and corporate governance counsel of Alcoa Inc.

Dabney has extensive experience in corporate governance matters, having served as a member of management for over 15 years on the boards of Alcoa and Reynolds Metals Company. She is a recognized expert on governance issues related to executive compensation. At Reynolds she was a member of the senior management team with oversight responsibility for the global operations of the company and served as chief mergers and acquisitions counsel and secretary to the board of directors. When Alcoa acquired Reynolds in 2000, she joined Alcoa as its secretary, assistant general counsel, and group counsel of the Consumer, Packaging, Distribution, and Construction Group, where she was part of a three-member team with oversight management responsibility for this business. As part of her work with the Alcoa board of directors, Donna has gained substantial experience with sustainable development in the Amazon region of Brazil.

Before joining Reynolds, she practiced law with the Richmond, Virginia, firm of McGuireWoods LLP and served on the faculty of Old Dominion University. She is a 1980 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and a member of the Order of the Coif legal honorary society.

Dabney is a member of the New York advisory board of the Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals and a member of the faculty of the Citadel Directors Institute and of the Practicing Law Institute. She is also a former member of the Stockholder Relations Society of New York.

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