

Access to Experts



Gail A. Lione
Senior Counsel, Dentons
Senior Fellow, Governance Center

Gail Lione is a senior executive with business strategy, intellectual property, human resources, and corporate governance experience in the C-Suite. She is Senior Counsel at Dentons US LLP and an adjunct professor of intellectual property law at Georgetown University Law School. She previously taught at Marquette University Law School and American University Law School.

Ms. Lione is also a Senior Fellow of the Governance Center of The Conference Board and she currently serves as a director of 3 public and private for profit companies. She has been a member of the Board of Directors and Audit Committee of Sargento Foods Inc. since 2006 and now serves on its Compensation Committee; she has been a member of the Board of Directors of Badger Meter, Inc. (NYSE:BMI) since February 2012, is a member of its Compensation and Corporate Governance Committees, and served as its Lead Director from April 2015 to April 2017; and she was elected to the Board of The F. Dohmen Co. in March 2013 and serves on its Audit Committee. Ms. Lione formerly served as a director of Imperial Sugar Company (NASDAQ:IPSU).

For more than 23 years, Ms. Lione served as General Counsel of 3 companies in 3 different industries: global marketing/manufacturing; publishing, printing and digital imaging; and insurance, banking and financial services. In her most recent assignment, she was the Executive Vice President, General Counsel, Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer of Harley-Davidson, Inc. until May 2010. She also served as President of The Harley-Davidson Foundation from 2006 until May of 2011 when she retired from the company. During her almost 14 year career with Harley-Davidson she was a member of the executive leadership team and also served as Vice President of Human Resources for approximately 2 years. As general counsel and chief compliance officer for this Fortune 500 public company, she managed all worldwide legal affairs, corporate governance and compliance for the company including its financial services subsidiary and its trademark holding company. For the 7 years prior to joining Harley-Davidson, Ms. Lione was General Counsel and Secretary of U.S. News & World Report and its affiliates, The Atlantic Monthly Company, Applied Graphics Technologies and Applied Printing Technologies. Her first General Counsel position from 1986-89 was with Sun Life Group of America in Atlanta, Georgia where she managed the legal affairs and all regulatory activities of five insurance companies licensed in 50 states. Ms. Lione started her legal career as a real estate tax lawyer with Morgan, Lewis & Bockius in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

From 2000 to 2010, Ms Lione served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Manufacturers and was a Trustee of its Manufacturing Institute from 2002 to 2007. She was also a Trustee of the Copyright Society of the USA from 1996-1999. In January 2015, she was elected as a member of the American Law Institute.

Ms. Lione currently serves as Chair of the Board of the Community Sports & Entertainment Support, Inc, a support organization for the Bradley Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is presently a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Rochester and serves on its Audit and Human Resources Committees. In Washington DC, she is on the Boards of Dog Tag Bakery, Inc. and the International Senior Lawyers Project; and in Milwaukee, she is on the Boards of the Milwaukee Ballet and the Milwaukee Art Museum where she also served as its Secretary until 2017. She is an Emeritus member of the Board of Milwaukee Women, Inc. She was Co-Chair of the 2013 Campaign for the United Performing Arts Fund and Co-Chair of the 2004 United Way campaign for Metropolitan Milwaukee.

Her other professional associations include being a member of the Greater Milwaukee Committee, The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation, and the Board of Managers of the Law Alumni Society of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. In 2011, she was appointed as a member of the MillerCoors Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Council in recognition of her commitment to diversity and inclusion; and the National Women's Leadership Council of United Way (now called Women United Global Leadership Council) in recognition of her years of service as co-chair of the Milwaukee Women's Initiative Council. In October 2017, she became the Chair of the Women United Global Leadership Council. She also received in 2011 the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University of Rochester and was named the Milwaukee BizTimes Woman Business Executive of the Year for 2012. In 2013, she was recognized by Tempo Milwaukee with its annual Mentor Award and, in 2014, she received the ABA's Mayre Rasmussen Award for the Advancement of Women in International Law. Directors & Boards magazine featured Ms. Lione as a Director to Watch in its 2015 Annual Report. In October 2017, Ms. Lione was honored by DirectWomen with the Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award for serving with distinction as an independent director of public companies and for working to advance the value of diversity in board positions.

Ms. Lione is a frequent speaker on corporate governance, intellectual property and women's issues. Ms. Lione received her BA degree in Political Science magna cum laude/phi beta kappa from the University of Rochester and a JD from the University of Pennsylvania. She is married to Barry Grossman, an Administrative Patent Judge on the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, and has a daughter, Margo.

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