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Jack “Rusty” O’Kelley III is co-leader of Russell Reynolds’ Associates Board and CEO Advisory Practice and a senior member of the New York office. He also serves as global leader of the Board Consulting and Effectiveness Practice. His areas of expertise are board effectiveness and governance, CEO succession planning and activism defense.

He joined Russell Reynolds from a search and leadership firm where he led the Leadership Consulting Practice for the Americas. Previously, he was with Katzenbach Partners (now PwC). Rusty began his career as a corporate lawyer at Sullivan & Cromwell.

O’Kelley has written or co-authored numerous white papers and articles including: “Looking Beyond the CEO,” “The Elegant Transition,” “Preparing for an Activist Before There is One,” annual “Global Trends in Corporate Governance” since 2016, and has been published in the Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation.

He earned a BS in accounting, summa cum laude, from Hampton University, where he was valedictorian of his class, and a JD from Yale Law School.