



MICHAEL FRERICHS

Illinois State Treasurer

Michael Frerichs was first elected Illinois State Treasurer on Nov. 4, 2014. He has been re-elected twice and started his third term in January 2023. Frerichs is the 74th person to serve in this role. In Illinois, the Treasurer's office predates the state's incorporation in 1818. Voters chose to make it an elected office in 1848.

In Illinois, the Treasurer is the state's Chief Investment and Banking Officer. The office invests money on behalf of the state and local units of government. Frerichs also believes in providing individuals with financial tools so they can invest in themselves.

He does this by encouraging savings plans for college and trade school, increasing financial education among all ages, removing barriers to a secure retirement, and reuniting Illinois residents with their unclaimed property.

The Treasurer's Office actively manages approximately \$56 billion. The investment approach is cautious to ensure the preservation of principal, but the investment returns are significant. Under Frerichs' tenure, the office has earned more than \$2 billion for taxpayers through safe, smart investing.

Since taking office, Treasurer Frerichs has made significant strides in the fight for consumers by making sure Illinois residents get what is owed to them through the Unclaimed Property Program. A record-breaking \$1.75 billion in forgotten cash and stock has been returned to individuals, employers, and non-profit under his watch.

Treasurer Frerichs also has worked to make college more affordable for families saving for their children's future. He made changes to the Bright Start college savings program, taking it from worst to among the nation's best. Independent analyst Morningstar awarded Bright Start their top Gold rating five years in a row. The treasurer lowered fees and provided more investment options for families.

Under Treasurer Frerichs' leadership, Illinois now leads a bipartisan multi-state alliance that allows parents of children with blindness or a disability to save for their child without jeopardizing their federal disability benefits. Achieving a Better Life Experience Program (ABLE) is the national standard, offering high-quality and low-cost investment options. His office also led negotiations that resulted in lower fees for participants.

In November 2018, Treasurer Frerichs launched Secure Choice, a retirement savings program that will benefit an estimated 1.2 million private-sector workers in Illinois who do not have access to an employer-sponsored retirement plan. So far, over 120,000 Illinois workers have saved more than \$115 million that will help them retire with dignity.

Treasurer Frerichs was born and raised in the small, downstate farming community of Gifford, Illinois. He graduated from Yale University and spent two years in Taiwan where he taught English to young students and learned to speak Chinese. He returned to Champaign County and launched his own technology business. He was elected to the Champaign County Board and elected Champaign County Auditor. He also served as a volunteer firefighter.

In 2006, Frerichs was elected Illinois State Senator representing east-central Illinois. As chairman of the Higher Education Committee, he championed efforts to make college more affordable. He also served as chairman of the Agriculture and Conservation Committee and became a Certified Public Finance Officer.

Frerichs was unanimously elected president of the bipartisan National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers in 2022. He was also unanimously elected by his bipartisan peers to serve as senior vice-president of the National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) in 2022. He serves on the NAST Executive, Long-Range Planning, and Program & Learning Committees. The College Savings Plans Network honored Frerichs with its Distinguished Service Award in 2022. He was awarded the ESGR Patriot Award in 2020 for his commitment to Illinois veterans. He also serves as vice chair of the Illinois State Board of Investment which manages over \$23 billion in pension assets for state employees.

Treasurer Frerichs is married to Erica and they have twin infant boys. He also has a daughter, Ella.



JOE AGUILAR

*Chief Investment Officer at
The Illinois State Treasurer's Office*

Joe Aguilar is the Chief Investment Officer for Illinois State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs. In his role, Mr. Aguilar directs seven investment portfolios spanning across public and private market investments on behalf of the Illinois Treasury's combined \$56 billion investment portfolio including the Illinois Growth and Innovation Fund, a \$1.5b impact investment fund investing across venture, buyout and private credit, the FIRST Fund, a \$1.5b vehicle dedicated to infrastructure and real estate, two 529 College Saving Plans, the State's Achieving a Better Life Experience program, Student Empowerment Fund, and the Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program. As the Chief Investment Officer, Mr. Aguilar leads all aspects of investment implementation, including the development of processes and procedures, asset allocation, the Office's sustainable investment strategy, and the selection of investment products and managers. He is responsible for leading the investment team and the stewardship for all investments and external public and private market investment managers including venture, private equity, infrastructure, real estate and private credit managers invested through the office's platforms.

Mr. Aguilar was previously the Director of Investment Analysis and Due Diligence with the Illinois State Treasury in which he led due diligence efforts in which he led the manager selection process, assessment, and monitoring of all investment managers and co-investments. Prior to joining the Illinois Treasury, he worked for Fortaleza Asset Management. Mr. Aguilar holds a B.S. with a double major in Finance and Business & Commerce from Aurora University and an M.S. in Finance from the University of Miami's Herbert Business School. He also serves as a Board Member for the Council of Institutional Investors, Chair of the Investment Committee for the Field Foundation of Illinois and is an Adjunct Professor at Aurora University.



CHAD TREDWAY

*Founder and CEO at
Trio Investment Group*

Chad Tredway is the Founder and CEO of Trio Investment Group ("Trio"). Trio is focused on sale leaseback real estate transactions across the United States. Before founding Trio, he was the Global Head of Real Estate Banking at JPMorgan, Chairman of the

Investment Committee and a member of the Global Real Estate Counsel. In this role, he was part of the executive team managing \$119B of loan exposure, 1,200 people and over \$1B of annual earnings.

Over his nearly 2-decade career, Mr. Tredway and his teams were responsible for originating over \$50 billion of real estate loans and \$10 billion of single tenant financing transactions across office, industrial, and retail asset classes.

Mr. Tredway has been named to Commercial Observer's Top 20 Influential Lenders and 50 Most Powerful People in Real Estate lists. He has also been named to Grain's 40 under 40 list. He sits on the Foundation Board for the Pension Real Estate Association and has been a featured speaker for NAREIT, ULI and the Wall Street Journal.



DAVID HERNANDEZ

CFA, Associate Director

David Hernandez is an associate director for Marquette Associates and has 14 years of investment experience. He joined Marquette in 2009 and provides thought leadership on non-U.S. equity investing. David is responsible for leading the due diligence

of international equity asset managers, providing guidance on international equity product selection, and developing actionable views based on a macroeconomic and capital markets outlook. He is the chair of the firm's traditional investment manager search committee and a member of the investment committee and sustainable investing group.

David holds a B.A. in finance from DePaul University and an MBA from DePaul University's Kellstadt Graduate School of Business. David is a CFA® charterholder and a member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society of Chicago.





JASON R. FRANK

Managing Director & Head of Advisory, Investment Banking at Cabrera Capital Markets

Jason, a specialist in investment banking, entrepreneurship, strategy, and corporate finance with extensive corporate mergers and acquisitions experience, serves as Managing Director and leader of Cabrera Capital Markets ("Cabrera") Advisory Group. Cabrera, a 22-year-old financial

services firm, provides investment banking and full-service institutional brokerage services worldwide to a substantial and diversified client base that includes financial institutions, unions, governments, corporations, investors, and foundations and endowments. The Advisory Group serves as a trusted advisor to business owners, corporations, capital providers, and investors by specializing in mergers & acquisitions, capital-raising, and strategic advisory services. We focus on middle-market companies with operations in the U.S. interested in transactions ranging from \$50 million to \$500 million, as well as larger companies wishing to acquire, merge or divest divisions. We leverage our experience in multiple industries including retail, consumer, manufacturing, infrastructure, healthcare, business and professional services, financial services, defense, automotive, food, energy, government services, and technology.

Prior to joining Cabrera, Jason was co-founder and President of FON Advisors and CEO of FON Corporate Finance and FON Valuation Services. FON is professional services firm focused on the Aerospace, Defense, and Government Services industry. Prior to joining FON, Jason was CEO of Hilco Corporate Finance - a middle market investment bank providing M&A advisory, debt and equity placement, balance sheet advisory, and strategic advisory services and Managing Director of Hilco Enterprise Valuation Services - a leading provider of reliable opinions for financial institutions, investment firms and corporations on the realizable value of going concerns, intangible

assets, intellectual property, and other specialized business assets for lending, transactional, accounting, financial reporting, tax, shareholder dispute, and litigation support purposes. Prior to joining Hilco, Jason was with P&M Corporate Finance, a unit of Plante and Moran, where he was involved in both buy- and sell-side M&A transactions, principally in the life sciences, financial, and business services sectors. Jason was with AON Risk Services, where he led the research and analysis team within the company's M&A Professional Services group. His responsibilities included the analysis of financial and capital structures and interpretation of financial performance and constraints among Fortune 1000 companies. Earlier, Jason was Manager of Strategic Planning for Diamond Cluster International, a leading technology consultancy. While with Diamond, he helped facilitate a billion-dollar acquisition transaction and subsequent integration of a European consulting firm. Jason has also served as a senior strategy analyst at Arthur Anderson global headquarters.

Jason holds an MBA from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, and a BSBA from the University of Florida. He has various degrees in Finance, Strategy, Economics, Entrepreneurship, and Accounting. He is a non-practicing CPA. Jason is a licensed securities representative, holding his Series 7, 24, 63, and 79 registrations. He is an active member of the Young Presidents' Organization, Business Valuation Association, Association for Corporate Growth, Turnaround Management Association, Commercial Finance Association, American Bankruptcy Institute, the Executives' Club of Chicago, The Chicago Fire Foundation, Chicago Booth Alumni Club of Chicago, and the Adam Don Foundation. Through these organizations, Jason has participated on several panels focused on finance, valuation, investing, and mergers & acquisitions, and has also written several articles for various professional publications.



SINDEY R. DILLARD

*Partner & Head of Corporate Investment Banking at
Loop Capital Markets*

Sidney Dillard is an experienced financial services executive with over 30 years of experience providing advice and capital solutions to Fortune 500 corporations and middle market companies. She is recognized for building close, trusted relationships

with her clients and for her insights. As well, she is sought after for her perspective on business diversity opportunities for diverse-owned financial services firms.

She is currently a partner and head of corporate investment banking at Loop Capital Markets, which is among the largest, privately-held investment banks in the country. She is responsible for setting and executing on the firm's growth strategy with corporates on their capital raising and advisory needs. She serves on the firm's Management Committee and Fairness & Valuation Committee.

Ms. Dillard has led the establishment of Loop Capital Markets' reputation as a highly regarded investment bank for corporations across the country. She has spearheaded capital raising and advisory mandates valued at over \$600 billion across bond underwriting, initial public offerings, at-the-markets, share repurchases, private institutional capital raising and mergers & acquisitions advisory. Ms. Dillard has worked on deals in the following industries: consumer products and retail; financials; industrials; telecommunications, media and technology; REITs; SPACs; and utilities.

Prior to Loop Capital Markets, Ms. Dillard was a Senior Vice President and Division Manager at Northern Trust Bank. She was responsible for leading a team focused on business development and relationship management for commercial banking, treasury management, retirement plan custody and investment services for large corporations.

Ms. Dillard is focused on leadership, empowerment and access for women/girls and African-Americans in her philanthropic engagements. She is board chair for the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana and Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago; she is a board member for The Chicago Network, The Economic Club of Chicago and IFF (a CDFI) and Window to the World Communications, Inc. (PBS affiliate: WTTW and WFMT). She is on the board of directors for Health Care Service Corporation (a mutual) and Hennessy Capital Investment Corp. VI (NASDAQ: HCVI). As well, she serves on the Obama Foundation Inclusion Council.

Ms. Dillard is a graduate of Stanford University where she received an AB in Economics. She holds an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School of Management where she concentrated in Finance, Management and Marketing. She holds 7, 24, 63 and 79 FINRA securities licenses.

She is married and has two children who are 21 and 24 years old.





DUANE JACKSON

*founder and managing partner at
Author Capital Partners*

Duane Jackson is the founder and managing partner of Author Capital Partners. He has 20 years of experience advising and investing in public and private companies large and small.

Prior to founding Author Capital Partners, Duane was an investment professional at BDT Capital Partners, a merchant bank focused exclusively on founder- and family-led businesses. At BDT, he played key roles in the firm's U.S. Middle Market investment and research efforts as well as diversity and inclusion initiatives. He also served as a member of BDT's ESG working group.

Prior to joining BDT Capital Partners in 2014, Duane was a Toigo Private Equity Fellow at Vista Equity Partners, a private equity firm that exclusively invests in enterprise software and technology businesses. At Vista, he evaluated and executed investments and served in-house at a portfolio company, leading the implementation of several standard operational improvements and helping develop an M&A pipeline.

From 2011 to 2013, while pursuing his MBA, Duane worked within two separate family offices at Fireman Capital Partners and Manasota Capital, supporting each family's direct investment efforts in the lower middle market.

From 2009 to 2011, Duane served in the Chief Investment Office for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) at the U.S. Treasury Department where he assisted senior officials in responding to the financial crisis.

Duane began his career as an investment banker at Merrill Lynch, advising clients in the financial services and industrials industries. Duane earned an MBA from Harvard Business School where he was an MLT Fellow. He earned a BBA in Finance and International Business from the George Washington University.

He currently serves as an Investor-in-Residence at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business offering insight and advice to current MBA students and serves on the Board of Trustees of his alma mater, Lake Forest Academy.





NICK ANTOINE

*Co-Founder, Co-CEO and Managing Partner
at Red Arts Capital*

Nick Antoine is a Co-Founder, Co-CEO and Managing Partner at Red Arts Capital where he leads fundraising, research, and thesis development.

Before forming Red Arts in 2015, Nick served in a Chief of Staff role to the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ariel Investments, a \$17 billion asset management firm. He began his career as an Equity Research Analyst for Princeton Global Asset Management, before moving to Chicago to first join Ariel Investments on their Domestic Research investment team.

Nick is a Board Director of Coregistics, Sunset Pacific Transportation, Inc., Radius Logistics, Partners Warehouse, Inc., Flex Logistics and formerly served as a Board Director of MME, Inc., one of the nation's largest transportation service providers. He is also a Board Trustee of The Studio Museum in Harlem, WTTW Communications, Inc. (PBS Chicago), a member of The Economic Club of Chicago, The Chicago Club and serves as a member of Princeton University's Alumni Council Executive Committee.

Nick holds a B.A. from Princeton University.



SIDDARTH SUDHIR

Managing Director at RockCreek

Siddarth Sudhir is a Managing Director at RockCreek, where he is part of the private markets team. He works on sourcing, due diligence, and selection process for investments in venture capital, private equity, private credit, real assets, and co-investment.

Prior to joining RockCreek, Siddarth worked in the Global Fixed Income Group of Merrill Lynch Investment Managers, where he was responsible for developing quantitative portfolio strategies and covered asset-backed securities. He developed risk-controlled portfolio strategies for nearly \$200 billion of fixed-income assets, an internal credit scoring model for over \$75 billion of assets, and a valuation model for over \$80 billion of ABS assets.

Siddarth graduated from Georgetown University, summa cum laude, with a B.A. in Economics, and he holds an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA), and a member of the CFA Institute, CFA Society of Washington DC, and Massachusetts Society of CPAs. Siddarth serves as a member of the investment subcommittee on the finance committee of the Washington National Cathedral.



LA-YONA C. RAULS

Managing Director and Head of Corporate Cash Strategies at Mischler Financial Group

Approaching three decades of financial markets experience, La-Yona Rauls joined Mischler Financial Group in 2019, teaming with a broad spectrum of corporate and public sector clients to craft and successfully implement strategies that promote the integration and

stewardship of an ESG and DEI thematic within the fixed-income and cash asset classes. Ms. Rauls has successfully launched three partnership funds with BlackRock Asset Management. Prior to joining Mischler Financial Group, Ms. Rauls was the Western Region fixed-income sales manager at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in San Francisco.





WINSTON BLAKE

President at Attucks Asset Management

Winston Blake is President at Attucks Asset Management, an asset management firm with a specialization of designing and managing multi-manager portfolios for institutional investors utilizing diverse investment firms. Mr.

Blake works closely with the Chief Executive Officer on implementation of firm strategy, firm leadership, and business development. Mr. Blake serves on the Management and Investment Committees at Attucks, which focuses on the firm's operational integrity, financial and personnel management, as well as portfolio management decisions for clients.

Prior to his time at Attucks, Mr. Blake was an Investment Associate at Chase Capital Corporation (JP Morgan Chase), where he executed subordinated debt and equity investments for clients across JP Morgan Chase's U.S. footprint. Other roles during his time at JP Morgan Chase included experience as a Special Credits Officer for parts of the Multi-Family Real Estate portfolio and as a Commercial Banker.

Mr. Blake is a Board Member of Project OneTen, a Chicago-based organization focused on mentorship and skill development for young men of color in their early educational journey in Chicago Public Schools. Prior to that, he was an Associate Board Member of the Chicago Scholars Foundation. He is a member of the Business Leadership Council, Economic Club of Chicago and Former President of the Chicago Chapter for the National Association for Securities Professionals.

Mr. Blake holds a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies from Northwestern University, where he was a four-year letter winner and captain of the Men's Basketball Team, and MBA in Finance and Entrepreneurship from the Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.



GINA SANCHEZ

Independent Board Member at Los Angeles County Employee Retirement Association (LACERA)

Ms. Sanchez serves as a Chair of the Board of Investments for the Los Angeles County Employee Retirement Association (LACERA), appointed by Supervisor Hilda Solis of the 1st District of Los Angeles County. She also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Cedars Sinai Hospital as well as an Advisory Board Member to the UCLA

Masters of Financial Engineering Program. Finally, she serves on the Investor Advisory Group to the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, a nonprofit corporation established by Congress to oversee the audits of public companies in order to protect investors.

In her day job, Ms. Sanchez is the Chief Executive Officer of Chantico Global, a global investment consultancy and the Chief Executive Officer of Chantico Technology, a VC backed investment technology spin-out.

Previously, Ms. Sanchez was the Director of Equity and Asset Allocation for Roubini Global Economics. Before that, Ms. Sanchez served as managing director of public investments at the California Endowment, a US\$3 billion Los Angeles-based foundation and as director of public investments at the Ford Foundation, a US\$10 billion New York-based foundation.

Prior to that, Ms. Sanchez served as a portfolio manager and strategist for eight years at American Century Investment Management in Mountain View, Calif. where she ran over \$6.5 billion in AUM.

She is a contributor for CNBC and regular on The Exchange and Worldwide Exchange. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Harvard University and a master's in international policy studies from Stanford University.

As part of her continuing education, she also holds certificates in Corporate Governance and Audit Committee Operation from Harvard Business School and in Impact Investing and Impact Measurement from the Oxford Said School of Business, Oxford University.



SUZANNE YOON

*Founder and Managing Partner at
Kinzie Capital Partners*

Suzanne Yoon is the Founder and Managing Partner of Kinzie Capital Partners, a Chicago-based private equity firm that invests in lower middle market companies in the manufactured products, business services and consumer industries. She serves as Chair of

the Investment and Executive Committees for Kinzie. Yoon has over 25 years of experience investing in and advising middle market companies and is a respected leader in the business and civic communities. She serves on several private company and civic boards, including as Board Chair of Kinzie's portfolio companies and as Board Chair of the National Philanthropic Trust, a nearly \$25B donor advised fund.

Yoon earned her B.A. in Economics from the University of Iowa and is an Executive Scholar of Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. The Wall Street Journal recognized her as a Top Female Deal Maker Shaping Private Equity's Present and Future in 2019; Mergers & Acquisitions named her one of the Most Influential Women in Mid-Market M&A in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023; and Chicago United named her one of their Business Leaders of Color in 2021. Kinzie was also recognized by the Private Equity Women's Investor Network (PEWIN) as the North American Female Founded Firm of the Year in 2020.



AIYU NICHOLSON

Partner at StepStone

Aiyu Nicholson is a Partner in StepStone's private equity team, focusing on small and middle market buyouts, special situations and equity co-investments. She also sits on the Private Equity Portfolio Risk Management Committee, and sits on six Limited Partner Advisory

Boards and two company boards on behalf of StepStone. Prior to joining StepStone in 2009, Ms. Nicholson was a credit analyst at Tudor Investment Corporation, where she invested in emerging markets corporate debt. Before that, Ms. Nicholson was a private equity analyst in Lehman Brothers Merchant Banking group and an analyst in Lehman Brothers Telecom Investment Banking group. She graduated with a BA from Georgetown University.





ERICA DORAY SEREMETA

CIMA®, Global Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Client Engagement at BlackRock

Erica Doray Seremeta, CIMA®, (She/Her) is the Global Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Client Engagement within Human Resources. She is responsible for developing and driving BlackRock's DEI client engagement strategy and alignment globally, ensuring that we

are proactive in responding to clients' needs.

In her role, Erica amplifies BlackRock's DEI strategy to clients, including directly engaging with key contacts and training client-facing professionals on best practices in DEI engagement. Erica works across all distribution channels, including both institutional and retail clients. She partners with relationship managers engaging clients such as Pensions, Foundations, Endowments, Retirement Organizations, Corporations and Non-Profits. She also works with the Global DEI Executive Committee, DEI Business Leads, Ambassadors, Human Resources leaders.

Previously, Ms. Seremeta was a Relationship Manager within the Aladdin Product Group's Client and Sales Solutions team, where she was responsible for driving the unification strategy and adoption of enablement technology in partnership with the Client Experience Platform for BlackRock's Institutional Client Business. Ms. Seremeta's service with the firm dates to 1998, including her years with Merrill Lynch Investment Managers (MLIM), which merged with BlackRock in 2006. In 2008, she formed BlackRock's Advisor Services Group, which handles financial professional inquiries and supports BlackRock's Wealth Sales Teams.

Her previous roles at MLIM include Regional Sales Desk Manager, Sales Associate and Syndicate Equity Coordinator. Ms. Seremeta began her career in Defined Assets Funds at Merrill Lynch as a Hybrid Market Leader. Ms. Seremeta earned a BBA degree in finance and an MBA degree in finance from Rider University in 1998 and 2003, respectively.

She is also a Certified Investment Management Analyst (CIMA), FINRA Series 24 and holds a DEI certification from Cornell University. Ms. Seremeta is an active board member for IDAC: Inclusion & Diversity Advisory Council and an Investment Company Institute DEI Committee member. She has been a featured speaker and panelist at numerous external events along with serving as a keynote speaker for BlackRock's LGBTQ+ client program.





DANAN KIRBY

*Vice President and Client Portfolio Manager
at Ariel*

Danan Kirby is a Vice President and Client Portfolio Manager for the domestic equity research team. Danan serves as a liaison for the investment team and key investment decision-makers, communicating the process and results of the firm's domestic investment strategies. In a

research capacity, Danan covers financial services companies.

Prior to joining Ariel, Danan was a Client Portfolio Manager for Thornburg Investment Management, covering both equities and fixed income. Before Thornburg, he was a portfolio manager for Strategic Growth Bancorp managing multi-asset strategies for institutional clients. Earlier in his career, he served as a federal banking regulator at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation during the financial crisis. Danan is also a combat veteran of the U.S. Army. He graduated summa cum laude from the University of New Mexico's Anderson School of Management with a BBA, concentrating in finance. He is a CFA charterholder.



DOUGLAS JACKMAN

*Managing Director & Portfolio Manager at
Ramirez Asset Management*

Douglas Jackman is a Managing Director and Portfolio Manager at Ramirez Asset Management, focusing on institutional equity strategies. Mr. Jackman earned both his MBA with concentrations in Finance and Accounting from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business

and his AB degree in Economics. He began his career at Morgan Stanley in New York developing equity and FX trading systems. Doug also worked as a research assistant at the Center for Research in Security Prices (CRSP) affiliated with the University of Chicago.

Doug has been an active speaker at industry and state conferences including FPPTA, IPPFA, Opal, KORIED, TEXPERS, and TLFFRA on global and emerging market equities. Doug is a member of the CFA Society Chicago and was a Board Member from 2014-2018, serving as its chairman in 2016-17. He continues to chair the CFASC Annual Dinner which hosts over 800+ attendees annually. CFASC is the oldest global investment society with over 4500+ members. Doug has also been an active volunteer with the University of Chicago where he was awarded the Alumni Service Medal in 2023 to honor a lifetime of achievement in service to the University. Doug was born and raised in Grant, NE



SUSAN EDWARDS

*Operating Director of DEI & Impact at
The Vistria Group*

Susan Edwards is an Operating Director of DEI & Impact at The Vistria Group, a Chicago-based private equity firm committed to driving high-value social change.

Prior to Vistria, Susan made transformative contributions as a

Director at Management Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT), where she led the Private Equity Accelerator program. This groundbreaking initiative aimed to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the alternative investments space.

Before her role at MLT, Susan was instrumental as the Interim Executive Director at the Ellen Johnson Sirleaf Presidential Center in Liberia. Under her leadership, the Center successfully launched its flagship program on International Women's Day in 2020, solidifying its commitment to empowering African women in public service. She had the distinct honor of collaborating directly with Africa's first democratically elected female president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, on these efforts.

In her earlier career, Susan was an investment professional with the Pan African Capital Group in Liberia and the Abraaj Group in Kenya. At Abraaj, she invested out of the Africa Health Fund, a \$105 million fund backed by partners such as the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Gates Foundation. This fund made targeted investments in healthcare companies that provided quality, affordable products and services to the base of the economic pyramid.

Prior to Abraaj, Susan managed the nextONE Business Accelerator for Black-owned businesses at the Chicago Urban League, thereby strengthening community enterprise and creating avenues for

economic growth. Susan began her professional career at Abbott Laboratories, where she excelled in various engineering and program management roles.

Susan currently serves on the Board of Directors for The PAR Fund, a nonprofit that fosters relationships between venture capital investors and marginalized founders. She also serves on the Advisory Board of Facing History Chicago, an organization that brings teachers and students together to address difficult questions around race, membership, and identity through a social justice lens.

Susan received a B.S in Chemical Engineering from Stanford University and an M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. She lives in Chicago with her husband and two children.

