



***Celebrating the milestone of 100WHF's 500th Education event***

**100WHF New York Gala Honorees share their perspectives about Shareholder and Corporate Governance Practices**

**Attended by HRH The Countess of Wessex, Global Ambassador of 100WHF Next Generation initiatives  
Introduced by Diana Taylor, Vice Chair, Solera Capital LLC and Citi Board of Directors member**

November 10, 2015 at 6 PM  
New York

Join us for a moderated discussion with our 2015 New York Gala honorees and hear their insights and views about the evolving corporate governance and shareholder practices particularly in the U.S. How are shareholders impacting diversity in the boardroom as well as increasing transparency around board leadership, composition and succession planning? Hear the panelists views about the role and influence of shareholders and investors in strengthening corporate governance practices.

Diana Taylor, Citi Board member, will introduce the panelists and welcome [HRH The Countess of Wessex, Global Ambassador of 100WHF Next Generation initiatives](#).

**Participants**

**Michelle Edkins**, BlackRock

**Bess Joffe**, TIAA-CREF

**Rakhi Kumar**, State Street Global Advisors

**Anne Sheehan**, CalSTRS

**Robert J. Kueppers**, *Moderator*, Sage Partners LLC

**Diana L. Taylor**, Vice Chair - Solera Capital LLC and member of Citi's Board of Directors, Introductory Remarks

**Event Details**

**Date:** November 10, 2015

**Time:** 5 PM Registration.

We will begin *promptly* at 6 PM; please arrive early. Since it is disruptive to everyone when latecomers enter the session, those arriving after an education session has begun will only be admitted at the discretion of 100WHF and the host. Please note the start time on this invite and plan to arrive early.

**Host:** Citi

**Location:** 153 East 53rd Street, 14th Floor, **New York**, NY 10022

**RSVP:** [RSVP Now](#)

If you have any questions about this event, please contact [celebratingeducation@100womeninhedgefunds.org](mailto:celebratingeducation@100womeninhedgefunds.org)

**This event is NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION. All 100WHF events are private events and we require that no one reports publicly on any aspect of them.**

**Admission is free, but there is a \$25 charge if you register and do not attend, even if you cancel in advance. No-show proceeds will be donated to 100WHF Foundation - Celebrating Education/Investing in the Next Generation initiative, the 2015 beneficiary of 100WHF's US philanthropic initiatives.**

If you have no-show fees in arrears, the system cannot register you for an event. You can view and pay for any outstanding no-show fees online from your [Member Profile](#)

Space is limited. No walk-ins will be permitted.

## Biographies

**Michelle Edkins**, Managing Director and Global Head of Corporate Governance and Responsible Investment, BlackRock

Michelle Edkins is a Managing Director at BlackRock and Global Head of its Investment Stewardship team of 22 specialists based in five key regions internationally. In that role, she is responsible for the team's engagement and proxy voting activities in relation to the companies in which BlackRock invests on behalf of clients. She also serves on the firm's Human Capital and Government Relations Steering Committees.

Michelle is an active participant in the public corporate governance debate and regularly speaks and writes on the importance of good stewardship for company performance. She was named in the NACD (the US National Association of Corporate Directors) Directorship 100 Governance Professionals list for the past four years. She is also a Fellow of the Aspen Institute's First Movers program and a former Chairman of the Board of Governors of the International Corporate Governance Network. She is an alumna of BlackRock's Women's Leadership Forum and its Enterprise Leadership Program. She currently serves on the Advisory Council of the International Integrated Reporting Council and is a member of the steering group of the US chapter of the 30% Club, a market initiative to increase the number of women on boards and in senior management.

Prior to joining BlackRock in 2009, Michelle was Managing Director at Governance for Owners, an independent partnership offering products that support responsible long-term share ownership. She started her corporate governance career in the UK in 1997 at Hermes Pensions Management, where she spent eight years, initially as the head of the corporate governance team and thereafter as Director of Institutional Relations. An economist by training, Michelle has also worked for New Zealand's Reserve Bank and the British High Commission in Wellington. She lives in San Francisco with her husband and two children.

**Bess Joffe**, Managing Director, Head of Corporate Governance, TIAA-CREF

Bess joined TIAA-CREF in 2014 to lead, shape and drive the company's corporate governance program and policies. This includes active ownership, public advocacy and proxy voting consistent with our commitment to best practices in corporate governance and social responsibility. Bess is a well-known senior leader in the industry and well-respected as a leading voice in this field.

She was previously in Investor Relations at Goldman Sachs, where she led the company's outreach to institutional investors on corporate governance policies and practices. In this role, she engaged with asset managers, public pension funds, proxy advisory firms, governance thought leaders and academics. Prior to joining Goldman Sachs in 2010, she was an associate director at Hermes Equity Ownership Services in London, leading engagement and voting for client holdings in the Americas.

Bess earned a BA with great distinction from McGill University. She is a Canadian-qualified lawyer from the University of Toronto and gained experience in corporate and securities law at Stikeman Elliott LLP. She also worked for Fairvest in Toronto, now ISS Canada, and PIRC, a UK-based proxy research and advisory firm. In 2008, she was recognized as a Rising Star in corporate governance by the Yale School of Management's Millstein Center.

Bess is based in London and travels frequently to New York City.

**Rakhi Kumar**, Managing Director, Head of Corporate Governance, State Street Global Advisors  
Rakhi Kumar is Managing Director and Head of Corporate Governance at State Street Global Advisors (SSGA). She is responsible for developing and implementing SSgA's global proxy voting policies across all investment portfolios and managing issuer engagement. Since taking over the department, Rakhi has strengthened SSGA's stewardship program by incorporating a risk based approach; developed and implemented a new environmental, social and governance ("ESG") and portfolio performance screening tools; identified stewardship priorities that drive SSGA's stewardship efforts; and increased integration with investment teams across SSGA's global investment centers.

Rakhi is a member of SSgA's Senior Leadership Team, SSGA's Global Proxy Review Committee, a co-chair of SSgA's ESG Working Group, and a member of the State Street's Corporate Responsibility Working Group and SSGA's Diversity Initiative.

Rakhi earned her MBA('02) from Yale University and her Bachelors of Commerce('95) from Bombay University. She is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India since 1997. In 2014, Rakhi was named as one of the ten people who had the most impact on corporate governance in the previous year by the Global Proxy Watch, a newsletter of international corporate governance and shareowner value.

**Anne Sheehan**, Director, Corporate Governance, CalSTRS

Anne Sheehan joined CalSTRS in October 2008 as the director of corporate governance with nearly three decades of senior management and leadership experience addressing complex legislative, regulatory and public finance issues.

The California State Teachers' Retirement System, with a portfolio valued at \$184 billion as of August 31, 2015, is the largest educator-only pension fund in the world. CalSTRS administers a hybrid retirement system, consisting of traditional defined benefit, cash balance and voluntary defined contribution plans. CalSTRS also provides disability and survivor benefits. CalSTRS serves California's 879,000 public school educators and their families from the state's 1,700 school districts, county offices of education and community college districts.

Prior to CalSTRS, Anne served as chief deputy director for policy at the California Department of Finance, where she sat as a member of the Teachers' Retirement Board, the governing body of CalSTRS, in addition to more than 40 other high-profile state boards, commissions and public authorities. Anne also has Washington policy experience, having served as the deputy assistant secretary for Congressional Affairs with the U.S. Department of Energy.

**Robert J. Kueppers**, Partner, Sage Partners LLC

Bob Kueppers is a partner of Sage Partners LLC, a consulting firm specializing in consulting on corporate strategy and value creation. He is a Regulatory and Corporate Governance expert who retired earlier this year from Deloitte LLP after a 39-year career. During his tenure at Deloitte, Kueppers worked extensively with the audit committees of many Deloitte audit clients, particularly: The Dow Chemical Company, General Motors Company, The Boeing Company and Best Buy Inc.

For the past 30 years he has been recognized as a leader in the accounting profession and has chaired profession-wide organizations, committees, task forces, and working groups dealing with seminal issues impacting the profession. He is a frequent speaker and accomplished writer on matters affecting the auditing profession. Mr. Kueppers has significant regulatory experience in Washington DC having led or overseen Regulatory activities, Government Affairs, and Public Policy for Deloitte.

In 2009, 2012, 2013, and 2014 Mr. Kueppers was recognized by the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) Directorship magazine as one of the top 100 influential professionals in corporate governance and in the boardroom. Mr. Kueppers is an active member of the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) and the International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN).



#### About Citi

Citi is a proud member of 100 Women in Hedge Funds' Leadership Council. [100WHF Leadership Council](#) is a select group of international banks, alternative investment firms, asset management firms and others in the industry who support the long run mission of 100 Women in Hedge Funds.

Citi, the leading global bank, has approximately 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 160 countries and jurisdictions. Citi provides consumers, corporations, governments and institutions with a broad range of financial products and services, including consumer banking and credit, corporate and investment banking, securities brokerage, transaction services, and wealth management.



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About 100 Women in Hedge Funds ([www.100womeninhedgefunds.org](http://www.100womeninhedgefunds.org))

100 Women in Hedge Funds is a global, practitioner-driven non-profit organization serving over 13,000 alternative investment management investors and professionals through educational, professional leverage and philanthropic initiatives. Formed in 2001, 100 Women in Hedge Funds has hosted close to 500 industry education events globally, connected more than 250 senior women through Peer Advisory Groups and raised over \$36 million for philanthropic causes in the areas of women's health, education and mentoring.