

**SINCE 1996** 

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# **2021 QUORUM CLUB PROGRAMME** VIRTUAL DISCUSSION | SEPTEMBER 29

# **VIRTUAL REGISTRATION DETAILS TO FOLLOW**

Well, where were we when we last spoke? We certainly do live in crazy times. Perhaps that has become the new normal for a GC and his/her team and company. The reality is upheaval and disruption. On an almost daily basis-a GC has to be alert and agile in order to respond. As has been suggested at every recent Quorum Club gathering, the pace of change will never be slow again! In this rapidly changing environment, the question becomes how to frame our views in a practical way and how to present legal solutions.

No question that the pandemic exposed many global challenges and vulnerabilities. The need for our companies to evolve in order to survive this uncertainty has focused both attention and momentum on different elements of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors and this will be the focus of this year's Quorum Club.

This is a broad topic and we realize the role of the GC in addressing the ESG agenda varies by company and type of organization. We also know the pace of life has changed in the past 18 months and that businesses have accepted their responsibility to address ESG issues more definitively moving forward. We cannot cover the totality of the topic, but we can focus on having engaging and thought-provoking discussions for General Counsel on the following areas within the ESG context: equity, diversity and inclusion; climate change; employee wellbeing; and reporting/disclosure considerations.

# 10-11 AM EDT THE GC'S WORLD IS CHANGING

GC's from across the corporate world will each give an overview of their respective industry and the strategic changes they are seeing. These perspectives will help us frame the ESG conversations taking place during the rest of the Quorum Club session. Speakers will comment on social & demographic changes; digital trends; public policy and regulatory trends, the impact of sustainability; healthcare challenges and litigation trends.

# **MODERATORS:**

- Noble Chummar, Deputy Managing Partner, Cassels Brock & Blackwell
- David Woollcombe, Partner, McCarthy Tétrault

# SPEAKERS:

- Andrea Cotroneo, Chief Legal, Compliance and Risk Officer, Capital One Canada
- Bassem Shakeel, VP, AGC and Corporate Secretary, Magna International Inc.
- Marc Toppings, VP and CLO, University Health Network
- Andrea Wood, Chief Legal and Governance Officer, TELUS

# 11:15 AM-12:30 PM EDT

# **ESG AND THE EVOLUTION OF IN-HOUSE PRACTICE**

The increasing prioritization of ESG issues for corporations and their outside legal service providers is leading to an evolution of in-house legal practice. While companies are in the midst of conversations about what are appropriate ESG components the GC community is calibrating its role in this complex field. Our speakers will discuss their roles as both GCs and "strategic advisors" in driving companies' approaches to different elements of ESG. The long list of GC responsibilities is both complex and yet at times poorly defined. We also know that the modern GC is now a generalist, an attribute which promotes the GC's role in driving corporate ESG initiatives, while helping management address risks and realize opportunities, all while also supporting the Board's exercise of oversight.

#### **MODERATORS:**

- Howard Kaufman, Partner, Fasken
- Ian Michael, Partner, Bennett Jones

# **SPEAKERS:**

- Shelley Babin, SVP, Law & General Counsel, Chief Ethics Officer, Ontario Power Generation
- Yonni Fushman, EVP, CLO, | Chief Sustainability Officer | Corporate Secretary, Aecon Group Inc.
- Andrea Wood, Chief Legal and Governance Officer, TELUS

# 12:45-1:45 PM EDT

# LUNCH SPEAKER | BROOK GREENBERG, QC, PARTNER FASKEN VANCOUVER

Legal professionals, including those working in-house, experience mental health and substance use issues at significantly higher rates than the general public, or even as compared to members of other stressful professions. The COVID 19 pandemic both exacerbated existing issues and added new challenges for legal professionals.

Join us as **Brook Greenberg**, will speak about these vitally important issues, and what employers, law groups and individuals can do to better address these matters. Brook has been an elected Bencher of the Law Society of British Columbia since 2016. He is currently Chair of the Law Society Mental Health Task Force.

# 2:00-3:15 PM EDT

# **GENERAL COUNSEL IN CAMERA**

# Moderator | Clare Smith, GC of Pepsico Beverages (Canada)

Finally, we will present our annual GC only session. This is an in-camera opportunity for those in attendance to raise any issues they wish for discussion with their peers. Experience tells us that there will be no shortage of questions and topics for consideration.

Please let us know the topics you would like us to address in this GC only session.