



**Connie R. Collingsworth**

### ***Board Profile***

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- Seasoned board member with expertise in governance, risk management, regulatory, compensation, human capital and ESG for publicly traded and privately held companies, and private equity
- Board leadership positions include Board Chair, Compensation Committee Chair, Nominating and Governance Committee Chair and membership in Audit, Risk, and Investment Committees
- Former Chief Operating Officer and Chief Legal Officer of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the world's largest foundation with over \$65B in assets
- Experience leading complex multi-million-dollar R&D transactions with bio-techs and pharma
- Extensive international experience establishing and managing operations of eleven regional offices in China, India, Africa and Europe

### ***Corporate Board Experience***

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**BANNER CORPORATION** (NASDAQ: BANR) 2013-present  
Publicly traded bank holding company with \$16.8B in assets, operating 150 branches throughout U.S. West Coast  
**Chair, Governance & Nominating Committee; Board Member, Compensation and Executive Committees**

**AXXES CAPITAL, LLC** 2021-present  
Private market platform supporting accredited investors to democratize private equity through expanding access to a range of private equity assets, including business development companies specializing in corporate debt and minority stakes and real estate investment trusts  
**Board Member; Audit Committee**

**PLANET FIRST PARTNERS** 2021-present  
\$500M European private equity fund based in London and Luxemburg focused on investments aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals and Europe's Green Deal  
**Advisory Board Member**

**PREMERA BLUE CROSS** 2013-2022  
Preeminent health care insurance company serving 2.5 million members with 9 of 10 largest corporations in Pacific Northwest as clients, including Amazon, Microsoft, and Starbucks  
**Chair, Compensation Committee; Member, Governance, Audit, and Investment Committees**

## **ATTENEX CORPORATION**

Privately held technology company created as leader in eDiscovery marketplace

2000-2008

**Board Member**, serving from start-up through successful acquisition by FTI Consulting, Inc.

## **Executive and Management Roles**

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### **BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION**

2002-present

World's largest private foundation with over \$65B in assets focused on improving healthcare and reducing poverty in the developing world and expanding educational opportunities in the U.S.

**Senior Advisor**

March 2023-Present

**Former Chief Operating Officer, Chief Legal Officer and Executive Leadership Team Member**

- Advisor to Trustees, Bill Gates, Melinda French Gates and Warren Buffett, CEO, and Executive Leadership Team on governance, CEO succession and risk management
- Manage foundation's worldwide business operations, Information Technology, Human Resources, Legal, Global Security, and Grants and Contracts Services distributing over \$8.25B annually
- DEI Leadership Council, Co-Chair
- Lead intellectual property strategy and approach to enterprise risk management
- Established and manage operations in regional offices throughout China, India, Africa and Europe
- Complex agreements with World Bank, UN Agencies, IMF, WHO, and foreign governments

### **K&L Gates**

1987-2002

Prominent, full service, international law firm

**Partner**

- Lead attorney for complex M&A transactions, private equity financings, and VC and hedge fund formation
- Executive Committee Member—Responsible for management of firm
- Compensation Committee Member—Responsible for setting partner compensation
- Chair of Business Department—Responsible for managing budget and work of lawyers, plus support staff

## **Nonprofit Board Experience**

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### **WOMEN'S WORLD BANKING, NYC**

2011-2020

Global nonprofit serving 57 financial institutions in 32 countries devoted to increasing access to financial tools for 30 million low-income women representing the largest emerging market

**Board Co-Chair; Member, Compensation, Audit and Finance Committees**

### **FRENCH AMERICAN SCHOOL OF PUGET SOUND**

1995-1999

Full immersion French language school with over 380 students; pre-school-grade 8

**Co-Founder; Board Chair; Board Member and President**

## **Education**

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Stanford Directors College

Harvard Business School Leadership Forum

LL.M, International Business Legal Studies, University of Exeter, England

J.D., University of Nebraska

B.A., Andrews University