

MICHELE LYNN CONNELL



TO REQUEST CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THIS INDIVIDUAL, PLEASE
EMAIL SHAWN TAYLOR KAMINSKI: SKAMINSKI@DIRECTWOMEN.ORG

A recognized expert and strategic advisor on global mergers and acquisitions in high-risk regulatory and commercial end markets ranging from automotive, fintech, industrial manufacturers and healthcare companies. With over 25 years' experience in the international arena, including as a diplomat for the U.S. government, my business acumen, language skills and cross-cultural awareness are global in nature. I have extensive experience leading strategic investments in challenging markets, including China, Brazil and Europe, and innovating structures to minimize execution and integration risk. I am a trusted advisor to public company boards on sensitive matters in governance, shareholder activism and strategic decision making and have significant experience leading effective teams, including 250+ professionals in one of our firm's largest offices.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Squire Patton Boggs, one of the world's largest international law firms 2003 – Present
Managing Partner of the Squire Patton Boggs Cleveland office, one of the largest offices in the global firm, with leadership responsibility for over 250 team members

- Serves on the Compensation Committee of the Board and consults with the Board and Chairman on business strategy, sensitive or confidential partnership matters, compensation decisions, succession planning and talent management
- Increased productivity more than 10% over a three-year period through successful execution of business strategy to expand market share in key growth areas
- Successfully implemented multi-million dollar administrative and business development improvements to achieve business wins and innovate support services for the future
- Exceeded revenue generation and other financial goals on a quarterly and annual basis each year
- Led talent recruitment and retention innovation initiative and diversity efforts resulting in the recruitment of successful partners and an increase in diversity metrics each year in the position

Partner in the global corporate practice specializing in international mergers & acquisitions, shareholder activism and governance, and securities law compliance

- Lead international mergers & acquisitions adviser for extensive multinational client base across end markets including diversified industrial and transportation (OEM, tier 1 and tier 2 suppliers in the automotive industry), fintech and healthcare on transactions ranging from \$100M to over \$1B in size and involving up to 35 countries, with particular expertise in carve-outs and competition regulations across multiple jurisdictions, including China, Brazil and Europe
- Expert counsel to companies on shareholder engagement and activism, including engagement with institutional investors such as BlackRock and State Street and successful negotiation of settlements with NYC Comptroller on proxy access and GAMCO on multiple board proxy contests
- Established expert on corporate governance and compliance for U.S. public companies, advising on FINRA and SEC inquiries, CEO transitions, special committees, and strategic succession planning

U.S. Department of State

1995 – 2000

Foreign Service Officer serving in the diplomatic corps in U.S. Embassies in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and Warsaw, Poland with extensive international experience in negotiations, diplomacy, politics, and cross-cultural endeavors representing the U.S. Government and its mission

- Received Meritorious Honor Award for work rescuing individuals and rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Mitch in Honduras
- Negotiated a bilateral maritime agreement with the Honduran government to increase U.S. market access to key fishing waters
- Led a U.S. trade mission to Honduras for infrastructure investments after Hurricane Mitch, resulting in U.S. companies winning millions of dollars of contracts
- Appointed special assistant to the U.S. Ambassador in Poland, traveling with the Ambassador throughout the country on trade and diplomatic missions
- Served as country liaison in Poland for the Drug Enforcement, monitoring trends in drug trade through Europe and working with Polish authorities to address those

BOARD CREDENTIALS

University Hospitals Health System, Inc., \$4B healthcare system employing over 28,000 physicians and team members

- Member of Compensation and Governance Committees
- Member of Subcommittee for acquisitions and strategic ventures

DirectWomen Board Institute Class of 2019

- Selected for exclusive and in-depth training to serve as public company director over a six-month process, including a two-day seminar and training session with sitting board chairs and CEOs

HONORS

Received the 2018 National Women in Law Awards in the category of “Innovative Leadership”

Recognized as a leading lawyer in Latin America the last three years by the *International Financial Law Review’s Energy and Infrastructure: Latin America Guide*

2016 Woman of Note by *Crain’s Cleveland*

Meritorious Honor Award, U.S. Department of State

EDUCATION

Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland, Ohio

2000-2003

JD, *summa cum laude*

Valedictorian, Order of the Coif and Note of the Year, *Case Western Reserve Law Review*

Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, Washington, D.C.

1991-1995

BS, *magna cum laude*

Proficient in Polish; fluent in Spanish