



Karna Nisewaner

Global Executive with 25 years of experience as a business-focused legal advisor who enables business success while transforming organizations and operations. Skilled in leading and scaling teams to solve multi-dimensional problems in the technology industry, with deep experience in strategy, governance, risk management, intellectual property, regulatory, public policy, privacy, AI, and the semiconductor ecosystem.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cadence Design Systems, Inc. (Nasdaq: CDNS a multinational software company that provides design software to the semiconductor industry) San Jose, CA

Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Corporate Secretary May 2011 to May 2025

Served as General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Cadence since September 2022. Company leader focused on M&A, government relations (with DOD classified clearance), and public company disclosures. Managed a team of 50 people responsible for the company's legal functions, trade compliance, stock administration, and ESG reporting.

- **Governance:** Enabled a smooth executive chair transition and a lead independent director transition on the board; built a strong proxy process with all votes aligned with the board recommendations for the last 3 years.
- **M&A:** Managed over 20 multinational strategic transactions, including public and private target acquisitions, carveouts, asset purchases, and strategic investments.
- **Compliance:** Built trade compliance operations to enable the company to comply with the semiconductor ecosystem's new and changing export regulations.
- **Investigations:** Instituted an investigation process to enable better tracking and understanding of the financial, employment, and IP investigations to facilitate auditing and reporting.
- **Development:** Created a license compliance program, yielding the company around \$100M yearly.

Intuit Inc. (Nasdaq: INTU, Tax and Accounting software company) Mountain View, CA
Patent Counsel 2007 to 2011

Advised a variety of business leaders on intellectual property topics.

- **Patent Portfolio:** Provided innovation and patent support for several business units, including patent prosecution, licensing, and counseling, growing the company's strategic IP portfolio.
- **Transaction Support:** Developed and advised on an IP integration and technical due diligence process to support acquisitions and integration processes.
- **Open Source Policy:** Developed open source use and contribution policies, launched code.intuit.com, and led an internal open source advisory team.

IBM Corp. (NYSE: IBM) San Jose, CA; Somers, NY; Westborough, MA
Attorney 2003 to 2007

Supported multiple data management groups, providing IP support involving patents, copyrights, trademarks, and opinion studies.

- **Patent:** Provided in-depth patent review into one family of patents in a patent thicket, enabling the business to move forward after a several-year delay.
- **Open Source Policy:** Restructuring the software group's open source review process.
- **Transaction Support:** Supported over 16 acquisitions by developing the software group process for due diligence in acquisitions. Assisted in acquiring and integrating large companies, including Ascential Corporation and FileNet.
- **Due Diligence:** Developed an IP due diligence process to support aggressive M&A timelines and the need for targeted reviews.

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner

Palo Alto, CA

Associate

2001 to 2003

Drafted over 40 patent applications and prosecuted many other cases. Acted as the primary patent counsel for a software company, managing their \$400 million patent portfolio. Assisted in litigations and interferences.

Pretty & Schroeder

Los Angeles, CA

Associate

2000

Summer Associate

1999

Assisted with patent litigation, including discovery, document surveys, site sweeps, drafting and filing discovery motions, and conferencing with opposing counsel.

Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Singapore

International Fellow

June 1996 to June 1997

Taught computer programming and basic electronics to Singaporeans. Lectured 350 college students and taught small classes. Developed and filmed instructional videos on using computer products.

Sandia National Laboratories

Livermore, CA

Summer Intern

Summer 1995

Developed software that simulated the search for lost or stolen nuclear weapons. Received high-level government security clearance.

BOARD EXPERIENCE

Palo Alto Community Child Care, 2017-2023, the largest provider of childcare in Palo Alto with a \$10 million annual budget; Chair of the board through the start of the pandemic, leading through a transformation.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

UCLA School of Law

Los Angeles, CA

J.D.

2000

Princeton University

Princeton, NJ

B.S.E., Civil Engineering and Operations Research | Certificate in Engineering Mgt Systems

1996

- *Thesis*: The Design and Development of an Autonomous Vehicle: Issues, Ideas and Implementation

Member of the Class of 2025 of the DirectWomen Board Institute

Stanford Directors College, June 2024

National Association of Corporate Directors – Certified Director (2025)

2024 Women Influence & Power in Law (WIPL) GC of the Year honoree