



DLA Piper Global Women's Leadership Summit



Stasia Kelly

Senior Advisor to the Chair
Executive Director – Client Relations
DLA Piper

Stasia Kelly has extensive experience as both outside counsel and as a general counsel and brings these perspectives to her practice, working closely with boards of directors, general counsel and in-house legal teams, helping clients design and implement effective governance and compliance programs. Ms. Kelly also advises boards and executives on crisis management.

Ms. Kelly is the Senior Advisor to the Chair and Executive Director of Client Relations. She served as the firm's US Managing Partner from 2012 to 2020.

Firmly committed to helping advance women at DLA Piper, Ms. Kelly is a mentor to a number of the women lawyers and is on the leadership committee of the firm's Leadership Alliance for Women (LAW), which is committed to the hiring, development and advancement of women lawyers.

Ms. Kelly joined DLA Piper in 2010 after a 15-year career as general counsel in four leading public companies. She has previously advised across several areas of the law, including the regulation of financial institutions and securities firms and white collar defense. In her four general counsel roles, Ms. Kelly focused on helping companies through challenging crises and building effective legal and compliance organizations.

Ms. Kelly served as the Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Fannie Mae, where she centralized the company's legal and compliance functions and upgraded the talent across Fannie Mae's five offices nationwide.

In 1999, Ms. Kelly was recruited as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Sears, Roebuck in the wake of the company's serious compliance issues in its credit business. At Sears, Ms. Kelly restructured the legal and compliance teams and developed and strengthened the company's legal and compliance functions.

In 2002, Ms. Kelly was asked to join the restructuring team at MCI/WorldCom during its bankruptcy and restructuring in what was then the largest ever US bankruptcy. She served as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of MCI and helped lead the team that successfully brought MCI out of bankruptcy, culminating in the acquisition of MCI by Verizon in 2006.

In 2006, Ms. Kelly joined AIG (American International Group) as Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Compliance and Regulatory Officer. In that capacity, she built worldwide legal, regulatory and compliance teams across the AIG enterprise in the aftermath of the government investigations. In 2009, Stasia Ms. Kelly named Vice Chair of AIG with additional responsibility for government relations, external communications, human resources and corporate affairs across AIG during the financial crisis.

Ms. Kelly's extensive role in dealing with different crises in different industries, positions her well to advise both managements and Boards of Directors in crisis situations, both to deal with current events and to help shape future plans for the company post-crisis.

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Ms. Kelly sits on the board of directors of two public companies. At O-I Glass, the world's largest manufacturer of glass packaging, she chairs the Governance and Nominating Committee and is a member of the Risk Committee. At Huntington-Ingalls Industries, which designs, builds and maintains nuclear and non-nuclear ships for the US Navy and Coast Guard, Stasia is a member of the Governance and Policy Committee and the Compensation Committee.

Ms. Kelly has been honored with many awards that underscore her contributions to the legal profession. In 2014, the ABA Commission on Women in the Profession honored Stasia with the prestigious Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award for her many career successes and her extensive involvement in assisting other women to succeed in the field of law.

The National Law Journal named Ms. Kelly to its list of "Trailblazers & Pioneers," recognizing the top 50 legal professionals in the areas of governance, risk and compliance. The NLJ particularly cited her 15-year career as a general counsel, during which she developed governance and compliance teams for four leading public companies, and noted her leading role in launching DLA Piper's Global Governance and Compliance practice.

Lawdragon magazine named her to its Lawdragon 500, noting that "with 15 years under her belt as a general counsel for four different public companies, Ms. Kelly now chairs DLA Piper's esteemed Governance practice, while also co-running the megafirm's US operations." She has also been inducted into the Hall of Fame, recognizing past members of the Lawdragon 500 who have made remarkable contributions as leaders, litigators, dealmakers, power brokers, judges and innovators.

Ms. Kelly received her undergraduate degree in English, cum laude, from Trinity University in Washington, DC and her law degree, magna cum laude, from George Washington University Law School, where she was a member of the Order of the Coif and the George Washington University Law Review. Earlier in her career, Ms. Kelly was associated with a firm based in Dallas, where she practiced in the Litigation group.