



DLA Piper Global Women's Leadership Summit



Lynn Watkins-Asiyanbi

Senior Vice President, Chief Administrative and Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary
CECO Environmental Corp.

Lynn Watkins-Asiyanbi is a native of Chicago and attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she graduated with degrees in Chemical Engineering and Economics. Upon graduation, she worked for General Mills in operations and later moved to Mars, Inc. in operations and later in logistics. She returned to graduate school to pursue a Juris Doctorate and MBA at Northwestern University.

Upon receiving her JD/MBA, she worked at Cargill in their Strategy and Business Development Leadership Program. She left Cargill and moved to DLA Piper in their Corporate Finance group working on mostly transactions dealing with commercial finance and debt restructuring. She moved to another international firm in their Corporate and Securities group, concentrating on multi-jurisdiction mergers and acquisitions, including cross-border joint ventures and the implementation of multi-country tax-driven, corporate restructuring projects. Ms. Watkins-Asiyanbi transitioned to an in-house counsel role with US Foods, Inc. where she primarily focused on transactional related matters from a procurement, transportation logistics, and national sales perspective as well as managed the company's intellectual property portfolio. She was formerly Associate General Counsel at W.W. Grainger, Inc. (NYSE: GWW) supporting the Global Supply Chain organization including global sourcing, product management, transportation logistics and international businesses that were North American and European based. As Deputy General Counsel, Division General Counsel for the Liquid Foods Division and the Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer for John Bean Technologies Corporation (NYSE: JBT), headquartered in Chicago, she was responsible for all things legal in her division (which included 19 locations, including 10 non-US sites) and worked with her business partners on a variety of strategic matters. She was responsible for supporting, on a corporate-wide basis, the HR-team and IR team. She served as legal advisor to the Compensation Committee for the Board of Directors. Currently, Ms. Watkins-Asiyanbi serves at Chief Administrative and Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary for CECO Environmental Corp. (NASDAQ: CECE), headquartered in Dallas. She is responsible for the following functions on a global basis: human resources (including executive compensation and benefits), corporate communications, safety and legal. She is actively involved in mergers and acquisitions and integration activities as well as governance and supports the board in her role as Corporate Secretary.

Ms. Watkins-Asiyanbi is also very involved in the Chicago community. She received the 2017 Business Leader of Color award from Chicago United for her many contributions and this honor shows a readiness to serve on corporate boards. She currently serves as the Board Chair for Women Employed, Inc., a member of the Education Committee for the John G. Shedd Aquarium, a member of the Wisconsin Alumni Association's Alumni Advisory Board, and a member of the President's Council for the Museum of Science and Industry. She has served on the board of directors for the former Girl Scouts of Chicago Council as well as a troop leader and volunteer. She was an inaugural associate board member for the Chicago Committee on Minorities in Large Law Firms; a former board member for Black Women Lawyers' Association of Greater Chicago and Illinois Chapter for the Alzheimer's Association; and she has mentored several high school students through LINK Unlimited. Ms. Watkins-Asiyanbi is also a 2016 Fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago and is an active member of Jack and Jill of America, Chicago Chapter and a life member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Despite her busy schedule, she still finds time to devote to her husband, Charles, and two sons, Nicholas and Zachary. Ultimately she lives by the motto, "Give a person a fish, they eat for today; teach a person to fish, they eat for a lifetime." She truly believes that a

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person is only limited when the doors of opportunity are closed to them; otherwise, they should aspire to conquer their dreams.

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