Panel on Improving Diversity and Inclusion in the Asset Management Industry

Robert Raben, Raben Group

Robert Raben, and the eighty or so people who have joined him in the unique public policy firm he created in 2002, works to drive public policy in a humane and sensible direction; to bring diversity and equity to the boardrooms and think tanks and corporations of America; to create a fair judiciary and to influence legislation that will broaden civil rights, reform our criminal justice system, and improve education for all our children.

Nearly 30 years of professional experience as an attorney, senior Hill staffer, and Assistant Attorney General have given Robert a nuanced understanding of both the legal subtleties and the political realities of the issues he handles. In addition, he brings an aggressively bipartisan approach to the firm, built during a highly respected legislative career that began on Representative Barney Frank’s staff and concluded with House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde’s endorsement of his Justice Department appointment.

Robert served as counsel to Congressman Barney Frank, Democratic counsel for two Subcommittees of the House Judiciary Committee; first on the Constitution, then on the Courts and Intellectual Property.

In 1999, Robert’s reputation and effectiveness caught the attention of the White House, earning him an appointment as Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General and, subsequently, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs. After a unanimous confirmation vote by a Republican-controlled Senate, Robert was charged with overseeing Attorney General Janet Reno’s legislative initiatives and handling extensive Congressional oversight of the department.

Since 2002 he has run The Raben Group. Robert serves on the Boards of The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the Unidos Action Fund, and former President Barack Obama’s My Brothers’ Keeper Alliance. Past Board Service includes the American Constitution Society, Alliance for Justice, and the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project.

He is a serial NGO entrepreneur, having formed the Hispanics for a Fair Judiciary, the Friends of the Museum of the American Latino, Green 2.0, Committee for a Fair Judiciary, the March on Washington Film Festival, and the Pasos Graduation ceremony for Latino law students.

Robert is a native of Miami, and a graduate of the Wharton School and the New York University Law School.
Juan Martinez, Knight Foundation

Juan Martinez joined Knight Foundation in May 2002.

As a member of Knight’s executive committee Martinez is a partner in the development and implementation of the foundation’s strategy. He is also responsible for the foundation’s financial management, reporting and regulatory compliance, overseeing the management of its $2.2 billion investment portfolio and partnering with program staff in development of grants and program-related investments.

In 2011, Martinez led the development of the Knight Enterprise Fund. The fund is a venture capital investor in early-stage digital media companies that align with Knight Foundation’s program mission. Since its inception, the fund has invested in more than 40 companies. Martinez serves on its advisory committee and on the board of portfolio company ViewLift.

Martinez started his career at CPA firm Arthur Andersen & Co. He left after four years to found a film production company as well as a financial consulting practice focused on providing financial services to small to midsized corporate clients. Prior to joining Knight, he was manager of financial planning for Telemundo Group Inc.

He is an alumnus of Florida International University, Miami Dade College and the Wharton School of Business. He has been a certified public accountant in the state of Florida since 1992. He serves on the board of directors of the Florida International University Foundation, the Council on Foundations and City-to-City Miami. In 2010, Martinez was named Nonprofit CFO of the Year by the South Florida Business Journal. He is married to Christa Erml-Martinez and they have two children.

Solange Brooks, New America Alliance

As of January 6, 2020, Solange Brooks is the Chief Executive Officer of the New America Alliance. The New America Alliance is a non-profit organization initially dedicated to advancing the economic development of the American Latino community; but now advocates on behalf of all communities of color and gender. American Latinos have always included people from a multiplicity of ethnic and racial groups and mixes of those groups. It is a diverse world that is quickly becoming mainstream. Our guiding principle is to lead a stronger America by having our members leverage their success and influence to increase capital access for women and minority-owned firms. The current pandemic has made our resolution stronger, as these are the communities hardest hit by the virus and all its repercussions.

Before coming to NAA, Mrs. Brooks was a Portfolio Manager within the Investments Branch of the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (CalSTRS) – a fund with approximate assets of $242.8 billion (May 31, 2020). She was part of a 6-member senior team that reviewed, analyzed and invested in private equity investments – the team made $8 Billion in commitments in 2019. She managed a global portfolio of limited
partnerships in buyout, venture, growth and separate managed accounts, including mega-funds, funds-of-funds, and emerging manager funds.

In October 2008, Mrs. Brooks was bestowed the Award of Excellence by the National Association of Investment Companies Board of Directors. This leadership recognition is bestowed to an individual person that has demonstrated personal achievement in their careers and has made outstanding contributions through influence and/or direct actions to the promotion and benefit of minority business ownership. In 2012, the New America Alliance honored her with the Pension Leadership Award for Promoting Latino Advancement. Mrs. Brooks has been a long-time supporter of the efforts of the Robert Toigo Foundation by being part of the Advisory Committee and serving as Chair from 2009-2014. The Robert Toigo Foundation is an organization whose mission is to Change the Face of Finance by encouraging exceptional minority students to consider finance as a career, and as an opportunity to be the future leaders in the global economy.

Prior to joining CalSTRS in 2004, Mrs. Brooks had served in various leadership positions within California state government – Chief Deputy Inspector General and Executive Director for the California Commission on Correctional Peace Officer Standards and Training. She is a veteran – a former US Air Force Intelligence Officer – and has served as an adjunct professor at Sacramento City College. Her undergraduate education is in international business and economics, and she has earned an MBA from the California State University, Sacramento.

**Ron Parker, National Association of Securities Professionals**

Ronald C. Parker is the President and CEO of The National Association of Securities Professionals (NASP), the preeminent securities advocacy organization for minorities and women in the country and around the world.

Prior to joining NASP, Parker was President and CEO of The Executive Leadership Council (ELC), an organization representing global black CEOs, senior executives and corporate board members of Fortune 1000 and global 500 organizations.

In addition to his leadership roles at NASP and The ELC, Parker was with PepsiCo for nearly 30 years and retired from his position as Senior Vice President of Human Resources, Labor Relations and Global Diversity & Inclusion. During his time at PepsiCo, Parker served in several positions across multiple functions including field operating and corporate staff roles.

Currently, Parker serves on the Board of The Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), the Board of Baylor Scott & White Hospital, the Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board of Procter & Gamble, the Board of Visitors for Howard University’s School of Business, the United Way Foundation of Metropolitan Dallas Board, and is a former Board Member of the Executive Leadership Council.
Parker is a graduate of Texas Christian University (TCU), holding a B.A. in Political Science. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for TCU, serves as Chair of the University’s Development Committee, and is on the Board of Advisors for TCU’s Neely School of Business. Parker is National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) Board Fellow and a frequent speaker on governance, diversity & inclusion, and leadership matters.

Brenda Chia, Association of Asian American Investment Managers

Brenda Chia is a Director at Paladin Capital Group a leading venture and growth investment firm based in Washington, DC, with deep expertise in cybersecurity. Her responsibilities include identifying and developing new opportunities for Paladin in the areas of LP relationships, investments, co-investments and exits.

From 2007 until 2012, Brenda was a founding Board Member and first President of the Association of Asian American Investment Managers (AAAIM), an organization that brings together institutional capital and qualified Asian American investors across major asset classes to conduct business and build alliances. She played a major role in fostering the organization's key relationships with U.S. public pension funds, endowments, foundations and Asian sovereign wealth funds. Brenda is the current Board Co-Chair of the organization which currently has over 4,000 institutional investors and fund managers in its network.

While attending business school at Harvard, Brenda developed the strategy and market approach to commercialize a proprietary technology for reconfigurable computing developed at MIT. The company, Silicon Spice, was funded by Kleiner Perkins, Cisco Systems and New Enterprise Associates, among others. Broadcom acquired Silicon Spice in 2000.

Brenda has broad U.S. and international experience developing and executing business, marketing, and operational strategies for emerging and established companies. She served as a principal with The Boston Consulting Group in Boston and a project manager for Accenture in Asia and Europe. Brenda has worked abroad extensively in Singapore, London and Jakarta.

She holds a B.S. degree in Computer Science, graduating at the top of her year with First Class Honors from National University of Singapore, and an MBA from the Harvard Business School. She is fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese, and Bahasa Indonesia.

Bob Greene, National Association of Investment Companies

Robert L. Greene is President & CEO of the National Association of Investment Companies (NAIC), the industry association representing diverse-owned private equity firms and hedge funds. Bob is responsible for leading all facets of the association including capital and policy advocacy, performance research, member services, and strategic alliance development.
Bob is the former Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Virginia Retirement System (VRS), an $85 billion public pension plan which administers a defined benefit plan, a defined contribution plan and a variety of other retirement benefits for over 600,000 state employees. During his tenure Bob led a number of committees of the board including the Audit & Compliance Committee, Administration & Personnel Committee, and Investment Policy Committee.

Previously, Bob was Director of Private Equity with Arthur Andersen’s Transaction Advisory Services Practice where he provided due diligence and other advisory services to some of the largest private equity firms in the nation like Allied Capital, Texas Pacific Group and The Carlyle Group.

Bob is widely regarded as a thought leader in entrepreneurship, finance and diversity & inclusion. He was recognized in The Root 100 list of prominent business leaders and is a frequent speaker for the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute, Pension Bridge, NMSDC, Robert Toigo Foundation and the Executive Leadership Council.

Bob received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), in Richmond, Virginia. Bob holds lifetime memberships in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., the National Eagle Scout Association, and the National INROADS Alumni Association.

Panel on Data Privacy and Technology’s Impact on Investment Advice

Stuart Rubinstein, Akoya

Stuart Rubinstein serves as Chief Executive Officer of Akoya, LLC, an independent company spun out of Fidelity Investments in 2020. Akoya is now owned equally by Fidelity, The Clearing House Payments Co. and eleven of its member banks. Mr. Rubinstein conceived and launched Akoya and built the team focused on helping financial institutions enable consumers to securely permission third-parties to access their account data and documents.

Mr. Rubinstein joined Fidelity in September 2014 as senior vice president of Digital Solutions for the company’s Personal Investing (PI) division. In this role, he oversaw the online client experience for Fidelity’s flagship retail website and mobile applications. During his tenure, Fidelity was named the No. 1 online broker by Barron’s, Investor’s Business Daily, and Kiplinger’s.

Before joining Fidelity, Mr. Rubinstein was managing director of eCommerce at TD Ameritrade. His 14-year tenure included leading the company’s retail web, mobile and social media initiatives and, prior to that, leading retail and financial advisor marketing. He has also led eCommerce initiatives for Goldman Sachs and the Dreyfus Corporation. Earlier in his career, Mr. Rubinstein held positions in life insurance, consumer software, and other consumer product industries.
Mr. Rubinstein has testified on data privacy issues before the United States Senate Banking Committee and The House Financial Services Committee’s Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit. He has been a member of Fidelity’s Technology Audit Advisory Committee and its Customer Protection Steering Committee.

Mr. Rubinstein holds a Bachelor of Science degree in management information systems from the State University of New York at Albany, and an MBA in marketing from New York University’s Stern School of Business.

Lowell Putnam, Plaid

Lowell Putnam manages partnerships and commercial strategy at Plaid, the technology company powering the fintech ecosystem. Thousands of companies, like Venmo, Robinhood and Acorns, use Plaid's suite of APIs to build applications that enable millions of consumers to lead healthier financial lives. Today, one in four people with a US bank account have used Plaid to connect with a fintech app. In his role, Lowell helps financial institutions, technology companies, and other strategic customers leverage account connectivity to deepen consumer relationships.

Lowell co-founded and served as CEO of Quovo, a data platform providing connectivity for millions of financial accounts, until January 2019 when Plaid acquired the company. Prior to co-founding Quovo, he worked in the investment banking division of Lehman Brothers/Barclays Capital, specializing in consumer credit companies and structured finance transactions.

Lowell holds a bachelor’s degree from Harvard College and serves on several advisory boards for technology companies and non-profit organizations. He lives in Manhattan with his wife and son.

Eric Clarke, Orion

Eric Clarke serves as chief executive officer for Orion Advisor Solutions (Orion), helping advisory professionals operationalize their vision for success by delivering cutting-edge financial technology and investment management solutions through the organization’s four subsidiaries, Orion Advisor Tech, Orion Portfolio Solutions, CLS Investments, and Constellation Trust Company. Prior to, Eric was the founding CEO of Orion Advisor Tech, which he continues to lead, and previously served as COO for CLS Investments. As an industry-recognized thought leader and advocate for fiduciary advisors, Eric has written articles that have appeared in Investment News and The Journal of Financial Planning, and has received numerous industry awards including ThinkAdvisors’ IA25 in 2012, 2019, and 2020, and Investment News’ Icon & Innovators Award in 2019.

Eric earned a BS in Accounting from Brigham Young University and an MBA from the University of Utah. As an avid runner, Eric uses the solitude of his runs to think through business strategies and plan new scenarios to help advisors increase functional efficiencies and improve their businesses.
Hardeep Walia, Schwab Asset Management Solutions

Hardeep Walia is currently SVP Product Innovation at Schwab Asset Management Solutions. Prior to joining Schwab, Hardeep Walia was founder and CEO of Motif, a technology-driven thematic investing company that combined data science and automation to develop breakthrough financial products for individual investors, financial institutions and investment advisors.

Motif was voted by Fast Company as the “World’s Most Innovative Company in Personal Finance” and was consecutively ranked on CNBC’s Disruptor 50 List. Hardeep was named by Goldman Sachs as one of the “100 Most Intriguing Entrepreneurs” in the world and recognized by Forbes as one of “The New Money Masters”.

Before Motif, Hardeep spent more than six years at Microsoft, where he was General Manager of the company’s enterprise services business. He also served as Director of Corporate Development and Strategy, helping to oversee Microsoft’s investments and acquisitions. He started his career as a consultant at The Boston Consulting Group.

Hardeep holds a B.S. in Engineering and Economics from Yale University, and an MBA from The Wharton School of Business.

He also holds Series 7, 24 and 63 licenses in the securities industry. He has served as a member of FINRA’s Technology Advisory Committee, FINRA’s Small Firm Advisory Board, and as an advisor to U.S. Bank’s Ascent Private Capital. He is currently a Board Member at The Peace Studio.