

# **TAGLaw International Conference:**

Identifying & Developing Legal Leadership Talent

Brussels, October 2012

## **LEADERSHIP**

'Show me a good leader and I'll show you a good business'

- David Novak, Chairman & CEO, Yum! Brands

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- Can lawyers be leaders?
- Do lawyers need to lead?
- How do lawyers become leaders?

#### PERSONAL BACKGROUND

- Background:
  - City of London corporate lawyer
  - General Counsel since 1998
  - Legal writer, speaker and catalyst
  - Commercial executive, leading commercial teams
  - www.deepakleadership.com
- Rubis International:
- International FMCG, UK, Asia & Africa
- Own brand
- Distribution

# WHY FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP?

- A passion for leadership
- White paper research
- $\odot$  A major challenge
- $\odot$  Our opportunity
- $\ensuremath{\, \scriptstyle \odot \,}$  Objective to discuss, probe, facilitate and inspire

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- Law firms
- Legal regulators
- Government
- Business public, private, global, local, executive, non-executive
- Not for profit, university, charity

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- A broad canvas:
  - Leading law firms
  - Leading government
  - Leading in business?
  - Jurisdictional variances
- FTSE 100:
- 10 out of 781 NEDs are lawyers
- FTSE 250:
- 34 out of 1411 NEDs are lawyers
- Fortune 100:
  - 51% have lawyers on Boards

Source: Hedley May Board research

## RUNNING A LAW FIRM/ BUSINESS

- The areas of overlap:
- Need to make profits
- Strong global and local focus
- Ability to set direction and assess execution
- Managing stakeholders
- The differences:
- Investment decisions
- Innovation and route to market
- Complexity of business

Great	leaders	are	alm	ost a	ılway	s great		
simpli	fiers, w	ho can	cut	throu	gh a	rgument,		
debate	e and	doubt,	to	offer	a	solution		
everybody can understand'								

- Colin Powell, ex Chairman Joint Chief of Staff, US Government

## LAWYERS AS LEADERS

- 'Nobody becomes a CEO straight away' Chris Smedley, CEO GeoNetworks, ex General Counsel Colt Telecom
- The case for lawyers to lead, regardless of organisational context:
- Strong intelligence & analytical skills
- Ability to deal with high pressure situations
- Ability to communicate
- International citizens and experience
- Ability to understand a broad cross section of business

# HOWEVER.....

- Numeracy
- Experience of leading and inspiring large commercial teams
- Confidence
- Access to the talent pool

#### **RISK & REWARD**

- $\ensuremath{\,\scriptstyle{\odot}}$  Do lawyers understand risk?
- Do lawyers understand reward?
- It's critical to be able to make decisions with less than 100% of the facts

# KEY LEADERSHIP ATTRIBUTES

- Ability to motivate staff
- Ability to work well across cultures
- Ability to facilitate change

Source: Growing Global Executive Talent, Economist Intelligence Unit

### HOW DO LAWYERS GET THERE

- GC as stepping stone?
  - Kenneth Frazier, GC Merck 2006 CEO 2011
  - A great role, close to the business
- Relationship with CEO/Chairman and stakeholders
- Strategic and a full business partner
- ${\scriptstyle \odot}$  Moving earlier in one's career?
- Improving soft skills
- ullet Developing financial skills

# HOW DO LAWYERS GET THERE

- $\ensuremath{\text{@}}$  Commercial acumen, whether MBA, L&D mixed with hands-on
- Mentoring & coaching
- $\ensuremath{\raisebox{.05ex}{\tiny \odot}}$  Lobbying and partnering with HR, search & selection
- Importance of succession planning

#### **THREE QUESTIONS**

- Can lawyers be leaders?
- Do lawyers need to lead?
- $\odot$  How do lawyers become leaders?

## **CALL TO ARMS**

- Legal leaders:
- Spot them early
- Develop them appropriately
- Champion leadership
- Celebrate its success
- What will you do on your return to develop your leaders?
- Look out for and support the leadership white paper

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- Q/A
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