

The NED

Independent intelligence on fund director issues

Issue 53 • January 2016

Annual governance review

Five themes for the year ahead



As is now traditional at this time of year The NED takes a step back from day to day fund director issues to reflect upon broader industry themes. We look back to forecasts we made in January 2015 and give some predictions for the year ahead.

Much has changed in this business in the four and a half years that The NED has been in publication. The role of a fund director is in some ways different, and it is certainly more important, from the period prior to the market crisis. (And if another market crisis is just around the corner, as some fear like George Soros, will there be a further step change for directors in its aftermath?)

Although there have been some significant developments over the last four or more years, week in and week out, this industry often just treks along giving the appearance that everything is much as the same as ever – save for the occasional thunderbolt like Weaving. That is why The NED does these annual reviews; to give slightly different perspective on what is happening underneath the day to day routine.

In 2015 we made three forecasts. This January we look back and update those. Also, we add two new topics that could be playing a much bigger role in fund directors' lives this year than in the past.

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Compulsory director registry in BVI

The British Virgin Islands is introducing a compulsory register of directors. The information on the register will be made available to 'competent authorities in the execution of their duties' – meaning regulators, tax administrators or law enforcement agencies. Other persons will only have access by getting a court order.

BVI Premier, Orlando Smith, also announced amendments to the BVI's money laundering regulations, setting out restrictions on persons able to act as an intermediary or 'eligible introducer', and placing due diligence requirements on BVI financial institutions who rely on these intermediaries to bring in new customers.

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