

Maureen Short, NACD.DC

maureenbshort@gmail.com | [Linkedin.com/in/maureenshort](https://www.linkedin.com/in/maureenshort) | 214-801-5954

Maureen is an experienced public company CFO and Board Director with over 27 years of financial leadership across a diverse range of industries and technology-enabled businesses. She has gained expertise guiding organizations through significant transformations and aligning management teams on increasing shareholder value. Maureen is able to solve complex problems, drive insightful and constructive discussions, and challenge and nurture teams through major change and strategy execution. Her experience includes turnarounds at distressed companies, driving organic and inorganic growth, M&A, crisis management, investor relations and activism, public capital markets, and strategic planning.

Maureen is an independent Board Director and Audit Committee Chair at Big Lots (NYSE: BIG), a \$4.7 billion retail/consumer company, where she provides strategic guidance and oversight. Leveraging her financial and M&A experience, Maureen helped navigate the company through a major change in strategy, refinancing, a strategic alternatives review process, filing for Chapter 11, and the planned sale of the company.

As the former CFO of Upbound Group (NASDAQ: UPBD), the parent company of Rent-A-Center (NASDAQ: RCII) and Acima, a \$4 billion multi-unit retail/consumer company, Maureen led the organization through a transformation, broadening its customer base and diversifying revenue streams resulting in doubling the business. She helped navigate the organization through a period of significant change including a proxy contest, activist investors joining the board causing significant C-suite and Board turnover, the potential sale of the company after a strategic alternatives review process, and the successful turnaround of the business. By enhancing the value proposition and implementing \$140M+ in efficiencies, comp sales grew from negative double-digits to positive and the stock price doubled in 2 ½ years.

As a strategic CFO, Maureen managed 150 employees and built high performing, collaborative teams who partnered with the business to drive operational execution in fast-paced, high growth environments. She led the due diligence processes for multiple billion-dollar M&A deals, and successfully secured \$1.8 billion in capital during a challenging macro-economic environment, demonstrating her ability to navigate complex financial landscapes and drive strategic growth.

As a trusted advisor to the CEO and Board of Directors, Maureen presented at public company Board and Audit Committee meetings for over 8 years, advised on capital allocation strategies, and navigated complex challenges with innovative thinking. Maureen also helped champion Upbound's inaugural ESG Report and mentored 40+ women as an Executive Sponsor of the Diversity Council.

She is well-versed in governance practices, having held several Board of Director positions and advisory roles on various committees including the Disclosure Committee, Risk/Compliance Committee, and the Cybersecurity Committee. She has also overseen the enterprise risk assessment, ensured SEC and regulatory compliance, and maintained strong relationships with investors and bankers.

Prior to Upbound Group, Maureen held Strategic Planning and Finance positions at Blockbuster (NYSE: BBI) and Accounting/consulting roles at Sprint (NYSE: S).



Board Assets

- Public company Board Director
- Audit Committee Chair
- CFO / Financial expert
- NACD Certified Director®
- Distressed Companies
- Turnarounds
- Crisis strategist
- IR & activist experience
- M&A
- Growth strategist
- Digital transformation
- ESG and Cybersecurity

Board Experience

- Big Lots, Audit Chair and Capital Allocation Committee
- SPCA of Texas, Nom/Gov Committee
- Upbound Group, 8 years of board experience
- National Charity League, Audit & Nominating Committees

Recognition

- "Women to Watch for Boards" by 50/50 Women on Boards

Education

- University of Florida Warrington School of Business, MBA in Finance and Marketing
- University of Kansas, BS in Business Admin
- London School of Economics, Int'l Business and Economics program