

Venita E. Fields

Financial Services Leader/Board Director



- **Qualified Financial Expert**
- **Banking, Corporate & Private Equity Finance**
- **Audit & Risk Management**
- **Mergers & Acquisitions**
- **Governance & Strategy**
- **Talent Acquisition & Succession Planning**
- **2021 NACD Directorship 100**
- **Chicago United Business Leader of Color**
- **2024 Cybersecurity Leadership Workshop**

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EXECUTIVE BIO

Ms. Fields is an experienced independent corporate board director and has also served on numerous company boards as an investor. She has over 25 years of financial management in banks and investment firms and serves as a Qualified Financial Expert on boards. **Ms. Fields has extensive board experience and serves on one public company board (Superior Group of Companies: (NASDAQ: "SGC") and three private company boards.**

Throughout her successful financial services career, Venita has served in numerous leadership roles. In her corporate banking career Ms. Fields structured, closed and/or managed approximately \$2.0 billion in senior investments in the automotive, aviation, food, industrial manufacturing, retail, and service sectors, achieving the rank of Senior Vice President with Bank of America.

Ms. Fields is a Partner for Pelham S2K Managers, LLC ("Pelham S2K"), providing junior capital and private equity investments for privately held middle market companies. Formed in 2016, Pelham S2K is the Manager and General Partner of two \$100 million+ Limited Partnerships, Pelham S2K I & II. She currently serves as an Advisor and a member of the Investment Committee.

Previously for more than a decade, Ms. Fields was a Partner with Smith Whiley & Company. She was also a senior member of Smith Whiley's Investment Committee and oversaw the investment and commitment of 38 mezzanine and private equity transactions that the Advisor directed and managed in its three private equity funds: SW Pelham Fund, L.P., Fund II and Fund III. **As an investor, she has served as a Board Director on a dozen portfolio companies in the food and beverage, manufacturing, retail, and business services sectors throughout the USA.**

Ms. Fields has a Master of Management degree from the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management and a B.A. degree from Northwestern University. In addition, she joined the faculty at Kellogg as a Guest Lecturer teaching Entrepreneurial Finance from 2010-2012.

Ms. Fields is a member and/or leader of the following organizations: Association for Corporate Growth (ACG) Chicago, Past Chapter President; Chicago Finance Exchange (CFE), Past President; Economic Club of Chicago; National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) and Women Corporate Directors (WCD), Ms. Fields is a past Board Director for the Chicago Chapter of the Private Directors Association. She is a current Board Director The Ravinia Festival, the oldest outdoor music festival in the United States (Highland Park, IL). Ms. Fields is a member of the Evanston-Northshore Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.

SUMMARY OF BOARD EXPERIENCES

Governance/Board Experience

Current

- **Superior Group of Companies (NASDAQ: "SGC") SGC**, established in 1920, is a combination of companies that helps customers unlock the power of their brands by creating brand experiences for customers and employees. SGC has operations in the U.S., Brazil, China, Viet Nam, Haiti and India. **She serves on the Audit, Nominations & Governance Committees and Chairs the Capital Committee (2019-Present)**
- **IMA Financial Group ("IMA"/Private)**. IMA is the 5th largest privately held, employee-owned insurance broker in the United States. **Ms. Fields Chairs the Audit Committee. (2019-Present)**
- **LifeSpace Communities, Inc., ("Lifespace"/Private)**. Lifespace is a provider of seventeen (17) senior care living communities in the United States. **Ms. Fields is Chair of the Board and serves on the Board's Executive Committee, She is past Chair of the Nominations & Governance and the Finance & Investment Committees (2018-Present)**
- **Derry Enterprises ("Derry"/Private)**. Derry is a second-generation family-owned distribution company providing inventory management and supply chain services for fasteners and other Class C items in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. **(2015- May 2023; February 2025-Present) Rejoined the board at Chairman's request)**

Past

- **David's Bridal, Inc. ("DBI"/Private)** DBI is an international clothier that specializes in bridal dresses, formal wear and bridal accessories. DBI operates stores in 45 states. **Ms. Fields Chaired the Audit Committee. (January 2019-September 2023)**

Not-for Profit Governance /Board Service

- **The Ravinia Festival ("Ravinia")**. Ravinia (Highland Park, IL) is the oldest outdoor music festival in the United States. **Ms. Fields serves on the Executive Committee and Chairs the Ravinia Steans Music Institute Committee. (2014-Present)**

Talent Acquisition and Succession Planning

- Worked at the Board Level in reconstituting Senior Leadership Team: David's Bridal Inc. (2019).
- As Board Chair works with CEO of Lifespace Communities on succession planning and hiring of key management leadership.

Personal Industry Network

- **Nationally recognized professional with a deep, diverse network of national business leaders**
 - **Awards and Recognitions:** Recognized as one of **Top 25 Black Board Members in the U.S.**, by **BoardProspects in 2023**. Selected for inclusion in the **2021 NACD Directorship 100**; For five consecutive years (2017-2021) Ms. Fields was nationally recognized in the annual edition of **Mergers & Acquisitions Magazine** as one of **"The Most Influential Women in Mid-Market M & A"**; Recognized in the August 2019 edition of **Directors & Boards Magazine** as **"A 2019 Director to Watch"**; Recognized as a **"Business Leader of Color"** by Chicago United; YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, **"Woman of Achievement in the Business Category 2004"**.
- **Recent Speaking Engagements**
 - Women for Economic and Leadership Development (W.E.L.D.) National Conference (April 2024);
 - Private Company Governance Summit (May 2024);
 - ESG Insights: A Private Directors Association Five-Part Podcast Series (July2021): <https://lms.pcdassociation.org/podcasts/>;
 - BDO Chicago Black Professionals Network Panelist (March 2021).