

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Details

Name Nicola Sawford
Mobile Phone 07884 181 007
E mail nsawford@blueyonder.co.uk

Summary

Chair, Non-Executive Director, Advisor and Trustee

Chair of Milton Keynes Development Partnership, Chair of Chelmer Housing Partnership, Director at the Federation of Small Businesses and Trustee of the charity The Access to Justice Foundation. Chair and member of various committees including governance, risk, audit and nominations. Member of the Managing Partners Forum and Fifth Day Advisory Boards.

Chartered accountant with extensive senior executive experience covering all operational areas and a wide variety of sectors including: professional services, telecommunications, financial services, technology, retail, media, regulation, legaltech, housing, property and charities. Strong financial, analytical, commercial and management skills coupled with NED experience in governance, audit, strategy, risk and regulation.

Executive career culminated in the role of Chief Executive at Serle Court, legal organisation; drove significant growth whilst being responsible for strategy, marketing, business development, digital and all operational areas. Prior to this worked in a number of senior manager and director level roles with a financial, commercial and analytical focus, culminating in a plc Finance Director appointment.

Shortlisted for the NED Director Awards in 2023 and included in the 2018 Cranfield 100 Women to Watch, Female FTSE Board Report.

Non-executive

Federation of Small Businesses (March 2023 - Present)

Director The FSB offers members a wide range of business services including advice, financial expertise, support and a voice heard in government. SID and member of the audit committee.

Milton Keynes Development Partnership (April 2020 - Present)

Chair Facilitates Milton Keynes' continued growth and economic success by promoting the development of its land assets to deliver economic and social value, with over £150m of investment properties. Focus on property development, local housing company and placemaking for Central MK. Member of Audit and remuneration and nomination committees and on the board of Milton Keynes Housing Company.

Chelmer Housing Partnership (October 2017 - Present)

Chair Developing housing association: turnover £74m, 11,000+ homes under management, 27,000 customers, £700m+ fixed assets and 300+ employees. Director of Myriad Capital PLC and Myriad Homes Ltd. Member of governance, remuneration and nomination and treasury and investment committees.

The Access to Justice Foundation (September 2015 - Present)

Trustee The foundation aims to improve access to justice for the most vulnerable in society. Trustee, Treasurer, Chair of audit committee.

Bar Standards Board (January 2015 – August 2021)

Non Executive Board Member Legal services regulator for barristers. Regulating over 16,000 barristers, annual budget of £10m. Chair of the governance, risk and audit committee and representative on the Bar Council audit committee.

Changing Faces UK (December 2013 – December 2020)

Trustee Charity for people with a visible difference. Trustee, chair of the audit committee and member of the finance committee.

Legal Practice Management Association (July 2011 – July 2015)

Committee Member A membership organisation for law firm managers.

Obelisk Legal Support (November 2012 – October 2013)

Non Executive Director Award-winning company focusing on diversity and flexible solutions in the legal sector. Initially worked with the board before becoming a Non-Executive Director.

Institute of Administrative Management (February 2012 – May 2013)

Trustee Leading awarding organisation and professional body.

Advisory**Fifth Day – Advisory Board (June 2022 – Present)**

Member Pro bono opportunities for business services professionals.

Managing Partners' Forum – Advisory Board (October 2017 – Present)

Member The forum brings together professional firm leaders to share ideas on strategic leadership and management excellence.

Legl (February 2018 – November 2020)

Advisor LegalTech, using technology to give lawyers and clients a better experience of legal services. Online payments, client on-boarding, crowd funding and group claims.

Executive**Serle Court (December 2003 – July 2015)**

Chief Executive Leading barristers' organisation specialising in business law in the UK and overseas, with turnover of £30m+, over 60 fee earners and 25 staff. Delivered significant growth whilst modernising and digitally enabling the organisation. Responsibilities included: strategy, marketing, business development, management, compliance, finance, property, digital and operations.

Affinity Internet Holdings Plc (June 2002 – April 2003)

Group Financial Director Techmark listed communications service provider with turnover of over £50m. Responsibilities included the finance function, corporate finance, investor relations, supporting fund raising and driving restructuring. The company went into administration in April 2003.

Vesta Group Ltd (July 2000 – June 2002)

CFO Venture capital / early stage investment business focused on new technology/digital companies in wireless, financial services and government sectors. Responsibilities included finance, supporting fund raising, working with portfolio companies, the investment committee and operations.

BrokerTec Europe Ltd (August 1999 – July 2000)

Finance Director Established in 1999 to set up an electronic bond-trading platform. Capitalised at c.\$100m. Subsequently bought by ICAP. Key role in the successful launch. Responsibilities: finance, treasury, compliance, HR, property and administration.

London Stock Exchange (Feb 1996 – August 1999)

Head of Business Analysis Head of department responsible for analysis of the performance, markets and competitors. Major projects: merger talks, the Euro introduction and a pricing review.

BBC (August 1993 – January 1996)

Corporate Finance Manager Senior member of the head office team responsible for providing analysis of financial performance for the Director General.

Storehouse (BhS) (September 1990 – July 1993)

Commercial Accounting Manager Provided financial support to Head Office and Stores as a member of the head office finance team.

Price Waterhouse (September 1986 – August 1990)

Assistant Manager Trained in audit on a mixed client base.

Education and Qualifications

1978-1983 Oulder Hill Comprehensive School, Rochdale; 11 'O' levels and 4 'A' levels
1983-1986 Leeds University; Economics and Accountancy BA (hons) II(i)
1986-1989 Chartered Accountant, Price Waterhouse, London
1999 SFA Securities Representative