



Industry Professionals serving as non-executive directors to Alternative Fund

Variety is the Spice of the Board Table



There is no dispute that board diversity is important. The meaning of ‘diversity’ in this context does, however, have more than one interpretation. At IPAF the focus is on diversity of skills and experience.

There is no shortage of non-executive directors with legal or accounting qualifications and indeed many of the IPAF panel fit into that category and are truly excellent.

But alternative fund boards need to include other expertise as well; they also need directors who understand how investment decisions are made, how risk is measured, how markets behave under pressure, how managers raise assets, and how operational weakness can turn into disaster.

This is the point of IPAF’s panel: to strengthen boards with people who have actually done the work – and have the battle-scars to prove it.

Take IPAF’s Irish team (all of whom also work across several jurisdictions):

Mairead Kenny has held positions as MD, COO and Director of Marketing and Investor Relations in both London and New York. She also has considerable experience in sustainability, clean energy, bitcoin and cryptocurrency.

Nicola Meaden Grenham has significant knowledge of strategic business development, asset raising, risk management, investment management, private markets and hedge funds. She founded a hedge fund research business and served on Blackstone’s alternative investment committee and is also the founder of a business that provides advisory and research services in the alternative sector.

Michael Walsh has held senior positions (CEO, CFO, CRO and COO) in global financial markets, investment management and digital asset brokerage firms. He was founding partner of a hedge fund and also has considerable experience in cryptocurrency and tokenization.

This is what useful board diversity looks like. A mixture of judgement, expertise and practical knowledge, with directors who will ask different questions because they have done different jobs.

Caroline and Stella
Directors, IPAF Group

About IPAF

IPAF provides Industry Professionals – independent, knowledgeable and experienced people - as non-executive directors to Alternative Funds. IPAF is run from London with a panel of 19 directors across 7 jurisdictions: Cayman, Luxembourg, Ireland, Switzerland, the Channel Islands, Portugal and UK. All the IPAF directors are independent of each other and no fee is charged by IPAF to a fund that selects a member of its panel; the fund only pays the director's fees.

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