

Rick Palmore

Senior Counsel



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Chicago

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Overview

Rick Palmore is a senior counsel at Dentons. With nearly 20 years of experience serving as a general counsel and as a public company director, Rick advises public and private corporations and their leadership suites on risk management and governance issues across practices and industry sectors. He focuses on issues such as regulation, internal investigations, board responsibilities and performance, due diligence, litigation, brand protection, advertising, marketing and labeling.

Rick also is a nationally recognized advocate for diversity in the legal industry. He is the author of *A Call to Action: Diversity in the Legal Profession*, a legal industry manifesto urging general counsel to drive diversity by demanding results in the law firms with which they work as well as in their departments. The initiative later grew into the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD), a collaboration between general counsel and managing partners, which was formed in May 2009 and now includes more than 225 corporate chief legal officers and law firm managing partners. Rick was the founding chair of the LCLD's board of directors and continues to serve on its executive committee.

From 1996 to 2008, Rick was an executive and counsel at Sara Lee Corporation, where he was general counsel from 1999 to 2008; he ultimately held the titles of executive vice president, general counsel and secretary for the consumer food giant from 2004 to 2008. Rick was executive vice president, general counsel and chief compliance and risk management officer of General Mills Inc. from 2008 to 2015.

Recognition

Honors and Awards

- "40 Most Influential Lawyers of the Decade," by the National Law Journal, 2010
- Corporate Exemplar Award, National Legal Aid & Defender Association
- Spirit of Excellence Award, American Bar Association
- Scales of Justice Award from the Equal Justice Works Foundation

- Pinnacle Award for Lifetime Achievement, National Bar Association

Insights

- "A Call to Action: Diversity in the Legal Profession," Association of Corporate Counsel, October 2004

Activities and Affiliations

- Founding chair and current board member, Leadership Council on Legal Diversity
- Member, board of directors, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company
- Member, board of directors, Express Scripts
- Member, board of directors, Chicago Board Options Exchange
- Former chair, Association of General Counsel
- Former board member, Boys & Girls Clubs of Chicago
- Former board member, Public Interest Law Initiative
- Former board member, Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago
- Former board member, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

Prior and Present Employment

Prior to joining Dentons, Rick was executive vice president, general counsel and chief compliance and risk management officer of General Mills Inc. Earlier in his career, Rick served as an assistant United States attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

Education

- University of Chicago Law School, 1977, JD
- Yale University, 1974, BA, Economics

Admissions and qualifications

- Illinois