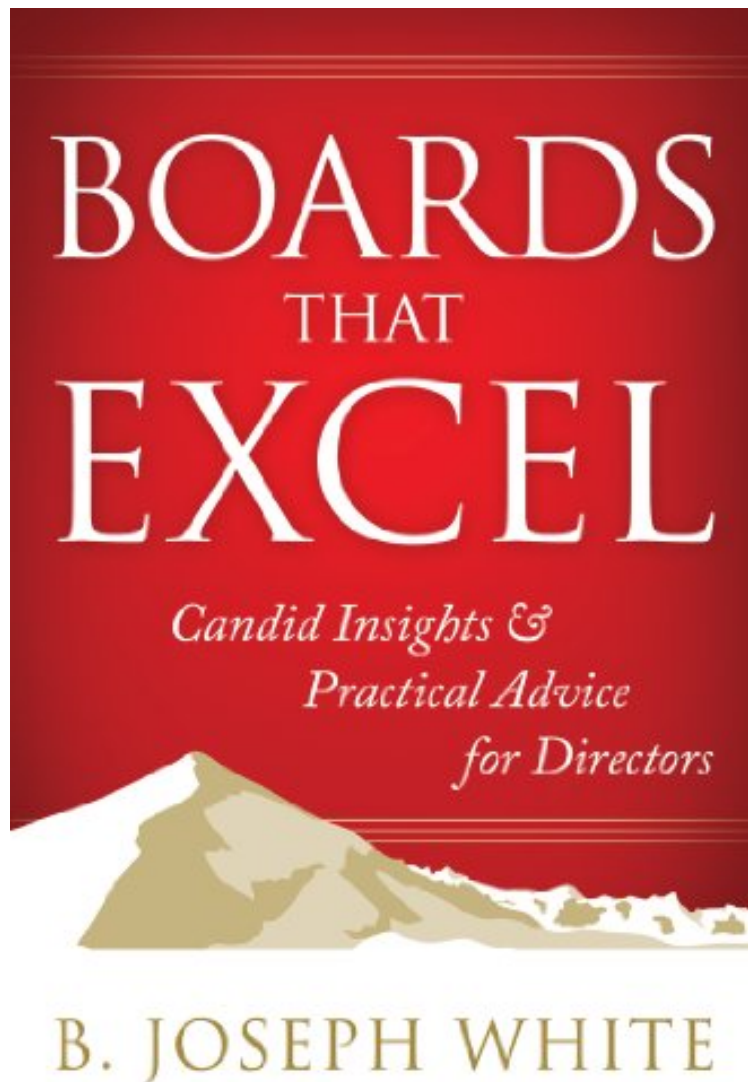


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## Boards That Excel: Candid Insights and Practical Advice for Directors

*B. Joseph White*

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**B. Joseph White : Boards That Excel: Candid Insights and Practical Advice for Directors** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boards That Excel: Candid Insights and Practical Advice for Directors:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Errol Halperin, Strategic Advisor,DLAPiper, Director: Vital Therapies, Inc., Elkay Manufacturing Company, Pangea PropertiesBy Errol HalperinJoe White's "Boards That Excel" is an insightful view of the best corporate practices for current directors of public, private and non profit corporations,

and a must read for all first time board members. Professor White's long time board service of large public and private boards reinforces his judgment for driving growth and profitability in this challenging regulatory environment. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Resource For All People Committed to Serving on Boards By Chris Ordway Joe Whites book will be an excellent resource for members of all boards - regardless of size, sophistication, length of service, for-profit or non-profit. The book provides a textbook approach regarding the roles and responsibilities for board members and does so in an entertaining and engaging way that makes it very readable and easy to contextualize to specific personal situations 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Guide! By GBLExcellent guide offering pragmatic experiences for understanding the appropriate approach to governance.

This is a different kind of corporate governance book. With its vivid stories and conversational tone, *Boards That Excel* is like sitting down with an astute and experienced friend who's passionate about what corporate and nonprofit boards can contribute to their organizations' success when they set high aspirations, are clear on purpose, and do the right things in the right way. B. Joseph White, an experienced corporate and nonprofit director and a distinguished academic, argues that boards can enable organizations to do great things, but only when directors go well beyond their duty to oversee and monitor management. White offers a road map for governance success based on his experience with two of America's most successful companies, one public and one private. He knows governance research and distills it to a handful of truly useful insights for boards and directors. He provides clear guidance on the essential work boards must do, and, drawing on behavioral research, he describes how they can ensure the boardroom is a place of good information, thoughtful evaluation, and wise decision making. The book reports on interviews with more than a dozen high-performance board chairs, CEOs, and directors, including Siebel Systems founder Tom Siebel, legendary real estate investor Sam Zell, former Harlem Globetrotters owner Mannie Jackson, GM board chairman and former Cummins chairman and CEO Tim Solso, and volunteer (University of Illinois, University of Michigan) and corporate (Hershey, Bob Evans) director Mary Kay Haben. All speak with unusual candor on what it takes for boards and directors to excel.

"*Boards That Excel* is an essential resource for all directors, new and experienced, of both for-profit companies and not-for-profit organizations. It's the perfect blend of research data and real-world best practices and experience that can drive effective governance in an ever-changing environment." — Mary Kay Haben, Director, Hershey and Bob Evans, and Trustee, Equity Residential

"Joe White's *Boards That Excel* is an in-depth effort to reconcile the importance of governance with the ultimate mission of a board of directors. Perhaps the most relevant of many insights in the book is the recognition that performance and return on investment are ultimate measures and that superior governance contributes to those positive results." — Sam Zell, Chairman, Equity Group Investments, Equity Residential, Equity LifeStyle Properties, Anixter, and Covanta

"Many family businesses are late to the game when it comes to developing a disciplined and pragmatic approach to governance. The insights and principles shared in this excellent book have played a significant role in the growth and success of our multigenerational family business for over twenty-five years." — Dan Gordon, Chairman, Gordon Food Service

"The book provides insightful discussions of the necessary skills, attitudes, and knowledge that any board member must have. It gives well-structured coverage of best board practices. It also offers contexts for those practices by including insightful personal reflections on the role a board plays in organizational leadership from one who has thought deeply about it and actually experienced it in many important organizations." — Paul Danos, Dean and Laurence F. Whittemore Professor of Business Administration, Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, and Director, General Mills

"Joe White's book on corporate governance serves as a primer for new or seasoned board members. It is filled with relevant and personal anecdotes that provide valuable insights on how to function effectively on boards. It is a must-read for anyone who has said yes to a board invitation — and it should be handed out by those doing the asking." — Tim Solso, Chairman, General Motors; Director, Ball; and former Chairman and CEO, Cummins

"What I've come to appreciate over the years is that at the end of the day, good governance is an art. It improves with hours of practice and experience. As with the team game of basketball, one gets better sooner by studying from the masters. Joe White is a master — he is the John Wooden and Vince Lombardi of corporate governance." — Mannie Jackson, Chairman, Boxcar Holdings; former owner and Chairman, Harlem Globetrotters; Director, Acorn Energy, EPIC Research Diagnostics, and Arizona Diamondbacks; and former director of companies including Ashland Oil, Jostens, Reebok, Stanley Black Decker, Transamerica, and True North

"Joe White is a leader in the increasingly important field of corporate governance. He is sought out as an advisor to major corporations, is a thought leader among academicians, and an active participant in the boardroom. His book should be required reading for those presently sitting in the boardroom, those expecting to participate in the future, and those seeking the best thinking in the corporate governance world." — Sheli Rosenberg, cofounder and former Director, Center for Executive Women, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, and Director, Equity LifeStyle Properties, Nanosphere, Strategic Hotels Resorts, and Ventas

*Boards That Excel* is a great book for students,

investors, and directors to understand the essence of what makes companies tick. Joe White's insightful thoughts and observations can help anyone who reads them understand the impact directors and corporate governance principles can have on the corporation."—Rick Hill, former Chairman and CEO, Novellus Systems, and Director, Arrow Electronics, LSI, Cabot Microelectronics, Tessera, and Planar Systems

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About the Author Joseph (Joe) White is James F. Towey Professor of Business and Leadership and President Emeritus at the University of Illinois, USA and Dean Emeritus of the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan, USA. He teaches U.S. corporate governance to graduate business and law students at Illinois, USA. He is the author of *The Nature of Leadership: Reptiles, Mammals and the Challenge of Becoming a Great Leader* (AMACOM, 2007). Joe is a trustee and chair of the corporate governance committee of Equity Residential, Inc. (NYSE:EQR). During his service, EQR has grown from an enterprise value of \$800 million to over \$30 billion, delivered annualized total shareholder return of 13 percent and become an SP 500 company. Joe is a director of Gordon Food Service. During his service, GFS has grown from \$400 million to over \$10 billion in revenue and become one of America's 40 largest private companies. He helped create governance arrangements intended to enable GFS to thrive in perpetuity as an independent family business. Joe has extensive experience on corporate and nonprofit boards including Kelly Services, M Financial Holdings, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, Argonne National Laboratory, American Council on Education, National Merit Scholarship Corporation and Georgetown University, USA. Joe was the sixteenth president of the University of Illinois, USA from 2005 to 2009. He served as dean of the University of Michigan Business School, USA (now the Ross School of Business) from 1991 to 2001. He has private sector experience, including six years as an officer of Cummins, Inc. Joe brings to Boards that Excel background as an influential force in business education and talent development. As dean at Michigan, USA, he integrated action learning into MBA studies, creating the first new curriculum model since introduction of the case method. Joe touched off movements in the business school world that elevated corporate citizenship and increased the ranks of women and minority executives. In *Boards that Excel*, Joe blends governance research with practical experience and shows how to turn knowledge into action. He urges corporate and nonprofit directors to set high aspirations and provides practical advice on how to achieve them. He shares the wisdom of experienced directors through candid and insightful interviews. Joe is a graduate of Georgetown University, Harvard Business School, and

the University of Michigan, USA. He and his wife, Mary, have two children and five grandchildren.