



Guild Board of Trustees Biographies

Michelle Peters, Chair

Michelle Peters serves as a director at CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen) in Lexington.

Michelle, with more than 25 years of experience in the banking and mortgage industries, oversees the CLA Mortgage Advisory Services Division's internal operations, security management and quality control reverification processes. She is also responsible for project management in relation to systems and development of CLA's proprietary database.

She joined CLA in 2014 as part of an acquisition, having been with the acquired firm, Bankers Advisory, since 2010. She also has 14 years of lending and underwriting experience with Cambridge Savings Bank, prior to CLA.

Michelle serves on CLA's Diversity and Inclusion Council and is a member of the CLA Foundation Board of Directors. She is also an active volunteer with Special Olympics Massachusetts and participates in many other community outreach projects.

She is a graduate of the New England College of Finance.

Susan L. Connors, MD, Clerk

Susan joined The Guild's Board of Trustees in 2016.

She is a board-certified internist and works at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center. She conducts research into Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), and has written and presented extensively on issues of healthcare access, transition and treatment options for children and adults with ASD. She serves as a consultant at UMass Medical School and recently was an instructor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. As a member of human rights committees at both the Nashoba Learning Group and The Guild, she is very engaged in quality-of-life issues for individuals with special needs.

She obtained her BS degree from Stonehill College and a doctorate from the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She is a member of the American College of Physicians and the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Susan and her family reside in Hopedale.

Michael D. McDonnell, Treasurer

Mike joined The Guild's Board of Trustees in 2016 and was named vice president and treasurer in 2018.

In 2015, he founded Keel Consulting, a project management firm that oversees significant property infrastructure development for clients such as Bristol-Meyers Squibb. He had been director of real estate facilities and master planning for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and held engineering positions at the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the U.S. Coast Guard.

Mike earned a BA in naval architecture and marine engineering at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and an MS in engineering management from Northeastern University.

He currently resides in Sudbury.

Claudia de Piante Vicin

Claudia de Piante Vicin is the creative director for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's Division of Philanthropy. She previously worked for more than 17 years at the non-profit organization Artists for Humanity, and served for many years as its design director.

A graduate of Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design in London, she has spent a large part of her career teaching design, mentoring youth and advising companies like Proctor & Gamble, John Hancock Financial, Barnes & Noble and Reebok on design solutions. Claudia, who specializes in brand development, has an unconventional approach to her work and focuses on storytelling and utility to ensure a universally authentic result.

Born in Miami, Claudia has lived in five countries on three continents and speaks four languages fluently. When not applying her creative talents to design, she can be found at the library or traveling.

Valerie Frissora, MS

Valerie Frissora joined The Guild's Board of Trustees in 2020. Currently, she is the Vice President of Human Resources at Keurig Dr Pepper (KDP), a leader in soft drinks, specialty coffee and tea, water, juice drinks and mixers, and markets the #1 single serve coffee brewing system in the U.S.

In this role, Valerie is responsible for leading HR for the Appliances Business Unit, Human Resources, Corporate Affairs & Investor Relations, Legal and leads change management within the Integration & Transformation Office. Prior to this role, Valerie led Talent Acquisition developing and deploying the talent attraction and acquisition strategy for all US professional roles, served as an HR Business Partner to the Product Supply and Commercial organizations. With over twenty years in the Human Resources field, Valerie brings diverse experience to the organization through her work across the Finance, Technology, and Consumer Packaged Goods industries. Prior to joining Keurig Dr Pepper, she held Human Resource leadership positions at RSA Security a Division of EMC and at Marsh USA.

Valerie earned her BA in Psychology from Fairfield University and her MS in Computer Science from Mercy College.

Nazli Kibria, PhD

Nazli is a Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Boston University. She teaches courses on the sociology of families and immigration and conducts research in these areas. She has written extensively on racial and ethnic identity formations, refugee resettlement, immigration policy, the children of immigrants, and the challenges faced by immigrant mothers raising children with disabilities. Nazli has participated and led a number of important initiatives at her workplace related to furthering diversity and inclusion, multidisciplinary social science research, and more.

Nazli was born in Bangladesh. She obtained her BA degree from Wellesley College and a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

Andrea Kraemer, Esq.

Andrea is a founding partner of Cohen Kraemer Law, LLC and an experienced employment law attorney. Andrea focuses her practice on conducting workplace investigations and training, developing employment policies and handbooks, and providing employment law counseling and advice.

Previously, Andrea was a partner in the employment law and commercial law practice groups in the Boston office of a large national law firm where she counseled employers and Human Resources professionals regarding employment law matters and represented employers before administrative agencies and in state and federal court. She also managed the defense of all Massachusetts cases for a major East Coast Health Club chain and supervised, mentored, and trained associates and paralegals through all phases of litigation.

Andrea is a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association, Women's Bar Association, and the Association of Workplace Investigators. She is also a member of the American Diabetes Association's Advocacy Attorney Network and has been trained as a parent advocate through the Federation for Children with Special Needs.

Andrea earned her law degree from New England Law Boston, where she graduated cum laude. Prior to law school, Andrea earned her undergraduate degree in sociology and a certificate in human relations & work from Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Robert Sousa, CFA

Robert joined The Guild's Board of Trustees in 2022. He currently holds the position of Director, Asset & Liability Management at Middlesex Savings Bank.

In his current role, Robert assists in driving balance sheet strategy for the bank through financial modeling and reporting across various business and product lines including loans, deposits, borrowings, and investments. Prior to his role with Middlesex Bank, Robert worked in commercial lending at Main Street Bank where he led a small team of Credit Analysts.

Robert currently serves as Board Treasurer of Employment Options whose mission is to empower individuals and families in mental health recovery to thrive in their communities.

Robert earned his Bachelor's of Accounting from the University of South Florida and his Master of Science in Finance from Boston College.

Thomas P. Corcoran, Chair Emeritus

Tom joined The Guild's Board of Trustees in 2008 and was named president in 2018.

He retired as senior managing director for GE Capital Markets, part of the General Electric Company. Prior to GE, Tom had a long and extensive career at Fleet Bank (Bank of Boston), where he led the interest rate and foreign currency hedging business for one of the country's largest financial institutions.

He is a trustee at his alma mater, Providence College, where he is chair of the investment committee and a senior member of the finance committee. His son, Conor, graduated from The Guild in 2013. Tom and his family reside in Boston.