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Biography

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Paul Williams is a Partner in the Chicago office of Major, Lindsey & Africa, the largest legal recruiting firm in the nation. Paul graduated *cum laude* from Harvard in 1981 and received his J.D. from Yale Law School in 1984. A Fortune 500 public company director and a former chief legal officer and corporate secretary of a Fortune 20 company, Paul focuses on conducting in-house searches, particularly general counsel and other senior level positions.

Paul is a member of the board of directors of three public companies, each having a market cap exceeding \$1 billion: Essendant, Inc., a Fortune 500 distributor of business products; Bob Evans Farms, Inc., the owner and operator of nearly 700 restaurants in the U.S.; and Compass Minerals, Inc., a producer of salt and other inorganic mineral products. He currently is the Compensation Committee chairman for Bob Evans and Compass Minerals. He previously has served as the Lead Independent Director of State Auto Financial Corporation, a property and casualty insurance company, and retired from that board in 2015 after serving for 12 years. He has sat on numerous charitable and educational boards, including Physicians for Human Rights, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Arthritis Foundation, Buckeye Boys Ranch and Salesian Boys and Girls Club. He is a long-time member of the National Association of Corporate Directors.

Prior to joining Major, Lindsey & Africa, Paul served for several years as Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary of Cardinal Health, Inc., a Fortune 20 healthcare services company with \$80 billion in revenues and 55,000 employees. Responsible for managing legal affairs globally, he also served as the co-chairman of the company's Diversity Council. His 51-lawyer legal department was recognized for its outstanding diversity, receiving the Minority Corporate Counsel Association's "Employer of Choice" award. Paul has been recognized by two publications as one of the 100 most influential diverse lawyers in the nation.

His career began as a corporate and securities associate with the large law firms of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher in Southern California and Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease in Ohio. Paul also served as general counsel of a computer software company and group counsel for the dairy division of a multinational corporation.

Paul and his wife, Laura, who is also a lawyer, are the proud parents of two grown sons. In his spare time, Paul enjoys movies and physical fitness.