IDC Independent Directors Council

NEWS RELEASE
October 13, 2026

Independent Directors Council Announces New Governing Council Leadership and Members

Karla Rabusch has been elected as Chair, William R. Ebsworth to become Chair Emeritus

Washington, DC; October 13, 2026—The Independent Directors Council (IDC) announced today that its Governing Council has elected **Karla Rabusch** as Chair and **William R. Ebsworth** as Chair Emeritus for the 2027 fiscal year. Rabusch, who recently served as Vice Chair of the Governing Council, is an independent director on the board of the Lord Abbett Funds. Ebsworth, who recently completed his second year as IDC Chair, is an independent director of the Allspring Funds.

“I am thrilled to be elected IDC Governing Council Chair and to welcome the newest members of the Council. It has been a pleasure working with Bill, Tom, and the IDC staff to help independent directors navigate the issues facing fund boards,” said **Rabusch**. “I look forward to building on that work with my Governing Council colleagues, creating more opportunities for directors to learn from one another and ensuring their perspectives inform IDC’s advocacy. Together, we can strengthen fund governance and support directors in serving the interests of fund shareholders.”

“It has been an honor to serve as IDC Governing Council Chair, and I am pleased to continue serving as Chair Emeritus. As Karla takes the helm, I look forward to supporting her leadership and working together to strengthen the independent director community,” said **Ebsworth**.

IDC Managing Director **Thomas Kim** added, “Bill has been a tremendous leader and a strong advocate for independent directors, and I am grateful for his service as Chair. Karla’s exceptional experience and deep commitment to IDC’s mission will serve the Council well as she begins her tenure. I also want to welcome our newest Council members, whose perspectives will help shape our work to equip directors for the responsibilities they carry on behalf of fund shareholders.”

“Independent directors play a critical role in protecting fund shareholders, and IDC provides invaluable support for that work,” said incoming IDC Managing Director **Tara Buckley**. “I look forward to working with Karla, Bill, and the entire Governing Council to build on IDC’s strong foundation and help directors meet the challenges and opportunities ahead.”

The Governing Council also elected the following four independent directors to their first term on the Council:

Jayesh Bhansali
Independent Director
VanEck Funds/VanEck VIP Trust

Jennifer Choi
Independent Director
Morningstar Funds Trust

Laura Fergerson
Independent Director
BlackRock iShares Funds

Victoria Sassine
Independent Director
AMG Funds, AMG Pantheon Credit Solutions Fund, AMG Pantheon Fund

The full membership of the IDC Governing Council is available on the IDC website.

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