

## CANDIDATE STATEMENT, BIOGRAPHY, SIGNATORY AND COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FORM

Full legal name: **Bonnie Saynay**

Job title: **Global Head of ESG Investor Research & Data Strategy**

Signatory organisation name: **Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. (ISS)**

Signatory organisation(s) seconding your candidacy: **FE fundinfo**



### CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I believe my combined global responsible investment leadership and advocacy experience of over twenty years, in both my current role at a large global service provider, and previously at a large asset management firm, advising global asset owners and regulators on the firm's ESG platform, brings the specific transferable digital transformation and governance skills required for the role, and is also highly relevant to serving the long-term success of the PRI. I will bring a collegiate and collaborative leadership style and serve as a diversity champion.

A responsible investment industry veteran, I previously served as Global Head of Responsible Investment at a large U.S.-based institutional investor where I built the firm's ESG stewardship strategy and platform across the globe. Over a nearly two-decade career at the firm, I advised global asset owners and regulators on the firm's ESG platform and remain a frequent speaker and participant at responsible and sustainable investment forums, including those hosted by the PRI, OECD and the Investment Company Institute. I am frequently quoted on topics related to sustainable finance across multiple global media outlets, including the *Financial Times*, *Bloomberg News*, *Institutional Investor*, *Ignites*, and *Pensions & Investments*. I have served as a mentor for the Cartier Women's Initiative, which empowers women impact entrepreneurs, and an advisory board member for both the Dutch-based Rights and Responsibilities of Institutional Investors and the Houston Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

I joined ISS two years ago as Global Head of ESG Research and Data Strategy, and ISS ESG was named winner of the Best ESG Research by [ESG Investing](#), this year. I lead a team of over 270 ESG analysts, data strategy experts and integrated financial and impact teams across 14 global locations to drive industry leading ESG research and data for the global institutional investor community. The ISS ESG Research platform delivers industry leading, gold standard, and comprehensive ESG solutions that include sector specific, thematic and stewardship sustainability expertise. ISS ESG has ranked #2 amongst Ratings providers by Edelman's 2020 TrustBarometer survey of the US institutional investor community.

## BIOGRAPHY

Bonnie Saynay is Managing Director and Global Head of ESG Investor Research & Data Strategy with responsibility for ISS ESG's global Research & Data Strategy team comprising more than 270 dedicated ESG analysts spread across 14 global locations. She oversees ESG business and research teams spanning Screening and Controversies research, Corporate Ratings, ESG Data Strategy, Methodology and Quality, and Integrated Financial and Impact, including global ESG Thought Leadership. Recent examples of Thought Leadership include [Is Your Board ESG Competent](#) and [New Horizons Navigating ESG in 2022](#).

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Bonnie holds a BA in English Literature from the University of Michigan and a MA in English Literature from Wayne State University.

## SIGNATORY ORGANISATION INFORMATION

Founded in 1985, Institutional Shareholder Services group of companies (ISS) empowers investors and companies to build for long-term and sustainable growth by providing high-quality data, analytics and insight. ISS, which is majority owned by Deutsche Bourse Group, along with Genstar Capital and ISS management, is a leading provider of corporate governance and responsible investment solutions, market intelligence, fund services, and events and editorial content for institutional investors and corporations, globally. ISS' 2,600 employees operate worldwide across 29 global locations in 15 countries. Its approximately 3,400 clients include many of the world's leading institutional investors who rely on ISS' objective and impartial offerings, as well as public companies focused on ESG and governance risk mitigation as a shareholder value enhancing measure. Clients rely on ISS' expertise to help them make informed investment decisions.

ISS ESG solutions enable investors to develop and integrate responsible investing policies and practices, engage on responsible investment issues, and monitor portfolio company practices through screening solutions.

ISS ESG also provides climate data, analytics, and advisory services to help financial market participants understand, measure, and act on climate-related risks across all asset classes. In addition, ESG solutions cover corporate and country ESG research and ratings enabling its clients to identify material social and environmental risks and opportunities.

## SPECIFIC EXPERTISE

### DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND GOVERNANCE SKILLS

My transferable digital transformation and governance skills and experience include, while Global Head of Responsible Investment at a large U.S.-based institutional investor, developing the award-winning stewardship strategy and governance practice for the firm. This included oversight of the development and implementation of an in-house, proprietary global investment stewardship platform, the 'fund manager portal', which enabled fund managers to efficiently share knowledge and prioritize key investment stewardship issues, vote in an efficient manner, increase transparency, and effectively influence corporate practices and behaviours. In addition, I secured a US patent on this proprietary and industry leading voting democratization tool. Additionally, as a part of the investor's ongoing portfolio monitoring and risk management, I oversaw the coordination of multiple ESG research vendors and risk rating providers to systematically deliver data on governance risks to its global network of more than 700 investment professionals. Furthermore, my in-house and centralised RI team provided consultative support to our global investment teams including but not limited to providing the fund managers with access to research, resources, and training around E, S & G criteria so they could be incorporated diligently into the robust investment process. This ensured the investment teams had all the tools necessary to allow them to assess and evaluate specific ESG criteria at investee companies. Today, in my capacity at ISS, I lead the data strategy effort for ESG which includes data analytics, data governance and a team of data scientists devoted to procuring and delivering high quality, timely and relevant data to institutional investors across the globe.

## GENERAL

### DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP WITHIN RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT, ESG EXPERTISE AND OTHER EXPERIENCE RELEVANT TO THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF THE PRI.

A responsible investment industry veteran, I previously served as Global Head of Responsible Investment at a large U.S.-based institutional investor where I built the firm's ESG stewardship strategy and platform across the globe. Over a nearly two-decade career at the firm, I advised global asset owners and regulators on the firm's ESG platform and remain a frequent speaker and participant at responsible and sustainable investment forums, including those hosted by the PRI, OECD and the Investment Company Institute. I am frequently quoted on topics related to sustainable finance across multiple global media outlets. I have served as a mentor for the Cartier Women's Initiative, which empowers women impact entrepreneurs, and an advisory board member for both the Dutch-based Rights and Responsibilities of Institutional Investors and the Houston Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

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management firm, advising global asset owners and regulators on the firm's ESG platform, is highly relevant to serving the long-term success of the PRI.