



Fireside Chat with Mellody Hobson, President of Ariel Investments & Chairman of Ariel Investment Trust

The NIRI Los Angeles Chapter and the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD), Southern California Chapter, cordially invite you to a conversation and luncheon with Mellody Hobson, president of Ariel Investments. The Chicago-based investment firm was founded in 1983 and has grown from two to 93 employees with more than \$13 billion in assets under management. Ariel's value investment philosophy is guided by three key principles: patience, focus and independent thinking. The firm offers nine separate account strategies for institutional and high net worth individuals and serves as the investment adviser for Ariel Investment Trust which is comprised of six no-load mutual funds available to institutional and individual investors, financial intermediaries and defined contribution plans. Ariel's client roster is comprised of corporations, endowments, foundations, governmental entities and unions. As president, Mellody is responsible for firm-wide management and strategic planning, overseeing all operations outside of research and portfolio management. Additionally, she serves as chairman of the board of trustees for Ariel Investment Trust.

Moderating this conversation will be Jennifer DiGrazia, Senior Vice President, Investor Relations - Institutional Marketing & Client Services, of Ariel Investments, and a NIRI Los Angeles Chapter member. Mellody will cover a broad range of topics including:

- Stakeholder Expectations & Board Dynamics
- Board Composition & Succession
- Management Evaluation, Compensation & Succession
- Communicating with Stakeholders
- Risk and Crisis Management
- Active vs. Passive management

Please join us downtown at the California Club for this informative joint NIRI LA/NACD Southern California Chapter event and an opportunity to network with your IR peers and Directors of local Boards.

When: Thursday, March 29, 2018

Where: The California Club

538 South Flower Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071
[Directions](#)

Complimentary valet parking is available at the Club

- Time:** 11:00 am - 11:30 am – Registration / Networking
11:30 am - 1:30 pm – Lunch and Program
- Attire:** Business (required by the California Club)
- Fees:** NIRI LA Chapter Member – Included in your membership fee
Non Member and/or Guest – \$100
- Registration:** Pre-registration is required. No walk-ins will be allowed.
- RSVP:** Please respond to this invitation by March 26, 2018.

NIRI LA Sponsors:



Meet our speaker:



Mellody Hobson is president of Ariel Investments. The Chicago-based investment firm was founded in 1983 and has grown from two to 93 employees with more than \$13 billion in assets under management. Ariel's value investment philosophy is guided by three key principles: patience, focus and independent thinking. The firm offers nine separate account strategies for institutional and high net worth individuals and serves as the investment adviser for Ariel Investment Trust which is comprised of six no-load mutual funds available to institutional and individual investors, financial intermediaries and defined contribution plans. Ariel's client roster is comprised of corporations, endowments, foundations, governmental entities and unions. Mellody is responsible for firm-wide management and strategic planning, overseeing all operations outside of research and portfolio management. Additionally, she serves as chairman of the board of trustees for Ariel Investment Trust.

Beyond her work at Ariel, Mellody has become a nationally recognized voice on financial literacy and investor education. She is a regular contributor and analyst on finance, the markets and economic trends for CBS News. She also contributes weekly money tips on the Tom Joyner Morning Show and pens a regular column for Black Enterprise magazine. As a passionate advocate for investor education, she is a spokesperson for the Ariel/Hewitt Study: 401(k) Plans in Living Color and the Ariel Black Investor Survey, both of which examine investing patterns among minorities.

Mellody is a director of The Estée Lauder Companies Inc. and Starbucks Corporation. Her community outreach includes serving as chairman of After School Matters, a non-profit that provides Chicago teens with high-quality, out-of-school time programs. She is chair of The Economic Club of Chicago's board of directors, a board member of The Chicago Public Education Fund, George Lucas Education Foundation, Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, and Sundance Institute, where she has been appointed emeritus trustee. She is also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and serves on the executive committee of the Investment Company Institute's board of governors. In 2015, Mellody was named to *Time Magazine's* annual list of the one

hundred most influential people in the world. Melody earned her AB from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of International Relations and Public Policy. She has also received honorary doctorate degrees from Howard University, St. Mary's College and the University of Southern California.

Meet our moderator:



Jennifer DiGrazia is the Senior Vice President Investor Relations at Ariel Investments and is responsible for strengthening and cultivating client relationships. She joined the firm in 2017, after serving as Head of Investor Relations for DreamWorks Animation. In this capacity, Jennifer developed relationships with key stakeholders, including institutional investors, portfolio managers and investment research analysts. She was also responsible for articulating DreamWorks Animation's strategic priorities while fostering confidence and credibility among the investment community. Before DreamWorks, Jennifer held two senior positions at DIRECTV; Principal Strategist for Revenue, Strategy and Planning, and Senior Director of Investor Relations. Prior to that, Jennifer held various roles in Corporate Finance and Strategic Planning at Time Warner Cable and MTV Networks. Jennifer is a board member for Communities In Schools Los Angeles, a member of the National Investor Relations Institute and graduated *summa cum laude* with a BS in Business Administration from the University of Connecticut.