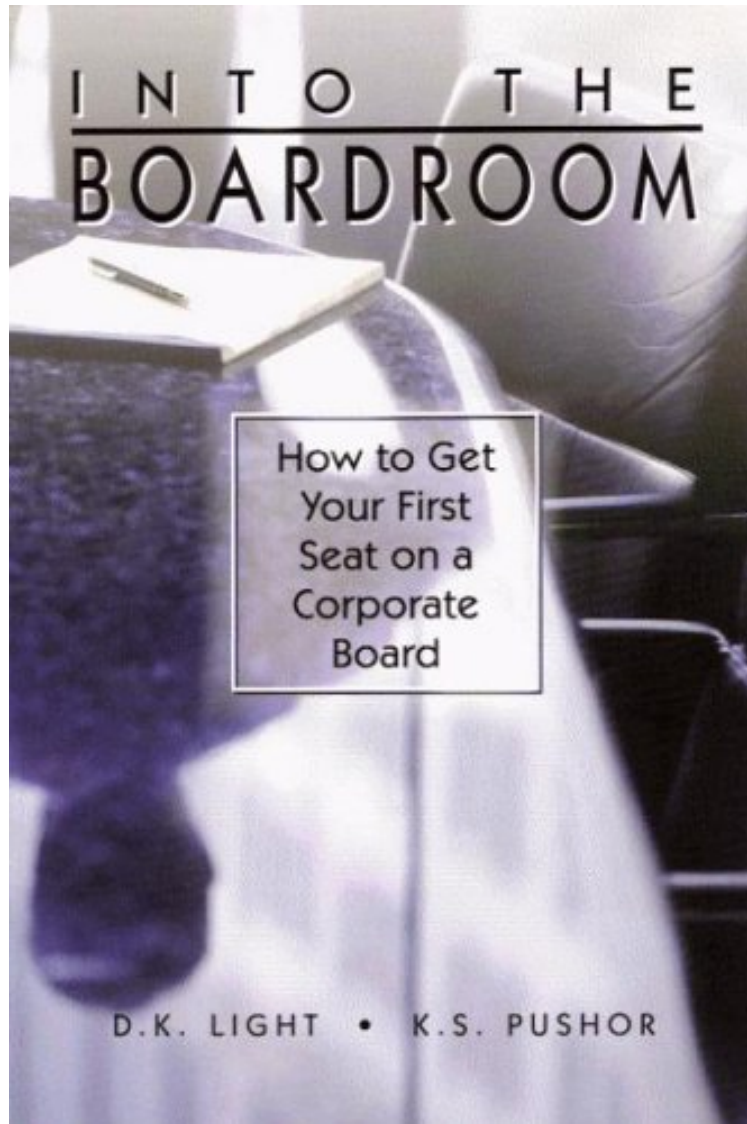


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# Into the Boardroom: How to Get Your First Seat on a Corporate Board

*D. K. Light, K. S. Pushor*

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**D. K. Light, K. S. Pushor : Into the Boardroom: How to Get Your First Seat on a Corporate Board** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Into the Boardroom: How to Get Your First Seat on a Corporate Board:

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Mysterious and powerful, for decades America's boardrooms have remained closed to all but a handful of director "in the club." Now, former Fortune 500 executives Dorothy Light and Kathleen Pushor reveal an insider's look at what goes on in the boardroom and how you can get there. CEOs and directors of some of America's most prestigious corporations share their stories of what really goes on behind closed doors, who gets selected to sit on a board and who doesn't, and why being a part of this influential group should be the goal of today's up and coming executives, professionals, and community leaders. Into the Boardroom identifies the six qualifications common to successful candidates for a director's seat and explains how you can fill in the blanks in your own skill set. Hear from executives and directors at J.P. Morgan, Bank One, Nintendo, Avnet, Warner Lambert, and others as they reveal the process by which they took their first seats on a corporate board. Listen as they candidly answer your questions: What are the risks and rewards of being a member of the board? What specialized training or background do you need? Do you have to be a CPA? A lawyer? Is board service a possibility for those with a background in government, community service, or academia? How much can you expect to earn as a director? Will you be successful as a board member and what liability would you have if the company gets into trouble? Packed with hard-to-find information, inside tips, and sound advice, Into the Boardroom answers these questions and more as it guides a new generation of directors to their first seats on a corporate board.

"Into the Boardroom is a first class introduction into the opportunities and pitfalls for those aspiring to membership on a corporate board. Ranging from key questions of competence and potential conflicts to matters of appropriate personal behaviors, the advice is always clear, concise, and sensible. Allegedly a simple primer for neophytes, there's a lot of distilled wisdom for experienced board members and CEOs as well."--Paul Volcker, Former Chairman, Federal Reserve Board "Into the Boardroom crystallizes the role and responsibilities of a corporate board member. Its prescriptive advice stands to benefit new and experienced directors alike. A must-have for any prospective director's library."--Julie Hembrook Daum, The Managing Director, U.S. Board Services, Spencer Stuart "The board of directors is not a club you can apply to join. Genuine achievement in a related field is the most promising path to board membership."--Burton G Malkiel, Author of A Random Walk Down Wall Street, Chief Investment Officer for Wealthfront, Professor (Emeritus) Princeton University "It should come as no surprise that if you want to serve on a board, you've got to have a plan and work it intentionally, much the same way you'd do with any other goal. You might get lucky and have an invitation drop in your lap, but if not, don't let that stop you. It's always easier to get lucky if you have a plan."--Gerri Elliott, Founder, Broadrooms.com, Director, Whirlpool, Bed Bath Beyond, Imperva --sFrom the Publisher Why bother to read THIS book? Because what happens in the boardroom makes a difference. Healthy, prosperous, innovative corporations are the backbone of a vibrant American economy. Successful corporations are the result of a unique, three-way relationship between the shareholders (who provide the capital), the management (who provide the vision and the human resources), and the customers (who purchase the goods or services produced). Board members balance these interests. When this engine is running smoothly the results are limited only by our imagination--we can create jobs, invent gadgets, feed the world, cure disease, make movies, or send a man to the moon. When this engine runs amok, as the recent disaster at Enron has made only too clear, the results can be devastating to entire communities as jobs are lost, retirement savings evaporate, and investor confidence is shaken to the core. Into the Boardroom was written to introduce senior executives in corporations, entrepreneurs in small and mid-size companies, members of the professions, and those who serve our communities or teach at our universities, to the concepts of corporate governance and the process by which new directors are selected. This book can encourage a new generation of leaders to serve and prepare them to participate fully as they take their first seat on a corporate board. Corporate America needs to take a long, hard look at the significance of effective corporate

governance and the individuals in whom they have placed this important trust. The financial press appears ready to keep up the pressure, and the headlines, until they do. The result will be an ongoing need for talented, experienced individuals with the integrity and willingness to accept a seat at the table. Currently, more than 60,000 positions exist for the directors of companies traded on the NYSE, NASDAQ and AMEX exchanges. At least another 20,000 seats exist around the tables of America's largest privately held companies. Who occupies these seats? What do they do? How were they selected? Could one of them be you? Let's find out!

From the Author  
The authors, Dorothy Light and Katie Pushor, met while speaking on a corporate governance panel in Washington, D.C. Questions from the audience convinced them that, although much had been written about issues of corporate governance, little was available to prepare director candidates for the selection process or to mentor talented professionals as they built a career that had "boardroom potential". Together they wrote *Into the Boardroom* to introduce senior executives in corporations, entrepreneurs in small and mid-size companies, members of the professions, and those who serve our communities or teach at our universities, to the concepts of corporate governance and the process by which new directors are selected. We hope this book will encourage a new generation of leaders to serve, and prepare them to participate fully as they take their first seat on a corporate board.