

Nominations for the Board of Trustees

ICOF AGM Wednesday 23rd June 2021

Dominica Cole – Personal Statement

I work as a corporate solicitor for a global law firm and I have a broad range of experience in providing corporate and banking legal advice across a variety of sectors which includes a secondment to a multinational investment bank. As a member of my firm's Staff Charity Committee, I help support our CSR strategy in relation to our local, national and international charity partners. This role has given me an understanding of the ways in which the private sector can be incentivised and included within charitable organisations' fundraising and strategic objectives. In 2021, I was awarded an EMEA Inclusion Award in recognition for my significant contribution to diversity and inclusion activities at my firm.

I want to join the board of trustees of CCF for three specific reasons. Firstly, I have significant experience across the private, public and charity sectors and want to use this multi-sector experience to enable others to create and run projects which empower and support their local communities. Secondly, I have volunteered for over 10 years' and I have also acted as an ambassador for charities that I have volunteered with. Whilst at university, I was awarded a scholarship prize in recognition of my involvement in the wider community and I have direct experience in planning and implementing community projects. Thirdly, as a young woman from a Black British/African background, I want to provide representation for demographics which are typically underrepresented at board level to ensure funded projects are inclusive and promote sustainable social change.

Nankunda Katangaza – Personal Statement

I am applying for a trustee position at ICOF due to my interest in, and support of, the organisation's mission and vision. As a relatively recent entrepreneur and co-founder of a women-owned and led SME in the services sector, I am all too aware of the financial challenges facing small business but also more broadly in accessing advice, information and other support to grow a business. I am also very keen to learn more about businesses that straddle the private and public sectors, who have a clear social purpose and, as such, have the potential to make a positive impact beyond a purely commercial one.

I've been a volunteer since I was a teenager and have always looked for organisations whose objectives and activities I care about but also where I can bring different perspectives, learn about different sectors and meet new people. I have had more than 10 years' experience on boards of different types of entities ranging from being a school governor, a trustee of a theatre, organisations

that operate internationally and those promoting the UK financial and professional services industries. My business provides governance advisory services to a variety of organisations and as such, one of the strengths I would bring to the ICOF would be an understanding of good governance and compliance.

Finally, I bring an open-mind, enthusiasm, strong communication and collaborative skills which I believe would be beneficial to the work of the ICOF Board and its members.

Jaye Martin – Personal Statement

Over the past 20 years, I have worked in corporate law, equity-led investment and, latterly, the development of co-operative business models. To me, the most interesting and compelling sector has been co-operative and community businesses. I have enjoyed discovering how the democracy and ‘voice’ woven into member-owned organisations can transform communities and facilitate socio-economic change. The past year has served to highlight the need for this. I strongly feel that as much as possible should be done to encourage start-up and growth of these types of businesses.

With a legal background (I qualified as a solicitor in 2003) I have experience in company law, corporate tax, and employee share schemes. In 2008, I moved to Scottish Enterprise, Scotland’s main economic development agency, and have worked there for 12 years – the first 5 years as a Transactions Manager in the Scottish Investment Bank. There I worked on numerous investments (primarily equity; some debt) in high-growth SMEs alongside private sector investors on a matched funding basis. Due to my interest in co-operatives, I then moved teams to join Co-operative Development Scotland. I have, for the past 7 years, advised clients on consortium and community co-operatives and employee ownership and worked with colleagues and stakeholders to raise awareness of these models, research the sector and drive strategy and policy. In the long-term, I would like to build a co-operative consultancy practice.

I’m mum to two young children and in my spare time I like to exercise, garden and read.

Adrian Smith – Personal Statement

My 30-year career in Financial Services has predominantly been in the Mutual and Co-Operative sectors, including 2 of the UK’s largest Building Societies and for the last 11 years I have been the CEO and Board Director of a subsidiary of The Co-operative Group. I am passionate about mutuality and member centric organisations.

Closer to home I am the Secretary of a Wiltshire Community Pub and we are active members and a borrower with Co-operative and Community Finance. I am also Vice Chairman of our Parish Council.

I hold an MBA in Leadership & Sustainability, both currently very relevant today.

Having spent many years as a Director and Committee Member, I believe that I have a strong grasp of governance issues, bring energy and curiosity to any role that I take on and would be proud to be part of Co-operative & Community Finance working on behalf of members.

Having witnessed the work that Co-operative & Community Finance do first-hand, it would be a privilege to work with the business as we emerge from a very challenging period. I believe that having a Trustee who is an active member (and borrower) would be a very positive addition and that I could bring a unique perspective to the Board.

Having now seen all three of our children into adulthood (on occasions!) I have the time and energy to commit fully to this exciting role as a Trustee and would approach it with the professionalism and diligence that is expected by Members.

Sheridan Sulskis – Personal Statement

I am a highly motivated and dedicated individual with over 15 years' experience of business and financial support activity and am currently the Executive Director at the not-for-profit, FCA regulated, Coventry & Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust (CWRT).

I have a hands-on approach with the involvement of the day-to-day and strategic functions at CWRT which sets the tone, vision and the culture of the organisation. I am passionate about fairness, equality and social inclusion and my greatest desire is to be a part of something that provides support to those who are facing difficulties, are disadvantaged, or socially excluded from the mainstream arena.

As part of my drive to create a more inclusive access to finance platform, over the last 12 months I have managed to raise over £7.4m worth of capital to on-lend which enabled the company to assist local businesses to safeguard 962 jobs and create over 338 local jobs during the pandemic.

I believe that by the very nature of supporting start-ups and local businesses, we help to create social infrastructure and empower these businesses to build a better future through a set purpose and a sense of social connection in the communities in which we operate.

Due to my proven dedication in overseeing all aspects of operational, financial, and staff direction—along with my acute ability to realise consistent improvements in productivity, efficiency, and performance — I can contribute immensely to the continued success of COOP for co-operative finance.