

# THE SANTA FE GROUP



## Catherine A. Allen

Founder and Chairman of the Board of The Board Risk Committee and The Santa Fe Group  
and Independent Board Director

Santa Fe, New Mexico

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For more than 30 years, Catherine Allen has been an outstanding leader in technology, strategy and corporate board governance and a key thought leader in business innovation, cybersecurity and risk management.

Catherine is the Founder and Chairman of the Board of The Board Risk Committee, a peer exchange and educational 501c3 nonprofit with membership of corporate and nonprofit board directors and Chief Risk Officers. She also was Founder and CEO of The Santa Fe Group (SFG) and Shared Assessments, based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The SFG is a strategic advisory company focused on cybersecurity and risk management, specializing in briefings to C-level executives and boards of directors at financial institutions and other critical infrastructure companies. The SFG provided management for the Shared Assessments Program, a membership organization focused on best practices and assessment tools in third party risk management. Shared Assessments has over 425 corporate members, including many of the Fortune 1000. She sold Shared Assessments to OneTrust in 2021, and remains on the Advisory Board. The SFG has received many awards from Cyber Defense Infosec and SC Media for their contributions to cybersecurity and risk management. Catherine was named one of the Top 25 Most Influential Women in Cybersecurity in 2019 by Cyber Defense Magazine. SC Media named her one of the 2019 Visionaries in Cybersecurity of the Last 30 Years.

Catherine has served, or continues to serve, as a corporate board member of publically held and private corporations such as Synovus Financial Corporation, El Paso Electric Company, Stewart Information Services, NBS Technologies, RiskSense, Belief Agency, Houlihan Lokey, AI Layer and CRI Advantage. She has set up and chaired, or served on, risk, security and technology committees of boards, as well as serving on compensation, nominations and governance, energy and natural resources and public policy. In 2018 she was named one of the NACD 100 Most Influential Directors. Catherine sits on the audit committee of Women Corporate Directors, the advisory board of the Executive Women's Forum and was President of the New Mexico International Womens Forum.

Catherine's nonprofit work crosses the areas of arts, social justice and higher education. She was tri-chair of the University of Missouri's \$1.4 billion capital campaign and served on the Board of Visitors. She sits on the board of trustees for the New York Institute of Technology. She is also a member of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation, International Folk Art Alliance and Resilient New Mexico nonprofit board Executive Committees. Prior nonprofit boards have included New Mexico Appleseed, Communities in Schools, the Lensic Center for Performing Arts, the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, the Valles Caldera Trust, the New Mexico State Investment Council and the Mark Twain Research Foundation.

In 2007, Catherine stepped down from her role as the founding CEO of the financial services industry consortium, BITS, after a decade of service, to continue her work with The Santa Fe Group and pursue her passion to serve on corporate and nonprofit boards. During her tenure at BITS, Catherine worked closely with CEOs, CIOs and executives at the nation's 100 largest financial institutions on strategic issues facing the financial services industry, from payments strategies to risk management. BITS' accomplishments under Catherine's leadership include creating best practices in more than 30 areas of financial services management.

Earlier in her career, Catherine served in several senior executive positions at Citicorp in the Retail, Bankcards, and Corporate Innovation and Technology divisions. She represented Citibank as founding chair and president of the multi-industry Smart Card Forum. Prior to joining Citibank, Catherine was director of corporate planning for Dun and

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Bradstreet, where she created and chaired the Electronic Yellow Pages and Information Association. Catherine was also a consultant to CBS, Inc. on new technologies and international trade while she was a professor at American University's Kogod College of Business Administration.

Catherine is active politically in national and local spheres and is an advocate for getting more women and people of color onto corporate boards, into the C-Suite and into public policy. Catherine has received many awards for her contributions to financial services, technology and mentoring of women. She received an honorary doctorate from the University of Missouri in 2007. She has co-authored four books and is a sought-out speaker at industry conferences and in the media.

Catherine is married to Paul Rooker and they live between Santa Fe, NM and Cape Cod, MA. Together they share five step-children and ten grandchildren.