



2022 Board of Directors Candidate Profiles

Nine candidates will be elected by an electronic balloting of the membership to serve a two-year term beginning on July 1, 2022.

Members can select up to nine candidates per ballot.

Ballots are due by 5 pm, June 10.

Results will be announced at the General Assembly, and confirmed by the current board.

Eight other board members will enter the second year of their term on the same date.

Erik Best

Publisher
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**Board Mission**

The war in Ukraine, the mounting economic problems in society, and the prospect of another covid wave in the fall require companies to think on their feet more than ever. The AmCham Board plays an important role in disseminating information to members, advocating on their behalf and helping them to prepare for what comes next.

Candidate's AmCham Priority:

- Strategy – the positioning of AmCham in a changing global environment
- Advocacy – implementing the strategy and staying relevant as a business organization

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

- 31 years

Career History:

- Publisher, Fleet Sheet: 1991–present.
- Publisher, Final Word: 2001–present.

Personal Note:

Every institution needs a contrarian or two to keep everyone else honest.

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- President, Executive Committee of the Board of Directors (1995–1996)
- Member, Board of Directors (1993–2022)

Company Membership:

- Founding Member: Small Business/Entrepreneur since 1992.

Michal Chour

General Manager

Almanac X Hotel



Board Mission

We are facing the greatest two challenges to the economy of the Czech Republic since its founding in 1992: a lingering pandemic and Russia's violent attack on Ukraine. We know the virus will force major changes to the sources of our prosperity, but we do not know exactly what will be transformed, and whether those changes will last. I would like the AmCham board to serve as central point for gathering information, analyzing it, and advocating solutions based on evidence that will accelerate our path to prosperity.

Candidate's AmCham Priority:

- Advocacy– General Economic Recovery
- Advocacy– Generating more national wealth through tourism.
- Best Office– Improving practice and the country's image in customer service.

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

- 20 years

Career History:

- General Manager, Almanac X Hotel, Czech Republic: 2020.
- General Manager, Radisson Blu Alcron Hotel, Czech Republic: 2006–2019.
- Executive Assistance Manager, Radisson Blu Alcron Hotel, Czech Republic: 2003–2006.
- Director of Sales, Radisson Blu Alcron Hotel, Czech Republic: 1999–2003

Personal Note:

- Speak fluently German, English and Czech (mother tongue)
- Graduated 2001 from MBA University of Calgary

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- President, 2019-2022.
- Third Vice-President (2012–2018)
- Member, Events Advisory Group (2004–now)

Company Membership:

- Corporate Patron since 1998.

Rebecca Grattan

Chief People Officer
Avast

**Board Mission**

We have had an interesting two years in human resources. Our regular HR calls started with the usual concerns about engagement, but quickly became a “how-to” forum for working from home, constructing pandemic policies, and figuring out how to keep people motivated as the virus wreaked havoc on our daily lives. As the Chief People Officer in Avast, I feel I have much to contribute to the Czech Republic as an HR Professional, as a senior female executive and working for Avast as the first CEE entrant into the FTSE 100. My background within global businesses within the government, NGO and private sectors means that I am well placed to support the chamber in its efforts to support economic growth in the Czech Republic. I would be particularly interested in supporting the promotion of the technology sector and being a champion for contemporary working practices and diversity within the country.

Candidate’s AmCham Priority:

- Human Resources.

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

- 3 years.

Career History:

Professional roles over the last 20 years have focused upon Human Resources, Culture and Transformation.

Avast plc from February 2020.

Equiniti plc April 2018 - January 2020.

Consultancy roles: 2000 - 2018: RBS, BUPA, Royal Mail, Direct Line Insurance, BT, Vodafone, Standard Life Investments, Cobham, Amey, Serco, UK Government - Ministry of Justice, UAE government - Ministry of the Interior, The Children's Society, Action for Children.

Company Membership:

- Corporate Patron since 2017.

Michal Klimeš

Manager HPC Sales, Partners
Hewlett Packard Enterprise

**Board Mission**

Working for many years in area supporting research, development and engineering I would like to influence and use position of AmCham to influence development of “innovative economy” – economy with advanced and high quality production. I also believe in even distribution of economy and research activity evenly in all country and want to promote development of regions.

Candidate’s AmCham Priority:

Continuous work with Innovative companies on platform developed in recent years and combining it with effort by Innovation centers in Moravia. Work on system of improving transfer of research results into economy results. Increase networking within industrial and technology companies and research Universities and institutions.

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

- 35 years

Career History:

- Hewlett Packard Enterprise (2017-today) – HPC Sales Manager for Central, South and East Europe
- Silicon Graphics (1998-2017) – MD and Sales Director for Central and East Europe
- Silicon Graphics (1994-1998) – MD and Country manager for CZ
- SYSCAE (1990-1994) - MD of company for supplying CAE technologies
- FORM Brno (1985-1990) – IT manager for implementation of new CAE/CAD technology

Personal Note:

I like outdoor sports and going high to the mountains to get energy. And mountains and alpinism is also good for learning making right decisions.

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- Work in Economy and Innovation strategy for influencing future development
- Member of Board of Directors from 2015
- Active involvement in developing innovation oriented economy in Moravia region.
- Working with Academic, Scientific sector to improve technology transfer to companies of all sizes in Moravia region.

Company Membership:

- Corporate since 2008.

Josef Kotrba

Chairman
Deloitte Advisory



Since the early days in my professional career I tended to take part in public debates – as a (part time) journalist, as advisor, as participant in various task forces in governmental and NGO sector. Today, AmCham is probably the best place for an intelligent public debate. The atmosphere of openness, level of engagement and quality of contributions in AmCham debates significantly exceeds the current standards. The most recent political and security development in in Central and Eastern Europe and in Czech Republic in particular, AmCham can and should play a role in preserving Czech Republic as a member of Western security and political structures.

Candidate's AmCham Priority:

- Economic Development

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

- Over 20 years in advisory and financial services industry

Career History:

- 2017 – Chairman, Deloitte Czech Republic
- 2010 - 2017 Office Managing Partner, Deloitte Czech Republic
- 2006–2010 Member of the Board, Deloitte Central Europe
- 1999 Various positions within Deloitte Central Europe, prevailingy Corporate Finance
- 1997–1999 Deputy CEO, Česká spořitelna

Personal Note:

- Czech Republic has benefitted greatly from its Western orientation in past 25 years. We should strive to secure it for the future.

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- Member of the Board 2016-2022.
- Thanksgiving Ball over 10 years
- Leadership Cocktails
- General Managers Breakfasts – also as a panelist

Company Membership:

- Corporate Membership since 1994, upgraded to a Corporate Patron in 2009

Ondřej Krajíček

Managing Director
YSoft North America



Board Mission

I see Czech Republic as a country of innovative, courageous, skillful and hard working people. We have been facing challenges and risks, longterm and recent and I believe that the only way forward is to see opportunity. I want to continue working on improving our business climate and quality of life for Czechs through digitization, nurturing innovative workforce and increasing the added value created in through strategic technology research and development. Through Y Soft CSR, I am also supporting fact based journalism to protect our liberal democracy.

Candidate's AmCham Priority:

Digital Transformation of Czech Society and Business ecosystem Digital Transformation of Czech Society and Business Ecosystem with focus on how easy it is to conduct business between US and Czech Republic

Drive Mutual Investments and deliver US Market opportunities to Czech Startups leveraging my network and venture capital experience

Prevent Czech Republic to become yet another chop shop for foreign entities

Leverage the opportunities stemming from our Czech craftsmanship, technology foundations and R&D ecosystem (such as AI, Robotics, Electronics and Biotech) and presently by Covid-19 pandemics

Career History

Managing Director of Y Soft North America, Inc. (2018-present)
Chief Technology Strategist at Y Soft Corporation (2017-present)
CTO @ Y Soft Corporation (2007-2017)

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- Board of Directors (2020-2022)
- Digital Economy Council Chair (2016-present)
- IT Committee Chair (2015-2016)
- AmCham Plus Club Member

Company Membership:

- Corporate Patron since 2014

Munir Nanji

Citi's Chief Executive Officer of Central Europe and Citi Country Officer for Czech Republic



Board Mission

My priorities, as AmCham Board Member, would be to promote the Czech Republic as preferred destination for investments and business. Considering Citi's unique position of serving communities, institutions, and governments, in more than 100 countries and jurisdictions globally and a history of over 200 years' globally and a presence of 32 years in the Czech Republic, I am convinced we can work to the benefit of the country and support AmCham objectives at our best. With over 30 years of international banking experience and an extensive industry expertise in Central Europe, Africa, and Asia, I would like to focus primarily on the development local and international businesses and environment, facilitate the transformation to ESG solutions and support the growth of the digital economy and Fintech ecosystem in the country and region.

AmCham Priorities

- Improve investment climate and opportunities
- Advocate and support ESG implementation
- Promote and support growth of Digital & Fintech economy

Career History:

- Prior to his current role, he was the Asia Pacific Region Head of the Global Subsidiaries Group in Citi's Banking Capital Markets and Advisory business, based in Singapore, being responsible for Citi's Multinational Client relationships spanning across 15 countries in the region.
- Munir has previously worked internationally across Asia, Europe, and Africa, in various country and regional corporate banking, product management and legal entity governance roles.

Company Membership:

- Founding Member/ Corporate Patron since 1992.

Personal Note:

- Munir holds a 1st Class Honours degree in Electrical Engineering, an MBA from INSEAD and an MPhil on Strategic Decision Making and Governance from the Cranfield School of Management. He is a Wharton alumnus.
- Munir is an active mountaineer and ultramarathon runner. He also contributes to academic research and teaching.

Milan Šlapák

GE CZ & SK – President & CEO
GE Aviation – Executive Director



Board Mission

As a company, we believe the next wave of this country's growth depends on larger and more effective investment into research and development. I want to use our recent experience to help shape policies to increase the proportion of private research investment to public research investment, and to share best practices among high tech manufacturers so that the country's manufacturing capabilities are among the best in Europe.

Candidate's AmCham Priority:

- Effective R&D collaboration between industry & academic sphere
- Transformation of Czech economy from low-value assembly operations into high-value research & mfg .
- Addressing lack of high-skilled labor force

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

- 23 years

Career History:

- 2018 – now: GE – President & CEO
- 2019– now: GE Aviation– Executive Director
- 2016 – now: GE Aviation – Country Director
- 2009 – 2016: GE Aviation – various leadership roles in Commercial, Program and Product management area
- 2006 - 2009: GE Corporate - Country Director for Eastern Europe & Scandinavia

Personal Note:

- Vice-president of the Confederation of Czech Aviation Industry
- MBA lecturer of Operations Management at Anglo-American University in Prague

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- Board of Directors, 2018-2022.

Company Membership:

- Founding Patron since 1992

Magdalena Soucek

EY Ambassador

**Board Mission**

AmCham always has pursued policies and investments that will help the Czech Republic increase GDP per capita by 60% by 2025. The pandemic not only puts that goal in doubt, but may change some fundamental aspects of the global and Czech economy. During my time on the board and as president, I have been involved in many initiatives that have helped shape our business environment. If re-elected, I would very much like to continue being a part of this effort with a focus on how we can restore and accelerate our path to prosperity.

Candidate's AmCham Priority:

- Good government
- Legal Reform
- Cooperation with other countries Chambers of Commerce

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

- more than 25 years

Career History:

- Country Managing Partner, EY: 2008–2021
- Managing Partner of EY for the part of central and southeast Europe region: 2011–2020

Personal Note:

- Member, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Czech Chamber of Auditors

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- President, Executive Committee of the Board of Directors (2006–2008)
- Vice-President, Board of Directors (2005)
- Member, Board of Directors (2004–2022)

Company Membership:

- Founding Corporate Patron since 1992.

Michal Zavisek

Honeywell
General Manager HTS CZ

**Board Mission**

Honeywell believes Czech Republic with its strong industrial heritage and world class academia is great place to grow our R&D capabilities. We will use our experience from key industries of advanced mobility, digitization, and sustainability to help Czech government and municipalities to define strategies for faster transformation into high tech economy.

Candidate's AmCham Priority:

- Transformation of Czechia into high tech economy with clear focus on megatrends and key industries.
- Effective R&D collaboration between industry & academic sphere
- Addressing lack of high-skilled labor force. Improving entrepreneurship education.

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

16 years

Career History:

- 2021 – now: HON – General Manager HTS CZ
- 2018– 2021: Honeywell Aerospace – EMEA Engineering Director
- 2014 – 2018: Honeywell Aerospace – Sr Engineering Manager for Avionics
- 2006 – 2014: Honeywell Aerospace – Various Engineering roles and assignments in Europe and US

Personal Note:

- Various international assignments within HON (EU, US)

Company Membership:

- Corporate Patron since 1996.