

2020 Board of Directors Candidate Profiles

Eight candidates will be elected by an electronic balloting of the membership to serve a two-year term beginning on July 1, 2020.

Members can select up to eight candidates per ballot.

Ballots are due by 5 pm, June 30.

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

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

Erik Best

Publisher
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**Board Mission**

One of the main characters in Albert Camus's *The Plague* says, "It's an idea which may make some people laugh, but the only means of righting a plague is common decency." We haven't been living through a plague, to be sure, but some of the same rules, emotions and laws of nature apply as though we were. Regardless of whether a second wave comes or life gets back to something we soon come to call normal, we'll need some common decency to get through it in one piece. For nearly 30 years AmCham has been providing a good dose of this, and I would be proud to continue to help administer it as a member of the board of directors.

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:

- 29 years

Career History:

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

Personal Note:

- Member of Board of Directors, Czech Association for Branded Products

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- President, Executive Committee of the Board of Directors (1995–1996)
- Member, Board of Directors (1993–2018)

Company Membership:

- Founding Member: Small Business/Entrepreneur since 1992.

Michal Chour

General Manager

Alcron Hotel



Board Mission

We are facing the greatest challenge to the economy of the Czech Republic since its founding in 1992. 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, Alcron 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, 2019-2020.
- 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**

I would be proud to serve within the American Chamber of Commerce in Prague. 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:

- 1 year.

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:

Getting influential technology companies together to improve central and local government messaging in order to increase visibility of successful economic development.

Bring initial ideas about future development and communicate them to relevant government bodies, influence structural changes in school absolvents to match industry development and same time allow successful economic life of families.

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

- 35 years

Career History:

- Hewlett Packard Enterprise (2017-today) – HPC Partner Sales Manager for EMEA
- 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 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
- Many discussions with government and parliament representatives to share opinion of AmCham members.

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 2016-2020.
- 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

AmCham represents the best business traditions from the Czech Republic and USA, fused with new business models, strategic investments and technology drivers. All this is enabled by shared values of fair competition, business ethics, open collaboration and free exchange of ideas. If elected as a board member, I will represent AmCham and Y Soft values to the best of my abilities. I would dedicate my experience, energy and network to build Czech Republic-USA business relationships, bring experience and execution in my priority areas and support digital transformation of Czech Republic.

Being a CTO with business role and global market experience, I see smart technology as one of the promising ways to tackle current and long running challenges, ranging from Covid-19 pandemics to reversing climate change and providing clean energy and water supply. Ensuring well-being of the Czech and global society as a result.

In supporting the right initiatives and projects, being a member of the Board of AmCham will increase my reach and impact. **I am looking forward to collaborating with you, AmCham members, in achieving our common goals and growing our collective businesses in the Czech Republic.**

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

Support digitization of Czech Republic and eGovernment projects, particularly alignment with business and industry needs

Support facts-based journalism to nurture liberal democracy in the Czech Republic.

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:

- Digital Economy Council Chair (2016-present)
- IT Committee Chair (2015-2016)
- AmCham Plus Club Member

Company Membership:

- Corporate Patron since 2014

Petr Pánek

Office Executive Partner

White & Case, s.r.o., advokátní kancelář



Board Mission

I am a father of three girls, a partner with a major New York-based law firm, a Prague born patriot, and a keen cyclist. I genuinely care about the future for my family and the Czech Republic.

Throughout my practice, I have had the pleasure of working with a number of key investors, helping them to understand the workings of this country, its laws, courts, magistrates and politics. I have made a firm decision to act exclusively for private investors, with a focus on clients based in the U.S. and Western Europe.

Over the years, the most notable U.S.-based clients with whom I have worked have included, for example, TPG, La Salle, Prologis, Honeywell and Johnson Controls. At our firm, we have assisted a number of the most successful privately held businesses that have outgrown the region and become European or global players, such as Avast, PPF, EPH, CTP and Bonatrans.

We are a confident and independent law firm held in good repute, and we find ourselves in the best possible position to assist both international investors and

major Czech-based players in navigating the current waters. In fact, we have a vested interest in making sure that the Czech legal system continues to improve so as to make sure that this country remains an attractive place to live and do business.

This is a trying time for our young legal and democratic system. Our laws have evolved significantly, but our politicians are increasingly tempted to test the limits of the established rule of law. It is foreign investors and successful local businesses who typically find themselves an easy target, and who are the first to come under pressure in such a political environment.

AmCham Priorities

As a leader of our Prague office, I would like to contribute the resources of our firm to the benefit of the AmCham program, with a focus on: (i) transparent and efficient government in the [post] COVID-19 era, (ii) the framework for reinvigorating economic growth, (iii) the protection of foreign investment; and (iv) the enhancement of university education through closer cooperation with the private sector.

Career History:

Prague Office Executive Partner 2018

Head of Prague M&A/Corporate Practice 2012

Partner 2009.

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- Member, Board of Directors (2019–present).

Company Membership:

- Corporate Patron since 2003.

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:

- 21 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:

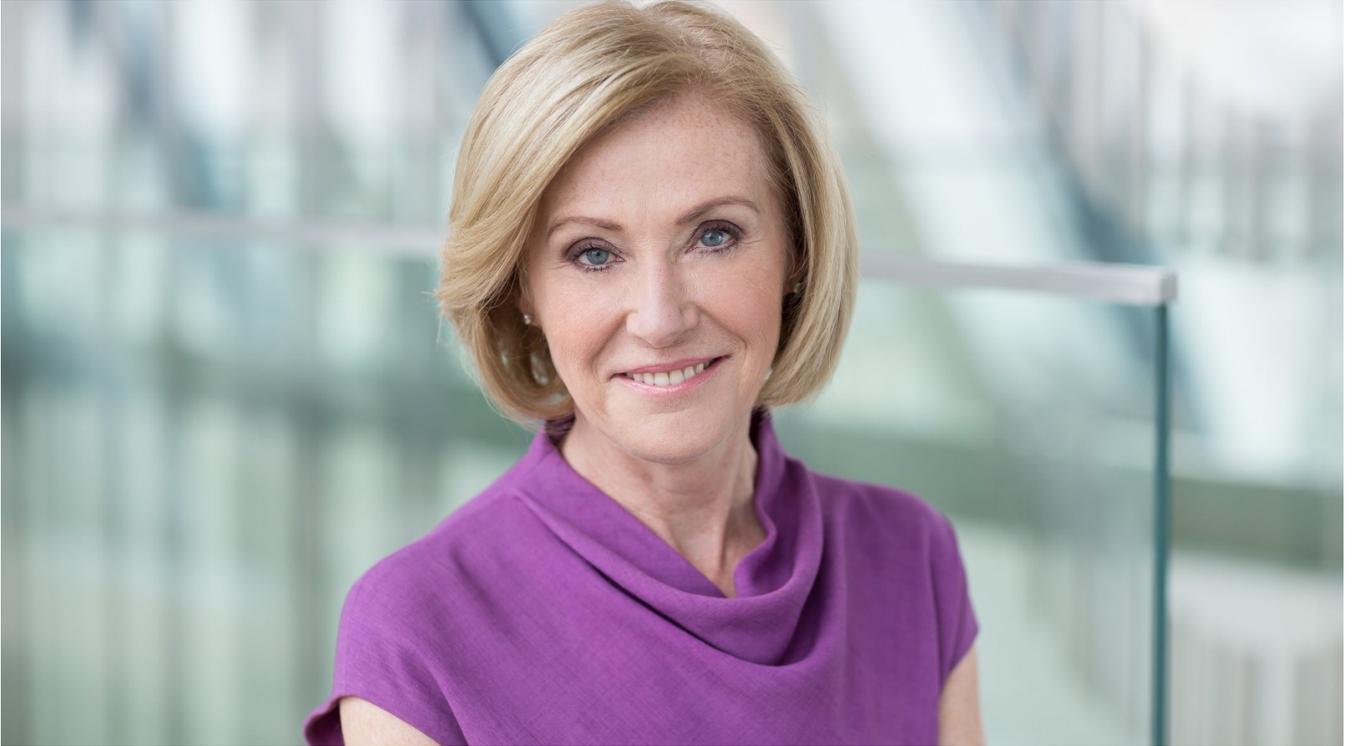
- Board of Directors, 2018-2020.

Company Membership:

- Founding Patron since 1992

Magdalena Soucek

Country Managing Partner
EY (formerly Ernst & Young)

**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–now
- Managing Partner of EY for the part of central and southeast Europe region: 2011–now
- Partner – Head of Risk Advisory Services Central Europe South, Deputy Head of Audit and Assurance Business Services Czech Republic, Ernst & Young: 2004–2006
- Partner – Audit Practice Director, Ernst & Young: 2002–2003

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 (2004–2020)

Company Membership:

- Founding Corporate Patron since 1992.

Michal Vondraš

Country Managing Director
Medtronic



Board Mission

AmCham pursues policies and investments that will help the Czech Republic increase transparency in public procurement and effective purchasing in general. The Czech Health Care (HC) system needs general reform including higher transparency and more effective purchasing. By bringing strong HC experience from different EU markets, I would like to help AmCham to drive HC specific initiative supporting general reform imperatives current Czech stakeholders have. AmCham has to combine its business and environmental transformation efforts with HC specific outcome/value-based approaches. This would be my target to achieve. I would also like to help improve AmCham's channels to communicate the important events of all the businesses in our community. The key strategic target remains: to open and maintain the most relevant treatment solutions for Czech inhabitants from the clinical and economical perspective. By doing that I want to contribute to better life in Czech Republic.

AmCham Priorities

- Health Care Council
- Digital Economy Council
- Executive Networking- CEO Talks

Career Spent in the Czech Republic:

15 years, 4,5 years in EU countries

Career History:

- Medtronic Czechia Country Manager, company executive
- Medtronic Senior business director Diabetes Central and Eastern Europe, 2013-2017
- Medtronic DIB BUM CZ 2009-2013
- MSD various managerial positions

Personal Note:

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

Previous AmCham Involvement:

- Chair, Health Care Council

Company Membership:

- Corporate Patron since 2013.