



**Elizabeth M. Higashi**  
President, Higashi Advisors

Elizabeth M. Higashi, CFA, has more than 30 years of experience in investor relations and corporate communications, heading those functions for three Fortune 500 companies and serving as counsel to companies in the housing, education, media, retail, transportation, chemicals, energy and healthcare industries. Her experience includes initial and secondary public offerings, acquisitions, spin-offs, mergers, restructuring, leveraged buyouts, bankruptcy, corporate branding and crisis communications.

Previously, Higashi was a principal at Sard Verbinen & Co., where she advised clients on a variety of projects, including investor relations program development and training; announcements regarding major transactions, executive management changes and corporate restructurings; and ongoing corporate messaging, presentations and conference calls.

Her corporate experience includes serving as vice president, corporate and investor relations for UNext Inc., an online business education company; vice president of corporate communications of International Minerals & Chemical Corporation; vice president of strategic planning and communications for SFN Companies, Inc., and director of investor relations and communications at The Times Mirror Company. Previously, Higashi was also a principal of Cardinal Advisors, an independent investment counsel firm and started her career as a financial analyst with Scudder, Stevens & Clark in Los Angeles.

Higashi graduated cum laude from UCLA with a bachelor's degree in political science and received a master's degree in urban studies from Occidental College. She was a CORO Foundation Fellow in the Los Angeles Center. Higashi currently serves as vice chairman of the board of Heartland Health Outreach and serves on the Program Committee of the CFA Society of Chicago. She is a member of the National Investor Relations Institute, National Association of Corporate Directors, and Chicago Council on Global Affairs.