SUSAN KILSBY

Major Career Roles

Chair, Fortune Brands Innovations Inc.
Chair, Shire plc
Senior Independent Director, Diageo
Senior Independent Non-Executive Director, BHP Group plc
Regional Chair, Credit Suisse Group AG
Non-Executive Director, Unilever

Susan Kilsby currently serves as Independent Chair of Fortune Brands Innovation Inc. Additionally, she is Senior Independent Director and Remuneration Committee Chair at Diageo plc (since 2019), where she oversees executive pay frameworks and stakeholder alignment. She is also Vice Chair and Senior Independent Director at Unilever plc (since early 2025) – chairing its Compensation Committee, as well as serving on the board of Cofra Holding AG (since 2023).

Susan earned widespread recognition as Chair of Shire plc (2014-2019), leading the £45bn global pharmaceutical group through complex acquisition integration and its sale to Takeda. In her executive career, she held senior investment banking roles at Credit Suisse, including Head of EMEA M&A, and before that, at Bankers Trust, Barclays, and First Boston.

Her governance credentials span blue-chip global boards. She was Non-Executive Director at Goldman Sachs International (2016-2018), Keurig Green Mountain, Coca Cola HBC, L'Occitane, BHP Group, and BBA Aviation, frequently chairing remuneration and audit committees.

Other Career Highlights

Senior Independent Non-Executive Director, Signature Aviation plc
Advisory Board member, Yale School of Management
Non-Executive Director, Goldman Sachs International
Independent Director, Coca-Cola HBC AG
Independent Director and AuditCo Chair, Keurig Green Mountain Inc.
International Chair, Competitor Diversity Forum
Advisory Board member, Gordon A. Rich Foundation
Advisory Board member, Diligent Institute
Senior Adviser, Credit Suisse Group AG
Non-Executive Director and RemCo Chair, L'Occitane International SA

She brings deep cross-sector expertise in:

• M&A & integration leadership – steering high-value acquisitions and strategic exits in pharmaceuticals and consumer sectors.
• Executive pay & audit governance – structuring incentive frameworks and audit oversight across global FTSE and NYSE companies.
• Consumer & healthcare strategy – advising on capital and risk in diversified consumer and biopharma boards.
• Board development & diversity advocacy – mentoring leaders and promoting gender balance through roles with C200 and Bayes Business School (formerly Cass).

Educated at Wellesley College (BA Economics) and Yale School of Management (MBA), Susan holds an honorary DSc from City University of London. Recognised by Forbes and Financial News as a top woman in finance, she is also a Senior Visiting Fellow at Bayes Business School and was previously Chair of its M&A Research Centre.

Susan is admired for her sharp financial intellect, strategic discipline, and governance integrity – qualities that make her a powerful mentor for executives navigating M&A, board environments, and cross-border corporate transformations.