

DISTINGUISHED PERFORMANCE AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN DIVERSITY

Richard Edelman
President and CEO
Edelman

The Leadership in Diversity Award was established to honor exceptional companies and their executives who are leading programs that foster diversity in the workplace and champion underrepresented groups, including supporting women and their advancement across the full spectrum of private enterprise.

This year, we are proud to honor Edelman for their long-standing commitment to the advancement of women and to placing a strong emphasis on leadership opportunities for women, particularly as they contribute to global competitiveness.

CED is inspired by Richard Edelman and his team, including Matt Harrington, Global COO and Gail Becker, Chair of Canada, Latin America, and U.S. Western Region. They provide outstanding leadership, support, and encouragement to women within the firm. Through innovative programs, Edelman addresses the challenges women face to rising through the ranks.

Richard Edelman set a goal that 50% of Edelman's executives on their Strategy Committee, Operating Committee and practice leadership will be women by 2016. He asked Gail and Matt to help create an environment in which women are able to succeed at senior levels in Edelman. They created an internal task force called the Global Women Executive Network (GWEN) and more than 700 women globally have already joined. This network is committed to addressing areas such as mentorship, sponsorship, education, policy, and career development to ensure the firm cultivates a culture and environment in which women want to stay and excel to the senior most levels.

Edelman has also established a special page on the company's intranet where employees can celebrate successes, share stories and hear from senior women both inside and outside the firm. GWEN has additional initiatives underway including a guest speaker series, local office 'lunch and learns,' surveys and focus groups to better understand these issues in all regions of the company. The response among Edelman employees says it all:

"The gender ratio disparity between lower-level employees and executive teams is an issue that I've been aware of and concerned about since I joined the industry, and I'm happy to be at a company where the CEO is taking on the issue in earnest."

"The fact that there's an initiative like GWEN is one of the many reasons I love working at Edelman."

CED is pleased to count Edelman as a strong partner and is honored to present the Leadership in Diversity Award to Richard Edelman and his team. Matt Harrington and Gail Becker will accept on the firm's behalf.