

Board of Directors 2011-2012

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure® board of directors functions to govern and advise the world's largest breast cancer organization in its efforts to save lives and end breast cancer forever. The board leads the funding of the best science and the equipping of the boldest community to make the biggest impact as the Komen family stands united against breast cancer.

Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., Chair
Nancy G. Brinker, Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Eric Brinker
Linda Custard
Elyse Gellerman, Affiliate Representative
Brenda Lauderback
Linda Law
Connie O'Neill
John D. Raffaelli



Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr. is a prominent surgeon and oncologist, a widely regarded medical educator and a leader in professional and civic organizations. Leffall previously served as Komen's board chairman from 2002 to 2007 and is a long-time supporter of Komen for the Cure's mission to save lives and end breast cancer forever. He currently serves as the first Charles R. Drew professor of Surgery at Howard University College of Medicine, a position he was named to in 1992. Having served as a member of the Howard University faculty for nearly a half-century, Dr. Leffall has taught approximately 5,500 medical students and helped train 275 general surgery residents.



Ambassador Nancy G. Brinker founded Susan G. Komen for the Cure® on a promise she made to her sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer. She led a relentless breast cancer information and awareness campaign and succeeded in breaching the silence surrounding the disease, fundamentally changing the way it is talked about and treated. She started the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure® and also pioneered cause-related marketing, both of which have had a profound impact on the breast cancer movement. An outspoken champion of all people with breast cancer as well as those who are at risk for developing the disease, Ambassador Brinker takes her cause and her passion all over the world, seeking the fresh input and international partnerships essential to ending breast cancer forever. Among her many leadership roles, Brinker served as U.S. Ambassador to Hungary from 2001-2003 and as U.S. Chief of Protocol from 2007-2009.



Eric Brinker is the son of Susan G. Komen for the Cure® founder and CEO, Ambassador Nancy G. Brinker, and the nephew of Susan G. Komen. Before she died, Susan G. Komen made Nancy promise that she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer, and Eric grew up watching (and helping) his mother fulfill that promise through Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the largest breast cancer advocacy organization in the world. He is one of Komen's most enthusiastic, and most senior, volunteers. When Ambassador Brinker was diagnosed with breast cancer herself, then eight-year-old Eric was a great source of solace for her, even when he was stealing her wig and running off with it. Currently, Brinker is owner and president of Metro Leasing Company in Peoria, Ill. His career has included stints in a variety of marketing and operational areas. He was part of the original JetBlue Airways marketing team and was instrumental in developing the airline's overall customer experience.



Linda Custard is a full-time volunteer with a wide range of experience in educational, cultural and social service boards. She has served as president of the Junior League of Dallas, vice chair of the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, chair of the Board of Trustees of the Hockaday School, president of the Community Council of Greater Dallas and president of the Dallas Woman's Club. Presently, she serves as a Trustee of Southern Methodist University and as a Director of the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts Foundation. She has served on the Susan G. Komen for the Cure® board since 1982.

Elyse Gellerman serves the Susan G. Komen for the Cure board as Affiliate representative, representing the interests of the breast cancer organization's more than 120 Affiliates worldwide. A long-time activist for women's issues, she is passionate about Komen for the Cure's mission to save lives and end breast cancer forever, having experienced breast cancer as a co-survivor of many friends and co-workers battling the disease. Gellerman brings to Komen's board more than a decade of Affiliate expertise as a volunteer, board member, officer and advocate.



Brenda Lauderback is a breast cancer survivor and brings a wealth of business acumen to Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. The former group president of wholesale and retail at Nine West Group is skilled at instituting highly disciplined planning and product-development processes that enable fast implementation. She has distinguished herself in formulating effective merchandising and pricing strategies that capitalize on economic, competitive and consumer factors. Lauderback currently serves as a corporate director for the boards of Irwin Financial Corporation, Big Lots Corporation, Select Comfort, Denny's Corporation and Wolverine World Wide. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the Career Women of Achievement Award from the YMCA of Cincinnati and Bragg Award for Outstanding Achievement from the Black Retail Action Group. Lauderback is active with community service organizations Jack & Jill of America Foundation and The Links, Inc.



Linda S. Law is the founding partner of Law & Associates, one of the only women-owned real estate development firms undertaking institutional-quality development in the United States. Ms. Law is an alumna of University of California, Berkeley and the Harvard Graduate School of Design. She is a founding member of the Harvard Real Estate Academic Initiative and is currently Chair of the Harvard Real Estate International Advisory Board (a venture between the Harvard Business School, the Harvard Kennedy School of Public Policy, the Harvard Graduate School of Design, the Harvard Law School and Harvard College). Ms. Law additionally serves on the national boards of ORT America and Silicom Ventures and is an advisor to Invirion Diagnostics. She is also an RNC Regent and a member of the Founder's Circle at Stanford University. Ms. Law lectures at UC Berkeley and Harvard University and has recently designed a Case Study Course for the Graduate School of Design's Executive Education Program.



Connie O'Neill has been involved with Susan G. Komen for the Cure® since 1992. She served as treasurer of the organization for two years and then chaired the National Awards Luncheon in 1994. In 2000, she was again appointed treasurer of Komen for the Cure and served for three years. In addition to her work with Komen, O'Neill serves on the boards of Children's Medical Center Foundation, Children's Health Services of Texas as chair of the audit committee, the SMU Alumni Association where she was past president, La Fiesta de las Seis Banderas and the Highland Park Education Foundation as vice president. She also serves on the finance committee of the Highland Park ISD. O'Neill is a member of the Leadership Dallas Alumni Association and the Crystal Charity Ball. She was formerly president of the Junior League of Dallas and also has served on the boards of Presbyterian Hospital Foundation, St. Paul Medical Center Foundation and St. Mark's School of Texas Parents Association Board. O'Neill is a 1977 graduate of SMU and worked as a certified public accountant for Ernst & Young from 1977 to 1985. She is married and is the mother of four children.



John D. Raffaelli brings to Susan G. Komen for the Cure more than 25 years of experience in federal policy and policymaking. He is a founding partner of Capitol Counsel, LLC and prior to that was a founder and former chairman of The Washington Group, a government relations firm in Washington, D.C., where he represented a wide variety of business, tax and trade clients on Capitol Hill and before executive branch agencies. Raffaelli also spent four years on Capitol Hill as counsel for tax and international trade to Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX). Raffaelli has been nationally recognized by outlets such as the Washington Post as one of the most effective lobbyists in Washington and is respected by both Democratic and Republican lawmakers for his knowledge of the legislative process and his ability to develop public policy solutions to client issues.