**LESLIE JACKSON PARRETTE, JR.: A SHORT PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY**

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| A person in a suit and tie  Description automatically generated  Recent Honors  In 2012, Leslie (Les) Parrette was recognized as a “Legend in Law” by the prestigious Burton Awards, in association with The Library of Congress and co-sponsor The American Bar Association. This honor is “bestowed on those General Counsel who are considered to be the best in the legal profession and have a “demonstrated track record of addressing complex matters.” Not only does this distinction make Les part of an elite circle of nationally recognized legal leaders, but also it defines the level of excellence he offers to his clients.  In 2021, the Atlanta Business Chronicle awarded the 2021 Corporate Counsel Awards Lifetime Achievement Award to Les. The award recognized Les’ 35-year career as a Big Law partner, chief legal officer of three global industrial companies, entrepreneur, and mentor to students and young professionals.  Legal and Educational Background  Les spent 20 years as General Counsel for public companies in domestic and international markets. As an accomplished Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel experienced in all aspects of corporate law, Les has also held positions as Chief Compliance Officer, Chief Internal Auditor, Corporate Secretary, and Information Technology head for global corporations. He most recently led the global legal function and served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Compliance Officer, and Corporate Secretary of Novelis Inc., the world leader in the production of flat rolled aluminum products and aluminum recycling for the aerospace, automotive, beverage and food can, industrial goods, and consumer electronics markets that operates under the banner of Indian-conglomerate Aditya Birla Group’s flagship company, Hindalco Industries. Prior to that role, Les served as Senior Vice President, Legal Affairs and General Counsel for WESCO International, Inc., a Fortune 500 holding company that is a leading distributor of electrical products and supplies (also known as Westinghouse Electric Supply Company). Before then, he was Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary of Aquila, Inc., a former Fortune 50 international electric and gas utility, electrical power generation, and energy trading company.  Prior to moving in-house, Les spent 14 years in private practice as a commercial and corporate transactional attorney. Les was a senior partner in the Kansas City-based law firm of Blackwell Sanders (a predecessor of Husch Blackwell), an associate in the Kansas City office of Bryan Cave, and an associate in the Boston office law firm of Hale and Dorr (a predecessor of WilmerHale). Les holds a Bachelor of Arts degree (*magna cum laude*) from Harvard College and a Juris Doctorate in Law from Harvard Law School.  Entrepreneurship  In 2004, Les founded One Page Thinking, an innovative data visualization firm that depicts complex information in a fulsome, visual format and on a single page to enable holistic and rapid understanding of business and legal strategy and organizational alignment. He notes, “it is rare that a busy executive, member of the Board of Directors, a regulator, or your employee base has the time or patience to wade through dense materials in narrative form. Therefore, it you want to capture his or her attention and ensure what you’re telling them will be understood, your presentation needs distill complex business or legal information down to a clear diagram or visual tool that fits on a single sheet of paper. Your clients will love you for it!”  Board Service  Les is an independent director of Innospec Inc. (effective January 1, 2022), a publicly held international specialty chemicals company with approximately 1,900 employees in 24 countries. Les also serves on the Innospec Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee. Milton C. Blackmore, the Chairman of Innospec, said, “We are delighted to have Leslie join our Board. He brings valuable skills and experience in corporate law, governance and strategic planning which will be an asset to the Board as Innospec advances its growth strategy.” Les also serves as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors (and co-Chair of the Legends in Law Committee) of the Burton Awards, which are held in association with the Library of Congress, *Law360*, and the American Bar Association to recognize outstanding achievement in the legal profession.  Personal  Les was born at the now-defunct Richards Gebaur Air Force Base in western Missouri and was raised in Kansas City, Missouri, and Overland Park, Kansas. He is a renaissance man who enjoys physical fitness and spectator sports (particularly, tennis, football, baseball, and basketball). Les is an avid fan of jazz, fusion/electric jazz, Brazilian samba and bossa nova, vocal group jazz, and drumming. Indeed, together with his brother Vinx (following his tour with Sting), Les composed and recorded “There I Go Again,” a musical composition that was featured and became the most requested song on the hit TV series Northern Exposure in the 1990s. In private law practice, he represented luminaries in the soul gospel and R&B categories, such as singer Kim Burrell, singer and actor Uncle Sam (“I Don’t Want to See You Again”), and gospel producer Alex Ward (musical director for the Clark Sisters, among other legends). Les also enjoys travel, film, art, architecture, and reading (particularly books on social science, the universe, the Milky Way galaxy, and the solar system). In 1987, Les co-authored and self-published Parrette’s Book of Clichés, which lists and defines all the clichés, witticisms and colloquial expressions he heard during his years at Harvard University. |
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