

Bess Joffe

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Associate Director – Americas

Hermes Equity Ownership Services Ltd

Bess is Associate Director for the Americas. She joined Hermes Equity Ownership Services in December 2005 to work on corporate governance and responsible investment in that region. In her role, Bess actively engages with boards and senior management at underperforming companies that are fundamentally sound, but have a variety of strategic, financial or governance issues. She works with regulators in both the US and Canada, including the SEC, the TSX, and the Ontario Securities Commission, along with the Canadian Coalition for Good Governance to progress the debate in North America on corporate governance and shareholder engagement. Over the past year, Bess has spoken at the SEC, various American Bar Association conferences, to North American corporate secretaries, and a consortium of the largest Canadian companies on public policy issues.

Bess graduated with Great Distinction from McGill University in her Bachelor of Arts degree. She is a Canadian qualified lawyer from the University of Toronto and articulated at Stikeman Elliott LLP where she gained a background in corporate and securities law. She previously worked for Fairvest in Toronto, now RiskMetrics Canada, as well as PIRC, a leading independent research and advisory consultant on corporate governance and social responsibility from the UK.

Immediately prior to joining Hermes, Bess worked at the Department of Trade and Industry in London. Bess has 7 years' professional experience, with 5 years in governance-related positions.