



Jessie Knight, Jr.

Director Emeritus

Southern California Leadership Council

Jessie J. Knight Jr. is Managing Director of Knight Angels LLC, a private equity firm dedicated to investments that fund philanthropic initiatives to serve rising leaders who are women, minorities or veterans.

He retired in November 2015 as executive vice president for Sempra Energy and chairman of the board of San Diego Gas & Electric and chairman of the board for Southern California Gas Company, both subsidiaries of Sempra Energy. From 2010 through 2013, he was chairman and CEO of San Diego Gas & Electric.

He has served in many senior leadership roles in industry and state government. He has formerly served as President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, a State Commissioner of the California Public Utilities Commission, Executive Vice President for the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, Vice President of Marketing and Planning for San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner Newspapers, and Director of Marketing for the U. S. and Canadian pineapple operations for Dole Foods Company and also in finance in Dole's banana operations in Latin American.

Knight is a former board director of Alaska Airlines, Avista Corporation and the San Diego Padres Baseball Club. He currently serves on the board of directors of the J. Craig Venter Institute, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the Timken Museum of Art. He serves as a trustee for the University of California San Diego Foundation, and on advisory boards for the University's Rady School of Management, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and Cal IT2.

He is a member of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Order of St. John and a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He currently co-Chairs a Task Force led by Vice President of the United States, Mike Pence, and Senator Tim Scott to create jobs in distressed U. S. cities with energy and infrastructure project investment.

He holds a bachelor's degree from St. Louis University, was a fellow at the University of Madrid, and holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.