

CAREER PROFILE

Simon Osborne

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Simon Osborne is an experienced and commercially focused professional who is non-executive Chairman of Crown Business Communications Limited, a multi-disciplined, award winning corporate communications agency and its parent, MNN Holdings Limited. He is also joint director of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries' (ICSA) Board Performance Unit and has worked successfully with major companies and other organisations evaluating their boards and main committees. He brings first hand knowledge and understanding of the practical and personal aspects of the operation of boards and how to identify performance improvements, combined with the necessary interpersonal skills to facilitate change.

Simon lectures on governance issues for ICSA Seminars and Central Law Training and is a member of the International Corporate Governance Network.

Up until April 2003, Simon was a main board executive director of RT Group PLC (formerly Railtrack Group PLC). Previously he was company secretary and general legal counsel of the Railtrack Group. He gained valuable board level experience of listed companies and considerable involvement in assessment of board dynamics, as well as corporate governance and regulation. He has been closely involved too in corporate crisis management. He remains a director of RT Group PLC. He has served until recently as a member of the audit committee of Simmons & Simmons, the international law firm; and previously as chairman of the British Transport Police Committee's audit sub-committee and of The Law Society's audit committee. Additionally he has advised Simmons & Simmons on European railway issues, and has advised German Railways on the possible initial public offering of a minority shareholding.

In addition to his background in corporate and legal affairs, Simon has experience of leading transformational change in organisations, in the context of IPO-based scenarios. He has a keen interest too in developing the people of an organisation as a way of increasing the performance and commercial value of the organisations which employ them.

In the voluntary sector, Simon serves as Deputy Chairman of the principal railway industry charity, the Railway Benefit Fund. The charity embarked last year on a re-launch and major fund raising initiative in which he is playing a lead role.

Simon qualified as a solicitor in 1973. He is a Fellow of ICSA and is chairman of the ICSA's Company Secretaries' Forum.