



## Ronelda (Nel) Capadona

Director  
**International School of Latvia**

Industry: Education  
Level: Corporate Contributing

As the newly appointed Director of the International School of Latvia (ISL), Nel works closely with the U.S. Embassy and department of State's Office of Overseas Schools, to provide an excellent international education within a vibrant school representing over 30 nationalities. Nel holds a Bachelor's in Education from Brighton University and a Master's Degree in Education from Northern Arizona University. During her vocation, Nel has led within a diverse range of international schools, organizations and colleges in South East Asia, the USA, and Britain. Corporate Governance.

Over the last 20 years, Nel has served as a Board Member on the East Asia Regional Council of Schools, the International School Association of Schools in Thailand, and is currently an active member of the Central and Eastern European Schools Association.

” *I believe that collaborative partnerships are crucial in creating thriving communities. I would be excited to join the AmCham team and find ways to strengthen our community bonds, advance the mission and vision of AmCham, and advocate for Latvia as a trusted destination for American families and international businesses.*



## Zinta Jansons

Foreign Counsel  
**Ellex Klavins**

Industry: Legal services  
Level: Corporate Contributing

Zinta Jansons is Co-head of the Finance & Tax practice at the law firm Ellex Klavins. She has been with the firm since 2004. Prior to joining Ellex Klavins she worked at PwC and its associated law firm Landwell (Baltmane & Bitāns). Prior to moving to Latvia she worked at the American Bar Association's Central and East European Law Initiative (CEELI). She has been advising foreign investors including many U.S. companies entering the Baltic market and local companies operating in Latvia.

Zinta is a licensed attorney in NY and NJ and is a certified Latvian tax advisor. She has contributed to many publications and articles on tax and business issues including BNA Bloomberg, the World Bank, Thompson Reuters and the American Chamber of Commerce in Latvia. She is a guest lecturer at the Riga Graduate School of Law and a council member of the International Bar Association's European Regional Forum for the Northern Region. In that she has served as a member of the expert committee of the Baltic American Partnership Program and as an internal auditor of the International School of Riga.

Zinta was born and educated in the U.S. and has lived in Latvia since 1998. Through Ellex Klavins she has advised on a pro bono basis various non-profit organizations including Iespējamā misija, RMHC Latvija and Mentor.

” *The COVID-19 crisis has brought about many unexpected challenges for individuals and businesses in Latvia and across the globe. During this difficult time AmCham has continued to provide leadership and support for our members addressing the challenges facing our businesses to recover from the crisis and move forward. The health of our society, the skills and education of our workforce, focused investment and innovation are needed to support the regeneration of the economy. The crisis has only exemplified the importance of upholding our vision of a sustainable and transparent business environment and long term cooperation with trusted partners, our core values which we need to continue to support and grow.*



## Vladlens Kovalevs

Managing Partner  
**VA Government**

Industry: Consulting services  
Level: Corporate

Vladlens Kovalevs is Managing Partner at VA Government, a government relations and public affairs firm. As a partner at VA Government, Vladlens provides counsel to his clients on political, regulatory, and public issues connected to their respective advocacy efforts. Prior to founding VA Government, he was awarded the Baltic-American Freedom Foundation scholarship and was stationed at a government relations firm Cassidy & Associates in Washington, D.C.

Vladlens has been involved in the assistance of multiple businesses in the tech, financial, FMCG, pharma, and defense sectors. His specializations include government relations and campaign management, as well as international communications. Vladlens holds a BSc degree in Economics and Business from the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga and has completed Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute at American University in Washington, D.C.

Vladlens is a Co-Founder of a non-profit Global Shapers Riga by the World Economic Forum, currently, pro bono advising one of its spin-off social projects #Neklusē.

” *In times of great economic uncertainties, it is vital to have predictable policy-making and legislative processes. Unfortunately, this is often not the case. AmCham as the leading foreign chamber of commerce is an essential platform for foreign investors to engage Latvian decision-makers and jointly create a more predictable and reasonable business environment. I believe that one of the core objectives for AmCham board members is to serve as proactive advocates of AmCham membership in a dialogue with policymakers, legislators, and regulators alike. Due to my professional experience, I believe this is a role I am most capable to create added value for AmCham and its members.*



## Roberts Melbardis

Country Manager and  
Operations Director  
**Encompass Digital Media**

Industry: Other services  
Level: Corporate

Roberts is Country Manager and Operations Director at Encompass Digital Media, a global technology services company delivering TV channel playout, media management and video-on-demand services to world leading companies like Disney, Warner Media and Amazon, with offices in Riga, London, Singapore, Buenos Aires, Stamford and Atlanta (HQ). Encompass Riga is a Center of Excellence providing services to regional and global clients.

Before Encompass, he held various executive and financial positions in various MTG companies in Riga, Latvia (CFO, COO) and London, UK.

Roberts has a broad competence in Strategic planning and development, Business transformation, Operational Excellence, Technology development and implementation, Financial management and Organizational change.

Roberts holds a Business Administration degree from Stockholm School of Economics in Riga. Currently he is enrolled in the Corporate Innovation program at Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

” *I am proud to be part of AmCham – the leading business organization which plays a key role in improving the business climate in Latvia and enhancing the trade and partnership with the United States. I look forward to working together with the AmCham team, its members and other stakeholders to navigate through this crisis and to ensure that we come out of this crisis stronger than ever. We all want to see Latvia as an even better place to live, work and do business.*



## Pauls Miklasevics

Individual member  
Level: Individual

Pauls is Chief Asset Management Officer at BlueOrange Bank where he manages discretionary investment portfolios and provides strategic investment solutions for clients in Latvia and abroad. He has over 20 years' experience in finance and is a passionate advocate of how properly functioning capital markets play a critical role in forming and upholding free and prosperous societies. Previously, Pauls worked as an institutional equity trader at Mavrix Fund Management in Toronto, Canada.

Pauls was born and educated Canada and has lived in Latvia since 2008.

Pauls is proud to serve on the board of the Ronald McDonald House Charities, and is a regular columnist for Forbes Latvia.

Since he was elected to the AmCham board two years ago, Pauls has served as the VP of Membership.

” *Our members showed great resiliency during challenging times, and, if I were to be entrusted to serve a second term on the AmCham board of directors, I would make it my mission to help those of our members that were most impacted by the crisis to come back stronger than ever. We are a chamber of commerce, and it is vital that we put precedence on the financial success of our members. Supporting one another and strengthening AmCham's network is the highest expression of AmCham's core values of Integrity, Responsibility, Co-operation and Excellence, and is the most direct way that we can advance Latvia's prosperity.*



## Ieva Racenaja

Director  
**Riga Graduate School of Law**  
Industry: Education  
Level: Non/Profit

Since February 2018 Ieva is Director of Riga Graduate School of Law – specialized and internationally focused law school in Latvia.

Prior joining Riga Graduate School of Law Ieva has built a 20+ year career in financial industry in Latvia and abroad. During the last 15 years Ieva has been Member of Management Boards of several banks in Latvia and Estonia being directly responsible for operations management and retail branch network. In her professional career Ieva has worked for several large international financial institutions such as American Express Bank in Vienna, and was CEO of GE Money bank in Latvia. Before choosing to join Riga Graduate School of Law she was Head of Eesti Krediidipank branch in Latvia and served on bank's Management Board in Estonia. Ieva has extensive experience in banking sector and across diverse organizational functions – operations, customer service, retail banking, branch management and compliance, which are beneficial also in her current role.

Ieva also serves on the Supervisory Board of Latvian Judicial Training Center and is Board member of Riga Graduate School Fund.

” *21st century requires different skills, attitudes and even business mind-set. Business organizations like AmCham serve as a platform to meet and obtain support from likeminded people, share experiences, gain new ideas and collectively work towards building a sustainable and transparent business environment. I highly value the chance to work together with AmCham and contribute to the various initiatives in the field of advocacy and corporate governance as well as education reforms and labor market issues.*