FIROZ DATTU
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Biography

After obtaining his J.D. from Harvard in 1996 (where he served as a teaching fellow in the economics department), Firoz became a litigator at Paul Weiss. Firoz had an epiphany: he was not happy. In 1998, he joined CEB where he co-founded and ran the General Counsel Roundtable (a membership of GCs sharing ideas). While there, Firoz co-created and taught a mini-MBA course for in-house counsel. He also ran a membership group for board members, where he worked with ex-CEOs who lived on yachts or owned vineyards, and (twice!) presented to a Board where a shareholder activist billionaire traded barbs (wrapped as ideas) with the CEO/Chair. Firoz felt ridiculously out of place and received no yacht party invitations. In 2008, Firoz launched AdvanceLaw, which vets law firms for member GCs. Because performance information is shared, the law firms are motivated to excel. AdvanceLaw also creates law firm panels, runs a diversity mentorship program, and created the GC Thought Leaders study. After selling AdvanceLaw in 2021, Firoz took time off to do nothing, and now thinks about doing something.