John Alfonso Assumes American Cancer Society Board Chair Role

The American Cancer Society announced that **John Alfonso**, Partner and Leader of **CohnReznick LLP**'s Not-for-Profit and Education Industry practice, has been named 2021 Chair of the **American Cancer Society** Board of Directors. Alfonso, an American Cancer Society volunteer for more than 30 years, was elected Board Chair in 2019 and began his one-year term on January 1, 2021.

In serving the American Cancer Society in its top volunteer leadership position, Alfonso brings extensive professional skill and experience as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with the prestigious designation as Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA). Through his work as CohnReznick's Not-for-Profit and Education Practice Leader, he serves a broad constituency of not-for-profit organizations, advising boards and management on accounting standards, board governance, risk management, and information technology.

"Like most cause-based organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the American Cancer Society to innovate and find new ways to serve patients and connect with communities. Throughout these changes and challenges, our volunteers and supporters have enabled us to continue serving cancer patients," said **Gary Reedy**, American Cancer Society Chief Executive Officer. "John Alfonso's outstanding financial stewardship skills, coupled with his dedication to achieving health equity, make him the right person to serve as Board Chair during this pivotal time for our organization."

Born in Havana, Cuba, Alfonso came to the United States as a political refugee. Now living in New York, he is passionate about promoting equal rights and opportunities, especially for people who have been historically discriminated against. He is also a tireless advocate for policies and programs that eliminate ongoing healthcare disparities.

"While we are encouraged by the significant decline in cancer death rates across the U.S., statistics show that low-income communities and people of color continue to be disproportionately impacted by the disease," said Alfonso. "I am deeply honored to serve as 2021 Board Chair and am committed to working with Gary and his team, my fellow board members, and our 1.5 million volunteers in helping the Society advance its strategic priorities – among them, achieving health equity for all populations."

In 2014, Alfonso received the prestigious American Cancer Society St. George National Award, presented to outstanding community volunteers for their distinguished service in achieving the Society's strategic goals.

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