



News Release

Contact

Heidi Welsh

heidi@siinstitute.org

tel: +1-301-432-4721

Si2 Names Peter DeSimone Deputy Director

DeSimone adds 16 years of proxy analysis experience to Si2's full-time roster

WASHINGTON, DC, March 21, 2011—Si2 today named Peter DeSimone Deputy Director. In his new role, DeSimone will work with Executive Director Heidi Welsh to build the non-profit organization's membership and its research offerings. DeSimone has analyzed shareholder proposals on environmental and social policy for 16 years, while developing considerable expertise about sustainability reporting and investor responsibility. DeSimone cofounded Si2 in 2009 with Welsh and has consulted since then with Si2 on business development and research.

"We're thrilled to be well into our second full year offering the only impartial U.S. proxy analysis service on environmental and social issues. Peter will help ensure we keep delivering the high quality work our members have come to expect." said Welsh. "His expertise on sustainability and recent policy work at the Social Investment Forum will help guide our members through the interesting thicket of choices proxy season presents. We're also excited about plans for Peter's involvement in forthcoming research on the complicated controversies investors face today."

DeSimone began his career in 1995 as a social issues research analyst for the Investor Responsibility Research Center (IRRC). He went on to author pioneering research about corporate supply chain risks and sweatshops. As director of labor and human rights research at RiskMetrics Group (now part of MSCI), he helped manage sustainability research and risk ratings while providing corporate engagement services for clients. Since 2009, DeSimone has developed the policy, communications and programmatic work of the Social Investment Forum (SIF) as its director of programs.

"I'm pleased to join my cofounder and Executive Director, Heidi Welsh, so Si2 can deliver exceptional proxy research in 2011 and for years to come," said DeSimone. "We've seen even further consolidation in the U.S. proxy analysis and voting market recently. That presents us with a tremendous opportunity to provide investors with more innovative choices, and I look forward to working with Si2's team of seasoned experts as we do just that."

About Si2

The Sustainable Investments Institute, a non-profit research organization based in Washington, D.C., conducts impartial research and publishes reports on organized efforts to influence corporate behavior on social and environmental issues. Si2 closely follows shareholder resolutions proposed by investor advocates, but does not make voting recommendations. Instead, it provides tools and in-depth reports that enable investors to make their own informed, independent decisions on the contentious public policy issues raised during proxy season.

Si2 also conducts related research on special topics of interest to investors, corporations and the general public, such as the October 2010 report funded by the IRRC Institute, *How Companies Influence Elections: Political Campaign Spending Patterns and Oversight at America's Largest Companies*, the first assessment of corporate political spending governance at the S&P 500. Si2 also co-authored the recently released *Proxy Preview 2011*, a collaborative project with the As You Sow Foundation.

Initial funding for Si2 comes from a consortium of more than a dozen of the largest-endowed U.S. colleges and universities and a large pension fund.

Explore more at www.siinstitute.org.