

STAFF BIO



Helen Tovar, Esq

GENERAL COUNSEL AND VICE PRESIDENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

Helen Tovar serves as general counsel and vice president of Legal Affairs at the CDC Foundation. She brings more than 20 years of legal experience and serves on the Foundation's C-Suite Team.

In this role, Tovar provides counsel to the board of directors and executive leadership on organizational strategy, implementation of strategic goals, risk management and regulatory compliance. She oversees all legal affairs and identifies legal issues that may affect the organization. She leads development of business policies and ensures adherence to those policies. She also advises on complex business transactions and negotiates contracts. Tovar also provides executive oversight of the Internal Audit and Assurance function, strengthening internal controls, enhancing transparency and promoting a culture of continuous improvement. In addition, Tovar oversees the organization's Grants and Vendor Management functions, ensuring responsible stewardship of funding sources, compliance with grant and procurement requirements and effective third-party risk management.

Tovar joined the CDC Foundation in 2017 as general counsel and compliance officer. Previously, she served as general counsel for National Services Group, Inc., whose subsidiaries provide interior and exterior residential and commercial painting services. In that role, she provided legal representation and assessed risk and advised on complex commercial transactions, employment law matters, corporate governance and regulatory compliance.

Tovar is passionate about building strong governance cultures, fostering ethical leadership and ensuring legal strategy supports mission-driven impact.

Tovar earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She received her Juris Doctor degree from Whittier Law School, Costa Mesa, CA. She is licensed in the state of California and is an active member of the Association of Corporate Counsel.