



## **Susan Connelly**

**Senior Vice President, Chief Communications & Public Affairs Officer**

Susan Connelly was named Chief Communications and Public Affairs Officer in June 2019. A member of Darden's Executive Team, she is responsible for corporate and brand communications, digital marketing, government relations and public policy, philanthropy, and the company's community engagement strategy and sustainability initiatives.

Darden owns and operates more than 1,900 Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Yard House, Ruth's Chris Steak House, Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, The Capital Grille, Seasons 52, Eddie V's and Bahama Breeze restaurants in North America.

Previously, Susan served as Senior Vice President, Communications and Corporate Affairs. Prior to that, she served as Vice President, Government Relations where she led the government relations, community affairs and sustainability functions for Darden. She was responsible for developing external engagement strategies that aligned with ongoing business objectives. Susan joined Darden in 2007 as Director, State and Local Government Relations.

Prior to joining Darden, Susan was Government Relations Manager for McDonald's USA where she directed state and local advocacy for the Eastern United States. Susan also served as Director of State Affairs for the Grocery Manufacturers Association, serving as their primary legislative and regulatory advocate in the Northeast.

Susan serves on the boards of the National Restaurant Association and the Florida Chamber of Commerce. She is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Suffolk University and a trustee of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from St. Anselm College in Manchester, N.H., and earned an MBA from the Sawyer Business School at Suffolk University in Boston, MA.

