

## **Karen Sessions**

Karen Sessions is a senior executive with more than 27 years of communications leadership and expertise. Karen currently serves as the Chief External Affairs Officer for 5 Bars, LLC based in Irvine, CA. Karen has an extensive background in external affairs, public policy, business development and implementing complex architecture in communications technology.

Prior to joining 5 Bars, Karen spent 26 years with Verizon Communications and most recently held the position of Vice President, Public Policy, Law and Security where she was responsible for both present and emerging Communications Public Policy. This public policy included Smart Cities, Telematics, Internet of Things, Transportation, Machine to Machine (M2M), Healthcare, Energy, Security and Cybersecurity. In addition, Karen managed business stakeholder relationships including academics, think-tanks, and engineering and standards experts for research and external corporate communications.

Karen was the Co-founder and Board Member of the N. Donald Diebel, Jr. M.D. Good Samaritan Fund, 501(c)(3), with a specific mission to serve medically uninsured women and children in the Central Florida community. The Fund was established in memory of her late husband and physician and currently operates a medical clinic for the uninsured and supports a corresponding pediatric clinic.

Karen served as City Commissioner and Vice Mayor (2007-2010) for the City of Winter Park, FL. The city, founded in 1887, has a \$155MM budget, 500+ government employees, municipally owned electric utility, water and sewer systems and locally appointed law enforcement and fire safety units.

Karen holds a Bachelor's degree in Finance from the University of Notre Dame and a Master's degree from the University of South Florida. Karen is married to Congressman Pete Sessions (TX-32) and she has three sons, Conor, Liam and Nicholas and two stepsons, Bill and Alex.