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Gary LaBranche, FASAE, CAE, is the President & CEO of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI). As CEO, LaBranche provides strategic executive leadership to advance the NIRI's mission and goals. He represents NIRI to regulators, lawmakers, the media and other audiences. Since coming to NIRI in 2017, NIRI launched the "Investor and Issuer Invitational Forum," the 40 Under 40 program, the IR Competency Suite of online courses, a legislative fly-in to Washington and a Think Tank on the Future of Investor Relations.

Previously, he was CEO of the Association for Corporate Growth (ACG). ACG serves 90,000 investors, lenders, executives and advisors to middle market companies, including 1,000 private equity firms.

An association professional for 38+ years, LaBranche has served as CEO for three other organizations and as a senior executive at the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Prior to joining ACG, LaBranche was CEO for the Association Forum of Chicagoland. At the Forum and ASAE he was responsible for identifying, developing and sharing best practices, models and innovation in association management, professional development and meeting planning. At ASAE he was responsible for the 6,000 attendee "Super Bowl of Conventions," launch of e-learning and modernization of the Certified Association Executive (CAE) program.

He was named an ASAE Fellow (FASAE) in 1995. He was the ASAE Key Award winner for 2007, the highest award in the profession. ASSOCIATION TRENDS named him the 2012 Association Executive of the Year. The Association Forum honored him as the 2019 recipient of the Samuel B. Shapiro Award for Chief Executive Achievement. He is a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Association Committee of 100 and is past chairman of the Chamber's Institute of Organization Management. LaBranche has served on ASAE's 4 governing boards and chaired the board of ASAE's for-profit subsidiary, ASAE Business Services, Inc.

He is the author of 300+ articles, podcasts and columns and the book, "*The Association CEO Succession Toolkit*" published by ASAE in 2018. He authored the chapter, "Managing the Complex Association Enterprise" in ASAE's *Handbook on Professional Practices in Association Management, 3rd edition*. He has consulted/presented to 300+ associations.

LaBranche was profiled as an innovative leader in the book, *Hope: How Triumphant Leaders Create the Future*, by Andrew Razeghi. He has also been featured in *Strategic Transformation: How Boards Achieve Extraordinary Change*, by Beth Gazley and Katha Kissman, and *Race for Relevance: 5 Radical Changes for Associations*, by Harrison Coerver and Mary Byers, CAE.