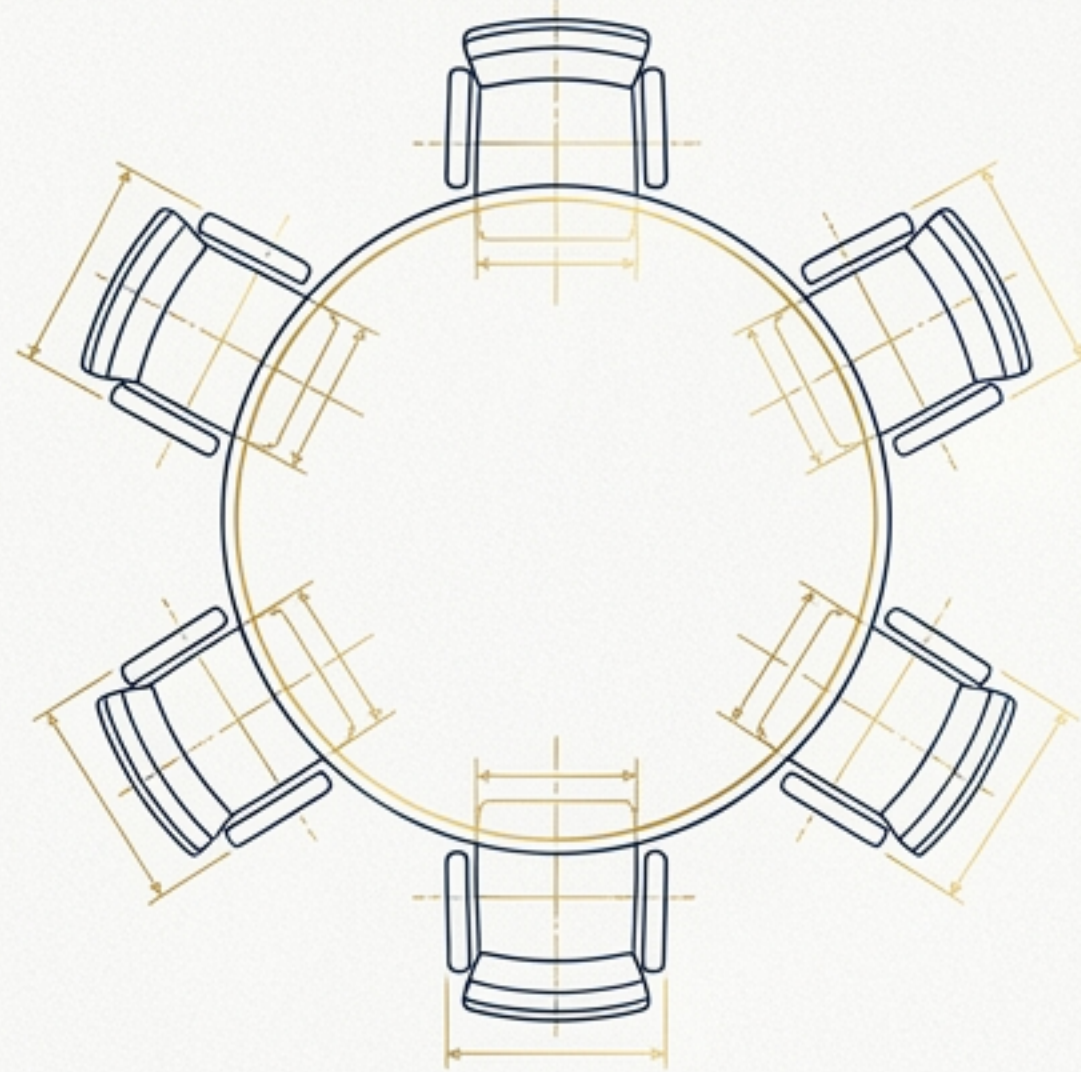


Playfair Display Board of Advisors



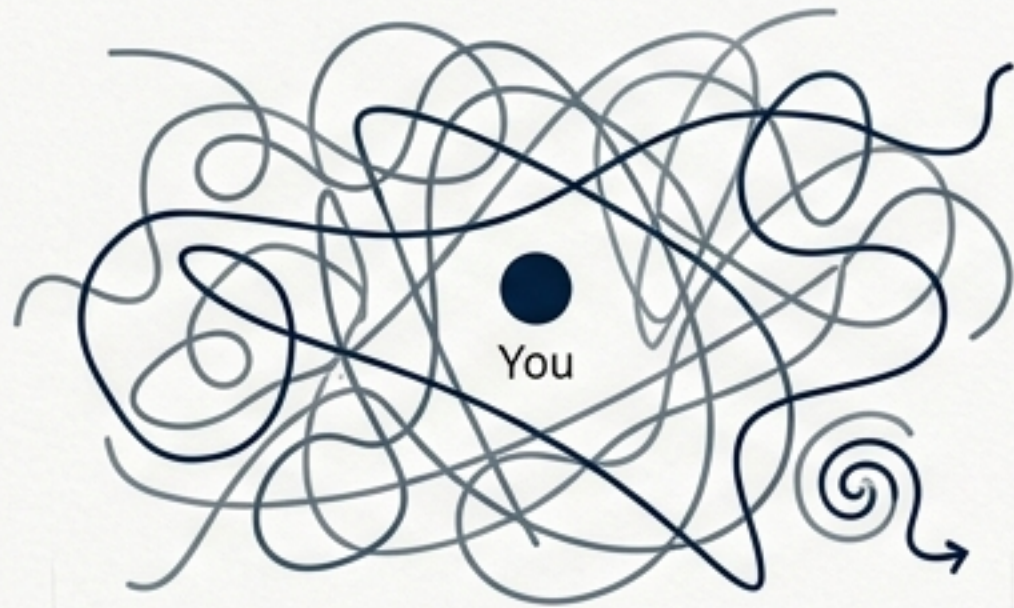
A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR CAREER ACCELERATION

Inter

Operational Governance for the Individual Career

The Solo Career

Inter



The Governed Career



Stop Navigating Solo.

Successful entities do not operate in a vacuum.

- Fortune 500 CEOs have Boards of Directors.
- High-Growth Startups have Advisory Boards.
- Elite Athletes have Coaching Teams.

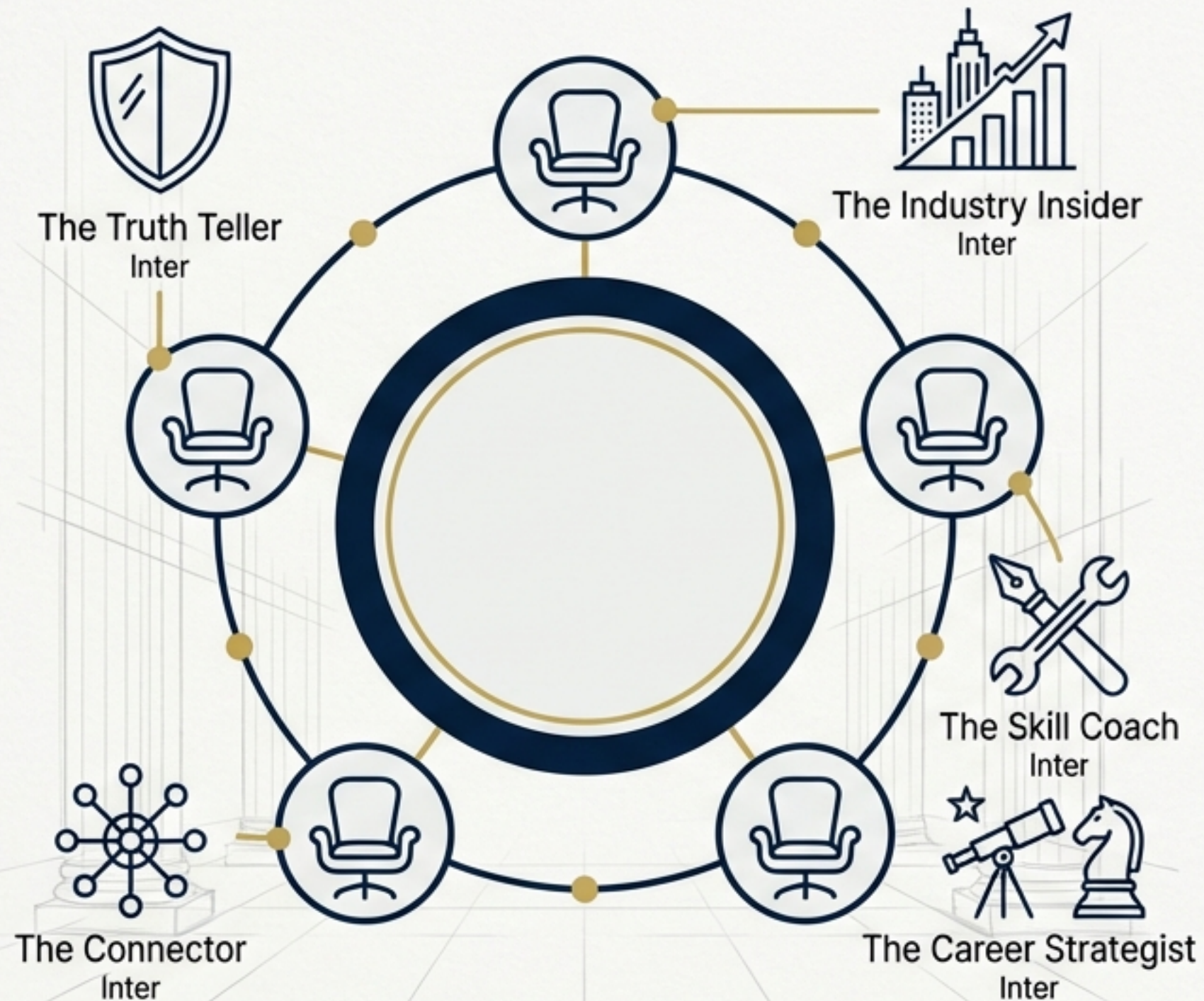
Why are you navigating your career alone?

Definition: The Personal Board of Advisors

Not casual mentorship. A structured, intentional group of 4-6 trusted individuals who provide guidance, accountability, and access to opportunities you cannot reach on your own.

The 5-Seat Framework

A complete board requires five distinct perspectives.



The 5-Seat Framework Explained

A balanced personal board consists of five distinct roles, each offering unique and critical perspectives for holistic guidance:

1. **The Industry Insider:** Provides deep domain expertise, market trends, and competitive intelligence specific to your field.
2. **The Skill Coach:** Focuses on developing specific competencies, improving performance, and refining technical abilities.
3. **The Career Strategist:** Helps define long-term goals, navigate career pivots, and design a roadmap for future success.
4. **The Connector:** Opens doors, facilitates introductions, and expands your professional network with influential contacts.
5. **The Truth Teller:** Offers unbiased, candid feedback, challenges assumptions, and acts as a necessary reality check.

The Market Experts

Focus: Technical Competence & Industry Context

1. The Industry Insider



Profile: Deeply embedded in your target field. They know the key players, the emerging trends, and the regulatory shifts.

Value: Provides market intelligence and credibility. They answer: “Where is this industry going?”

2. The Skill Coach



Profile: Excels at your specific core professional skill. They are practitioners who look at your actual output.

Value: Provides actionable, technical feedback. They say: “Your strategy is sound, but your execution needs to be more prescriptive.”

The Visionaries

Focus: Future Growth & Network Leverage

3. The Career Strategist



Profile: 5–10 years ahead of you on a similar trajectory. They have already made the difficult decisions you are currently facing.

Value: They see around corners. They help you avoid pitfalls they have seen others make and maintain a long-view perspective.

4. The Connector



Profile: Has an extraordinarily wide network and genuinely enjoys making introductions. They are a bridge between silos.

Value: Multiplies your reach exponentially. One good connector is worth a hundred cold outreaches.



GUARDRAIL

The Guardrail: The Truth Teller

Profile:

Someone who cares about you enough to risk the relationship by giving brutally honest feedback.

The Hard Truths:

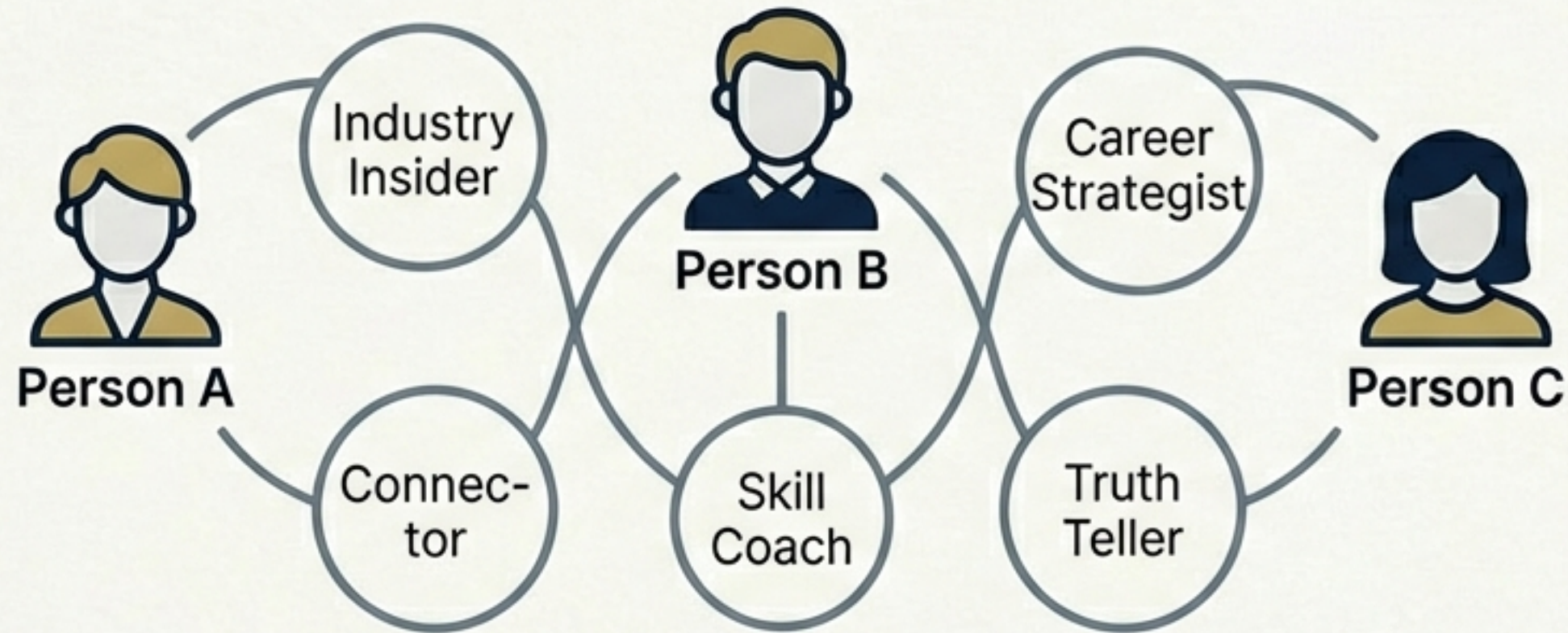
- Your resume is weak.
- Your interview skills are lacking.
- You are aiming too low.

Value: Blind Spot Prevention.

They protect you from the unseen behaviors that become career-limiting problems. This is the most uncomfortable, yet most critical, seat on the board.

Composition Strategy

5 Roles $\neq$ 5 People



Consolidate your board.

You do not need to find five strangers.

One person can wear multiple hats.

- The Sweet Spot: 4 to 6 people total.
- Sourcing: Map these roles to your existing network first.

The Golden Rule of Recruitment

Subhead in Inter: Don't Make It Weird.

The Wrong Way



Formal Invitation.
“Will you be on my Board of Advisors?”

Result: Feels corporate and heavy. People say yes to be polite, then avoid the obligation.

The Right Way



Organic Evolution.
Start with a specific, low-friction ask.

Result: Builds naturally from mentorship to advisory through consistent, specific interaction.

The Initial Outreach

The Low Friction Ask

Send Attach 😊 🗑️ 🔗 — ↗ ×

Subject: Quick question about [Specific Achievement]

Hi [Name],

I really respect how you've navigated [Specific Achievement/Transition].

Could I buy you coffee (or a virtual 15-min chat) and ask a few specific questions about your experience?

Best,
[Your Name]

The Strategy:

1. Flattery
(Specific respect)



2. Low Commitment
(Coffee/15 mins)



3. Specific Purpose
(Not 'picking your brain')



Operational Rhythm

The Quarterly Report (15 Minutes per Quarter)

Q3 Update

The Update

Here is what I have been working on since we last spoke... (Context)

The Ask

Here is where I need your perspective right now...
(Specific Question)

Closing the Loop

Here is how your advice from last quarter helped me...
(Proof of Listening)



Why this works:

It respects their time while enforcing your own accountability.

The Value Exchange

Give as much as you get.



Close the Loop. When you show you have implemented guidance, advisors become invested investors in your success.



Share Wins. People want to back a winner. Your success validates their mentorship.



Offer Help. Share articles, tools, or introductions. Even if the power dynamic is unbalanced, there is always value you can offer.

AI-Assisted Advisory: Setup

Accelerating the recruitment phase.



Tool 1: Board Seat Identifier

Use AI to scan your resume and network context. It can objectively identify which contacts fit the 5-seat framework based on their skills and your needs.

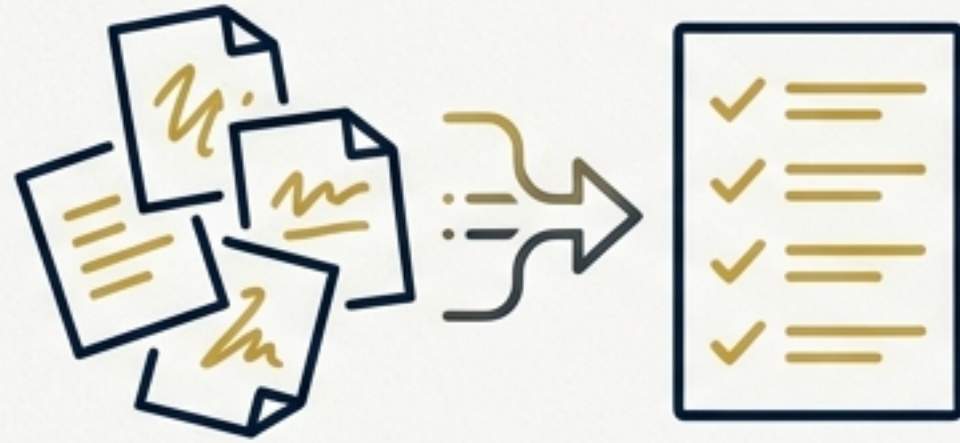


Tool 2: Advisory Outreach Drafter

Use AI to draft initial emails. It ensures the tone is specific, low-pressure, and socially calibrated to avoid awkwardness.

AI-Assisted Advisory: Maintenance

Synthesizing progress for executive updates.



Tool 3: Quarterly Update Generator

Input your raw activities and recent wins. AI formats them into the concise 3-part “Update/Ask/Loop” structure respected by busy professionals.



Tool 4: Board Discussion Prep

Simulate the conversation. Use AI to roleplay the “Truth Teller” or ‘Strategist’ before the meeting to refine your questions and prepare for tough feedback.

Implementation Checklist

Accelerating the recruitment phase.



Identify

Fill the 5 seats using the Board Seat Identifier.



Outreach

Reach out to your top candidate this week using the Low Friction script.



Schedule

Put a recurring hold on your calendar for quarterly check-ins.



Automate

Set up AI tools to prep your first discussion.

Action is the only metric that matters. **Do not wait** for the perfect board; **build it one seat at a time.**

The ROI of Governance

$$\begin{matrix} 15 \\ \text{Minutes} \end{matrix} \times \begin{matrix} 4 \\ \text{People} \end{matrix} \times \begin{matrix} 4 \\ \text{Quarters} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} 5 \text{ Hours} \\ \text{Per Year} \end{matrix}$$



**Result:
Infinite Return**

Your Board of Advisors is the difference between navigating your career with a compass versus navigating blindfolded.

Treat your career like the high-growth startup it is.