

## Melody Hobson

Melody Hobson is president of Ariel Capital Management, LLC—a Chicago-based investment management firm founded in 1983. With more than \$21 billion in assets under management, the firm manages separate accounts for institutional clients and also serves individual investors and 401(k) plans through its no-load Ariel Mutual Funds. In her capacity as president, Hobson is responsible for firm-wide management and strategic planning. She is a graduate of Princeton University where she earned a B.A. from the Woodrow Wilson School of International Relations and Public Policy.

Hobson is actively involved with a variety of civic and professional institutions. Her community outreach includes her role as a board member of the Chicago Public Library as well as its foundation, The Field Museum, The Chicago Public Education Fund, and The Sundance Institute. She is also a director of three public companies: DreamWorks Animation SKG, Inc., The Estée Lauder Companies Inc., and Starbucks Corporation. Additionally, she serves as a trustee of Princeton University and a term member of the New York Council on Foreign Relations. Hobson is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago, the Commercial Club of Chicago, and the Young President's Organization (YPO).

Hobson's extensive media experience includes her role as a regular financial contributor on ABC's "Good Morning America." In 2004, *The Wall Street Journal* profiled Hobson as one of 50 "Women to Watch" in the corporate world. In 2004, *Time* magazine identified her as one of 25 business influentials setting the global standards for management, ethics, marketing, and innovation. In 2002, *Esquire* magazine named Hobson as one of "America's Best and Brightest" emerging leaders. In 2001, the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland named her a Global Leader of Tomorrow (GLT), and *Fortune* magazine recognized her as one of 25 "Next-Generation Global Leaders."