

CERENCE INC.
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE GUIDELINES
(As Adopted September 2019)

1. Introduction. These Corporate Governance Guidelines (“**Guidelines**”) are intended to assist the Board of Directors (“**Board**”) of Cerence Inc. (“**Cerence**” or the “**Company**”) in the exercise of its responsibilities to the Company and its stockholders and serve as a framework for various governance matters within the Company. These Guidelines should be interpreted within the context of the Company’s Certificate of Incorporation, Bylaws, other corporate governance documents and all applicable laws, rules and regulations. The Nominating and Governance Committee of the Board (the “**Nominating and Governance Committee**”) is responsible for the Guidelines and shall review the Guidelines periodically and recommend changes to the Board as appropriate.

2. The Board.

A. Role of the Board. It is the principal duty of the Board to exercise its powers in accordance with its fiduciary duties to the Company and in a manner it reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders. The Board, which is elected by the Company’s stockholders, oversees the management of the Company and its business.

B. Selection of Directors. The Nominating and Governance Committee is responsible for recommending to the Board candidates for directorships and the Nominating and Governance Committee is responsible for recommending to the Board the Board committee assignments, in each case based upon criteria approved by the Board. Invitations to a potential director to join the Board should be extended by the Chairperson of the Board on behalf of the Board. Stockholders may recommend director nominees for consideration by the Nominating and Governance Committee by writing the General Counsel and complying with the Bylaws of the Company, as appropriate. Any recommendation should include the nominee’s name and other details and qualifications for Board membership. Following the verification of the stockholder status of the person submitting the nominee recommendation, all properly submitted recommendations shall be brought to the attention of the Nominating and Governance Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting.

C. Director Qualifications.

The Nominating and Governance Committee is responsible for reviewing the appropriate skills and characteristics required of prospective Board members and for recommending and periodically reviewing these criteria. The Nominating and Governance Committee evaluates each individual in the context of the Board as a whole, with the objective of recommending a group that will best serve the interests of the Company and its stockholders. Among the criteria the Board may consider are experience and diversity; and with respect to diversity, the Board may consider such factors as gender, race, ethnicity, differences in professional background, experience at policy making levels in business, finance and technology and other areas, education, skill, and other individual qualities and attributes. The Board endorses the value of seeking qualified directors from backgrounds otherwise relevant to the Company’s mission, strategy and business operations and perceived needs of the Board at a given time.

The Board believes that candidates for director should have certain minimum qualifications, including: (i) the highest personal and professional ethics and integrity; (ii) skills that are complementary to those of the existing Board; (iii) proven achievement and competence

in the nominee's field; (iv) relevant expertise upon which to be able to offer meaningful advice and guidance to management and make significant contributions to the Company's success; (v) sufficient time to devote to affairs of the Company and contribute to the Company's goals; (vi) demonstrated excellence in their field; (vii) the ability to exercise sound business judgment; (viii) meet other requirements as may be required by applicable rules, such as financial literacy or financial expertise with respect to audit committee members; and (ix) an understanding of the fiduciary responsibilities that is required of a member of the Board and the commitment of time and energy necessary to diligently carry out those responsibilities.

At least a majority of the directors of the Board shall be independent. An independent director is a director who meets the Nasdaq definition of "independence," as determined by the Board, and does not have any other relationship with the Company that, in the opinion of the Board, would interfere with the exercise of judgment in carrying out director responsibilities. The Board shall make an affirmative determination regarding the independence of each director upon his or her initial nomination or candidacy to serve on the Board and annually thereafter, based upon the recommendation of the Nominating and Governance Committee.

D. Board Leadership. The leadership of the Board shall include a Chairperson of the Board and, if the Chairperson of the Board is not independent, a lead independent director. The Board may select a Chairperson of the Board in the manner and upon criteria that the Board deems appropriate at the time of selection. The same person may hold the position of Chairperson of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. If the Chairperson of the Board is not independent, the Board shall appoint the lead independent director upon the recommendation of the Nominating and Governance Committee, which shall be a director who qualifies as "independent" under the Independence Rules of the Nasdaq Stock Market. The Chairperson of the Board or, if the Chairperson of the Board is not independent, the lead independent director, shall serve as the focal point for independent directors in resolving conflicts with the Chief Executive Officer, or other independent directors, and coordinating feedback to the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of independent directors regarding business issues and Board management. The lead independent director shall also approve information sent to the Board, approve meeting agendas for the Board, approve meeting schedules to assure that there is sufficient time for discussion of all agenda items, have the authority to call meetings of the independent directors and, if requested by major shareholders, ensure that he or she is available for consultation and direct communication.

E. Eligibility of Directors/Term of Office. Each director shall ensure that other existing and anticipated future commitments do not materially interfere with service as a director.

Directors may not serve on the board of directors of more than 4 other public companies without first obtaining specific approval from the Board. Prior to accepting service on the board of any other company, a director shall notify the Chairperson of the Board and the Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee. Service on the board or a committee of any other organization should be consistent with the Company's conflict of interest policies.

The Board does not presently believe it should establish term limits or a mandatory retirement age. Term limits and mandatory retirement ages may result in the loss of long-serving directors who over time have developed unique and valuable insights into the Company's business and therefore can provide a significant contribution to the Board. As an alternative to term limits or a mandatory retirement age, the Board will routinely evaluate the directors and

evaluate the need for changes to board composition based on an analysis of skills and experience necessary for the Company.

F. Function of the Board. The business and affairs of the Company shall be under the oversight of the Board. This includes overseeing the conduct of the Company's business by management and review of the Company's financial objectives and major corporate plans, strategies and actions. Directors are expected to promote the best interests of stockholders in terms of corporate governance, fiduciary responsibilities, compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and maintenance of accounting, financial or other controls. Directors will participate in the selection, evaluation and, where appropriate, replacement of the Chief Executive Officer. Directors may also provide input to the Chief Executive Officer for the evaluation, as well as the recruitment, of the principal senior executives of the corporation.

G. Education. Directors are encouraged to participate in continuing education during their terms. Continuing education may include both in-house and third-party presentations and programs. Directors shall be reimbursed for costs incurred in connection with their participation in any accredited director education programs. Orientation and continuing education are designed to assist the new director in developing and maintaining skills necessary or appropriate for the performance of their responsibilities.

H. Compensation & Expense Reimbursement. The Board's general policy is that Board compensation should be a combination of cash and equity. Employee directors shall not be paid for Board membership in addition to their regular employee compensation. Board compensation will be reviewed from time to time. Changes to the Board compensation, if any, should come at the suggestion of the Nominating & Governance Committee, but with full discussion and concurrence by the Board. Board members will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred by them in connection with their service on the Board and, as applicable, its committees.

I. Change in Employment Status. Upon a director's resignation or retirement from, or termination of, his or her principal current employment, or other material change in a director's principal employment responsibilities, professional occupation or association, the director shall notify the Chairperson of the Board or the lead independent director and the Chair of the Nominating and Governance Committee of the director's change in employment status. The Nominating and Governance Committee may consider such change of status in assessing and recommending to the Board whether the director should continue serving as a member of the Board.

J. Conflicts. If an actual or potential conflict of interest develops between a director and the Company, such conflict should be immediately reported to the Chairperson of the Board. If a director has a personal interest in a matter before the Board, the director shall disclose the interest to the Board, and may be required to excuse himself or herself from participation in the discussion on the matter and/or abstain from voting on the matter.

K. Succession Plans. In conjunction with the Nominating and Governance Committee, which has responsibility for periodic reviews of succession planning, the Chief Executive Officer shall periodically report to the Board on management development and succession planning for senior management, including the Chief Executive Officer position, to ensure continuity of leadership for the Company. The Chief Executive Officer shall prepare a short-term succession plan which outlines temporary delegation of authority to certain officers of the Company if one or

more members of senior management (including the Chief Executive Officer) should unexpectedly become unable to fulfill his or her duties to the Company.

L. **Functioning of the Board and Director Responsibilities.**

Directors are expected to participate in Board and applicable committee meetings, review relevant materials, to prepare for meetings and discussions with management, and to devote the time necessary to discharge their responsibilities.

Non-employee directors shall meet without management present on a periodic basis but no less than one time a year in a non-employee director executive session. “Non-employee directors” are all directors who are not Company employees, including both independent directors and such directors who are not independent directors by virtue of a material relationship, former status or family membership, or for any other reason. In addition, if the non-employee directors include directors who are not independent directors, the independent directors shall also meet on a periodic basis but no less than one time a year in an independent director executive session.

M. **Confidentiality.** Directors should protect and hold confidential all non-public information that comes to them, from whatever source, in their capacity as a director of the Company, unless disclosure is authorized or required by law (which includes disclosure of non-privileged documents or other information to any federal, state, or local government agency or commission). Proceedings and deliberations of the Board and its committees are confidential.

3. Committees.

A. **Structure.** There are three standing committees of the Board consisting of Audit, Compensation and Nominating and Governance. Each standing committee shall consist of at least three directors. Each of the Board’s Audit, Compensation and Nominating and Governance committees shall be comprised solely of independent directors. Additional committees may be created or disbanded upon approval by the Board. The Audit Committee is responsible for the hiring, oversight and compensation of the independent certified public accountants that audit the Company’s financial statements, reviewing the results of the audit of the Company’s financial statements, and for monitoring the Company’s internal financial and accounting organization and controls and financial reporting. The Compensation Committee reviews, and in some instances determines, the salaries and other matters relating to the compensation of the executive officers of the Company, administers the Company’s stock plans. The Nominating and Governance Committee reviews and reports to the Board on matters of corporate governance and reviews and addresses these Guidelines and recommends revisions as appropriate, and makes recommendations to the Board regarding the size and composition of the Board and its committees, procedures for the nomination process, candidates for election to the Board and director compensation.

B. **Committee Charters.** Each committee shall have its own written charter specifying the purpose, responsibilities, duties and authority of the committee consistent with the description above. Each charter shall be approved by the Board. The Board may, and each committee shall, periodically review the respective committee charters to determine that the charters continue to address the purposes for which the committee has been formed. Committee charter amendments will be either initiated by a committee and approved by the Board or initiated and approved by the Board on its own initiative.

C. Committee Assignments. The Nominating and Governance Committee is responsible for recommending a director to serve on a committee and for recommending the appointment of a chair of each committee. The Board shall approve all committee and chair assignments. The Nominating and Governance Committee shall periodically review committee assignments, however there is no policy or requirement regarding rotation of committee assignments.

D. Committee Meetings. Each committee shall be responsible for determining the frequency and length of its meetings. Meeting agendas will be developed by the committee and its chairperson.

E. Board Communication Policy. The Board believes that management should speak for the Company and that the Chairman should speak for the Board. In order to ensure compliance with applicable securities laws and to avoid the potential detriment to the interests of the Company, its stockholders and other constituencies that could result from inconsistent communications, the members of the Board will not respond to media inquiries or make statements to the media regarding the Company and its business without consultation with, and approval by, the Chairman of the Board or the Board.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Audit Committee and the independent directors have established procedures to enable anyone who has a concern about the Company's conduct or about the Company's accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters to communicate those concerns directly to the Audit Committee. Such communications may be confidential or anonymous and may be submitted electronically to the Audit Committee by email (AuditCommittee@cerence.com) or as otherwise designated by the Board.

4. Miscellaneous.

A. Board Evaluation Process. The Board and its committees shall engage in periodic self-evaluations to assess whether they are functioning effectively.

B. Outside Advisors. The Board and its committees may, at the Company's expense, retain outside advisors, experts and counsel as they deem reasonably necessary or appropriate to perform their obligations.

C. Attending Annual Meetings. The Company will strive to plan annual meetings of stockholders to coincide with a Board meeting to facilitate directors attending the annual meetings. Absent unusual circumstances, directors are required to attend each annual meeting of stockholders.

D. Amendment. The Company is committed to continuously reviewing and updating its governance policies and practices. The Company reserves the right to amend these Guidelines at any time, for any reason, subject to applicable law.