A KEYNOTE BY MIKE WITTENSTEIN

Photo: a Storyminers client's board session

From Oversight *to Foresight*

For boards: three questions to ask before the options close.

> *"Your special brand of cutting to the chase was just the wake-up call our audience needed to hear."*
>
> Nancy Butler, Editor in Chief, Sleep Savvy

> *Oversight protects what exists. Foresight protects what comes next.*
> A company's greatest asset is its future.

The premise

Boards, and the leadership teams that report to them, at companies from $50 million to $2 billion. Recently, they were broadsided by technology consequences they had not seen coming, and are putting in controls late: locking the barn after the horse is gone.

FOR

Board retreats, governance conferences, Private Directors Association events, boards of privately held and private-equity-owned companies, family-business forums.

NOT FOR

Not a fit if there is no board, or no wish to get more from the one there is.

What you leave with

- **Three ways to encourage boards to lean forward.**
- **Supporting stories** of big shifts in thinking.
- **Ways to tap the board's wisdom** for future-state design while keeping their fingers out of operations.

How the hour runs

1. **Open.** A board that only reviews what already happened can't see what's coming. The board's job is now to keep the machinery running, and to build into the company the ability to adapt, so it meets whatever comes next gracefully and profitably.
2. **Turn.** Maier: its leaders heard that their product's value was not its specs but the confidence line managers had that their lines would not go down. Then the room does it live: the board answers the three questions on paper, management answers the same three, and the two sets go side by side.
3. **Close.** A case written in the future state, so everyone can get their arms around it; then the three questions, with guidance: how to ask each of yourself, and how to put it to the board.
   1. If we hit all our targets, will we be the company we need to become?
   2. What is keeping our options open costing us—and what might it earn us?
   3. What could we safely move faster on if we agreed on where we're going and what the boundaries are?

Keynote, 45 to 60 minutes, rebuilt for your audience. **Workshop companion,** 90 minutes to a half day. A planning call first. Every attendee gets a digital copy of the presentation, the worksheets, the questions, and any other session materials. **Watch Mike:** storyminers.com/speaking.

Keynotes start at $15,000, U.S. travel included.

Check a date

mike@storyminers.com
+1 404.229.5809

Mike Wittenstein, CSP - Talk: From Oversight to Foresight v1.3 - September 2026 - storyminers.com/speaking
Storyminers, founded 2002 by Mike Wittenstein - Sources: storyminers.com/sources