



Bradley Knox

SVP and Counsel, Aflac Federal Relations



Life In Brief

Birthplace: Los Angeles, CA

Hometown: Carson, CA

Ethnicity: Black/African American

Education:

- JD, Regent University School of Law, 1994
- BS, Management Information Systems, Oral Roberts University, 1988

Work History:

- Senior Vice President and Counsel, Aflac, 2019-Present
- Vice President and Counsel of Federal Affairs, Aflac, 2011-2018
- Counsel & Second Vice President, Aflac, 2006-2011
- Chief Counsel, House of Representatives Committee on Small Business, 2003-2006
- Founder and President, Digitech System Solutions, 2000-2003
- Judge Advocate General (JAG) Reservist, US Air Force, 1995-2004
- Programmer, early career

Quick Summary

Entrepreneur and government affairs professional who leads Aflac's Washington, DC office; began legal career as an Air Force JAG before starting an IT company and late moving to DC to work on the Hill

- Grew up in Los Angeles area and later was stationed in San Antonio, TX, and Montgomery, AL
- After graduating law school, began career as an Air Force JAG and soon after founded Digitech

System Solutions, an information technology services firm with state and federal clients, including the U.S. Air Force

- Moved to DC to bring small business expertise to the House Small Business Committee, and connected with Aflac leadership
- Served as Chief Counsel to the House Small Business Committee under Chair Don Manzullo in the early 2000s; focused on manufacturing, technology and innovation policy, and market access in Central and Eastern European markets
- Rose through the ranks at Aflac, eventually becoming senior vice president & counsel; has been instrumental in their lobbying arm during the implementation of Dodd-Frank and the Affordable Care Act, and continues to lead Aflac's advocacy efforts
- Leads Aflac's racial and social justice efforts
- Co-founded the Washington Heads of Office for senior executives of color to grow a professional community and diversify the leadership pipeline in government affairs

Approach and Motivations

Works to advance Aflac's interests; leading voice on racial equity, social justice, and diversity & inclusion in the government affairs industry

- Considers himself to be a mission focused leader, operating by building consensus as part of effective advocacy
- Brings background as one of the few black government affairs leaders to conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion in the workforce, and shares content related to social justice on social media; has worked to coordinate events like an employee town hall with members of Congress to allow employees to connect with elected leaders on racial justice issues



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- Management style derives from work as a JAG and entrepreneur, often placing responsibility on his employees early on to allow them to learn
- Places great import on matching his values to that of his company; is proud of Aflac’s lauded ethical and diversity accomplishments
- Leveraged transition into leadership to cultivate a culture within Aflac’s government affairs team that emphasizes problem solving

- Believes companies should prove commitments to diversity with action, noting Aflac’s majority-minority employee base
- Has been vocal on racial justice and policing reform issues, despite those issues generally being outside of his legislative purview; often cites support from Aflac leadership like CEO Dan Amos when commenting on racial justice issues

Policy Position and Areas of Focus

Active on issues related to insurance and corporate governance; often discusses the importance of corporate culture

Insurance and Health Care: *Advocates for Aflac’s interests with federal policymakers*

- Vocal on issues related to high cost of medical care, including avoidance of medical visits, financial insecurity created by large bills, and stress created due to uncertainty; believes pathway forward is expanding access to coverage, specifically supplemental coverage
- Early career at Aflac focused on taxation and health insurance reform, making sure that Aflac, as supplemental insurance, was regulated properly under the Affordable Care Act
- Lobbies frequently on issues related to health care, particularly where it concerns excepted benefits, cybersecurity and privacy, and other insurance regulations
- Works with government agencies like the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Treasury

Company Culture: *Celebrates Aflac’s commitment to diversity and inclusion*

Publications, Media and Speaking

Addresses the government affairs sector, mainly through social media, discussing a wide variety of issues related to Aflac and diversity within the government affairs community

Media: *Generally operates through social media but occasionally works with news outlets like The Atlantic*

- Subjects: Financial security related to health costs, excepted benefits, supplemental coverage, insurance during the pandemic
- Outlets: National policy focused outlets like The Atlantic

Speaking: *Leading voice in government affairs, addressing health policy, employee benefits, financial security, and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives*

- Subjects: Health insurance and employee benefits, supplemental coverage, hiring practices
- Audience: National conferences like the Meridian Summit on Global healthcare and The Atlantic Summit; federal policymakers and influencers

Professional Affiliations

Washington Heads of Office, Co-founder and Chair



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Hoops for Youth Foundation, Treasurer

Meridian International Center, Trustee

Public Affairs Council, Board Member

Small Business Council of America, Board Member

Ford's Theatre Board of Governors

Former Members of Congress Association, Board Member

World 50, Member

National Association of Corporate Directors, Member

Awards

- Top Lobbyists and Influencers, Lawyers of Color, 2019
- Top Lobbyists and Influencers, On Being A Black Lawyer, 2014



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