



## Life In Brief

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**Born:** January 1, 1957

**Hometown:** Chicago, IL

**Ethnicity:** Black/African American

**Marital Status:** Married

**Education:**

- JD, Northwestern University, 1978-1981
- BA, Wellesley College, 1974-1978

**Family:**

Spouse: Dwight; two children

**Work History:**

- Executive Vice President and Global Head of Government Affairs, News Corp, 2013-Present
- Partner, Skadden Arps, 1993-2013
- Senior Counsel on the Communications Subcommittee, United States Senate Commerce Committee, 1987-1993

## Quick Summary

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**Veteran policy influencer with deep connections to the Democratic party, Bush focuses on Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations of copyright, ownership, and trade issues impacting the publishing industry**

- Raised on the south side of Chicago in a civically engaged family, Bush's mother was a professor of social work at the University of Chicago married to civil rights activist and Bush's stepfather, Vernon E. Jordan Jr.
- Began career in policy serving as senior counsel to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee on Communications, which oversaw the FCC and

NTIA and played an instrumental role in shaping the Cable Act of 1992 which regulated the cable industry to lower rates and promote competition. She also worked on the Children's Television Act of 1992 which required educational programming and service regulations

- Twice considered to chair the FCC, once under the Clinton Administration and once under the Obama Administration; was the presumptive pick in 1993 but removed herself from contention after the birth of her first child
- Worked for 20 years at Skadden Arps law firm, rising to partner of its communications group; worked closely with client News Corp before leaving to become the company's Global Head of Government Affairs

## Approach and Motivations

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**Family's focus on social justice and activism guided her toward a career in advocacy and continues to influence her philanthropic work; passionate about protecting press freedoms**

- Mother's emphasis on social work and her aunt, Barbara T. Bowman's, advocacy for childhood education showed her the importance of civic engagement
- Believes the free press plays a "critical role in ensuring a safe and informed society"; has fought against large tech company influence on online publishing in her roles at the News Media Alliance and News Corp
- Stalwart supporter of Democratic party politics with close relationships to the party's leaders; donates to down-ballot Democratic candidates





## Policy Position and Areas of Focus

Bush's policy priorities are aligned with her work at News Corp including copyright protections and free trade

**Communications Issues: *Champions policies to safeguard the rights of news publishers and broadcasters against the rising influence of tech companies***

- Instrumental in lobbying the FCC to eliminate its Broadcast Station Cross-Ownership Rule that prohibited an organization from owning a newspaper and television station in the same market
- Advocates for the Journalism Competition and Preservation Act, originally introduced in 2018 to allow media publishers to collectively negotiate with platforms like Facebook and Google to improve access to their content on aggregate sites
- Supports efforts to amend Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act that protects online platforms from holding legal responsibility for information they republish

**Trade: *Pushes for protections to keep the publishing industry competitive, including through provisions in the USMCA***

- Effectively lobbied against and reversed the Trump Administration's 25% Chinese trade tariffs on printed materials which impacted News Corporation's production of Bibles and children's books
- Urged USTR not to oppose the EU Neighboring Right, which requires tech platforms to pay publishers in Europe and has advocated that newspapers should be paid for their content by tech platforms (The Journalism Competition and Preservation Act)

## Core Communities

**Has personal connections to top Democratic leaders and uses her influence to support local Washington charities**

**Obama-era Officials: *In touch with former administration officials through personal connections***

- Cousin of Valerie Jarrett, who served as an adviser to President Obama; helped organize a 2012 re-election fundraiser in her family's backyard and donated upwards of \$35,000 to the campaign
- Friend of former Attorney General Eric Holder, whom she worked with on the Meyer Foundation
- Bush's spouse, Dwight Lamar Bush Sr., served as the US Ambassador to Morocco, between 2014-2017
- Serves on the Board of Directors for the Obama Foundation's My Brother's Keeper Alliance initiative focused on providing pathways of opportunity for young men of color

**Media Associations: *Committed to preserving access to a free press***

- Dedicated her career to representing media organizations including News Corp, Viacom, AT&T, Sprint, The Motion Picture Association of America, and Radio One, Inc.
- Chairman and former treasurer of the News Media Alliance, an organization advocating for news publishers rights and securing the future of high-quality news in society
- Serves on the board of directors for The HistoryMakers, an organization dedicated to documenting and preserving the stories of African American achievements through video





**Washington, D.C. Non-profits: *Helps foster economic and cultural opportunity in her community***

- Member of The Economic Club of Washington, D.C.'s board of directors where she works to connect local businesses with the global community
- Formerly served on the board of directors for the District's two communications-focused museums, the first-amendment focused Newseum and the linguistics museum, Planet World
- As a board member for the Meyer Foundation, she sought to increase racial equity in housing, education and economic systems within the Greater Washington region

## **Relevant Financial Information**

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**Consistently donates to Democratic candidates and party committees**

## **Professional Affiliations**

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- Chair of the Board of Directors, News Media Alliance, 2020-2021
- Chair of the Board of Directors, The HistoryMakers
- Board of Directors, My Brother's Keeper Alliance
- Board of Directors, The Economic Club of Washington, D.C.

