



Board Profile: James Ballentine

Introduction:

James Ballentine is a highly accomplished executive with extensive experience in congressional relations, political affairs, and grassroots initiatives. As the former Executive Vice President of Congressional Relations and Political Affairs for the American Bankers Association (ABA), James played a pivotal role in shaping the association's advocacy efforts and strategic direction. With a distinguished career spanning over 30 years, James is renowned for his expertise in government affairs and policy development.

Professional Background:

- **Retired:** James Ballentine recently retired from his role as the Executive Vice President of Congressional Relations and Political Affairs for the American Bankers Association (ABA).
- **American Bankers Association (ABA):**
 - 13-Year Veteran of ABA
 - Senior Vice President for Grassroots
 - Director of ABA's Center for Community Development

Career Highlights:

- **ABA Congressional Affairs and Lobbying Group:** As the leader of the association's Congressional Affairs and lobbying group, James Ballentine played a pivotal role in advancing the interests of the American Bankers Association on Capitol Hill. He skillfully navigated the complex political landscape to ensure ABA's voice was heard and respected in the corridors of power.
- **Political Operations and Grassroots Initiatives:** James was responsible for managing and directing ABA's political operations and grassroots initiatives. Under his guidance, ABA effectively engaged policymakers and built strong relationships to promote the banking industry's objectives.
- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA):**
 - Associate Deputy Administrator: James served in a key leadership position at the SBA, contributing to the agency's efforts in supporting small businesses and fostering economic growth.
 - Senior Advisor to SBA's Deputy Administrator: James provided valuable counsel and expertise to the Deputy Administrator, contributing to the successful implementation of various initiatives.

Capitol Hill Experience:

- **Office of Maryland Congressman Albert Wynn (D-NY):**
 - Chief of Staff and Legislative Director (1993 - 1998): James played a critical role in shaping Congressman Albert Wynn's legislative agenda and effectively managing his office's operations.
- **Office of Maryland Congressman Albert Wynn (D-NY):**
 - Legislative Director (1989 - 1992): James served as a key legislative advisor, contributing to Congressman Frank Horton's initiatives and policy priorities.

Professional Philosophy:

Throughout his career, James Ballentine demonstrated a deep commitment to effective advocacy and public service. His approach to congressional relations and political affairs centered on building collaborative relationships, seeking bipartisan solutions, and promoting policies that fostered economic growth and prosperity. James's dedication to the banking industry and small businesses exemplified his passion for creating a positive impact on the broader economy.

Summary:

James Ballentine's retirement marks the end of a remarkable career dedicated to advancing the interests of the American Bankers Association and promoting policies that support economic growth. His vast experience in congressional relations, combined with his tenure on Capitol Hill, has left a lasting impact on the banking industry and the small business community. James's legacy as a skilled advocate and influential leader in political affairs will continue to inspire professionals in the field of government relations for years to come.