

## **CORPORATE PANEL DISCUSSION**

SPONSORED BY OPPORTUNITY HUB



**JULY 25, 2022**

**Charlotte Convention Center Ballroom**  
501 S College St, Charlotte, NC. 28202

### **Corporate Panel Discussion – Charlotte Convention Center Ballroom**

**Welcome Brother First Grand Vice Basileus Ricky Lewis**  
**Closing the Wealth Gap**

**9:00am-9:05am**  
**9:05am-10:00am**

#### **Objective**

**Discuss the Black/White Wealth Gap in America and the tools and practices to address the gap.**

#### **Moderator**

**Brother Stafford Thompson Jr., Senior Vice President Product Mgmt. Lincoln Financial Group**

#### **Panelists**

- **Brother Danard Smith, Financial Advisor – Wealth. Management at LPL Financial**
- **Brother Benji Wimberly, Member New Jersey State Assembly**
- **Brother Anthony Stewart, CEO of Stewart Financial Services**

#### **The Path to the C-Suite**

**10:10am-11:10am**

#### **Objective**

**Discuss Key Factors in attaining C-Suite roles in the corporate world.**

#### **Moderator**

**Brother Bennett Gaines, Senior Vice President, Corporate Services & CIO FirstEnergy (retired)**

#### **Panelists**

- **Brother Roderick K. West, SVP/Group President Utility Operations at Entergy Corporation**
- **Brother Andrew E. Page, Chief Financial Officer, Footlocker Inc., Independent Director at Kontoor Brands, Inc. (NYSE: KTB)**
- **Brother D. Steve Boland, Chief Administrative Officer, Bank of America Corporation**
- **Brother Mike Wright, Executive Vice President, Seiden Krieger Associates, Independent Director at Mobiquity Technologies (NASDAQ: MOBQ)**

**Agenda Continued...**



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**Increasing the Number of Black Board Members**

**11:20am-12:20pm**

**Objective**

*Discuss Key Success Factors in attaining a public/private company Board Directorship*

**Moderator**

*Brother Derric Gregory, Executive Business Development Consultant*

**Panelists**

- *Brother Dwight Gibson, CEO & Board Member Bluelix Corp., Independent Director at Interface Corp (NASDAQ: TILE)*
- *Brother Fred Lowery, SVP/President Customer Channels at ThermFisher Scientific. Independent Director at DuPont Corporation (NYSE: DD)*
- *Brother Anton Vincent, President Mars Wrigley NA at Mars., Independent Director at International Paper (NYSE: IP)*
- *Brother James Ray, Independent Director at Commercial Vehicle Group (NASDAQ: CVGI), Lead Independent Director at Leslie's Corp (NASDAQ: LESL), Independent Director at Spirit AeroSystems Inc. (NYSE: SPR)*

**Next Steps/Closing Comments Brother Bennett Gaines**

**12:20pm-12:30pm**

**Omega Task Force Panelists Bios - NEXT PAGE**



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**Omega Task Force Panelists Bios**

**Danard Smith**

*Danard Smith is an independent financial advisor who 'stakes pride in developing effective and professional relationships with each of his clients. It is a strategy that has paid great dividends in terms of meaningful connections over the last 37 years. Mr. Smith, an LPL Registered Representative, holds himself to a fiduciary standard in retirement planning, individual retirement accounts, and financial planning. Along with serving individuals, he also enjoys assisting churches and charities with their financial needs.*

*A native of Baltimore, Maryland, Mr. Smith graduated from William Penn College in Iowa, where he earned a B.A. in social sciences. He has been in the financial industry since 1984, when he started his career at State Farm Insurance Companies and moved to the brokerage path in 1992. Mr. Smith joined LPL in 2010. He is a Secretary of the Baltimore Municipal Golf Board of Directors and a past board member of many organizations including the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute Alumni Association, the Episcopal Community Services of Maryland, the Pi Omega Foundation, the Baltimore Delta Alumnae Foundation Inc., the St. James Episcopal Church Foundation, and the Associated Black Charities Gala Committee. He enjoys playing golf, travelling, water sports and listening to music.*



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**Omega Task Force Panelists Bios**

**Assemblyman Benji E. Wimberly**

As an Assemblyman for the NJ 35th Legislative District, Benjie E. Wimberly brings to the state house an array of leadership skills and a strong work ethic. He currently serves as chair on the New Jersey Housing and Community Development Committee, CoChair on the Joint Committee on Economic Justice and Equal Employment Opp, member of the New Jersey Assembly Budget Committee, Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee, Joint Committee on Housing Affordability, and the Joint Committee on Public Schools. Prior to his election, Assemblyman Wimberly served as a Councilman-at-Large for the City of Paterson where he served on the City of Paterson Department of Public Works Committee, Public Safety Committee, Finance Committee, Health and Human Services Committee and Statutory Agencies Committee.

His vision to improve the quality of life, to address the needs of youth, and to be a part of preparing Paterson and its stakeholders for a positive future led Assemblyman Wimberly to seek a council seat where he waged a smart and successful campaign garnering a record number of votes in the 2010 City Council Election. That same vision and drive took him to the NJ Assembly. Assemblyman Wimberly's innate leadership skills were honed in part through his experiences as a coach, teacher, community worker, mentor and advisor. He keeps his hands on the community pulse of the 35th Legislative District through his involvement in service to, with and for others.

Assemblyman Wimberly earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Virginia State University and taught Special Education with the Paterson Public School District. During his tenure Wimberly served as the Eastside High School head baseball coach, won 100 games, and took his team to Puerto Rico four times. In addition, his work ethic and leadership enabled Assemblyman Wimberly, as head football coach, to lead Paterson Catholic Regional High School football team to seven state championships and eight league championships.

As Coordinator of Recreation for Paterson, Wimberly expanded program offerings such



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### ***Assemblyman Benji E. Wimberly continued***

*as summer camps, evening recreation/study programs, athletic leagues and afternoon programs for youth, adults, and senior citizens. Under his leadership the youth of Paterson participate in U.S. Youth Games and have traveled throughout the USA, including Florida, California, South Carolina, Alabama, and Wisconsin and they have also traveled to Canada. Believing that "A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste", Assemblyman Wimberly participates and coordinates multiple efforts that raise hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarship funds for high school students via the athletic departments of Eastside High School, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. where he is a Life Member, the Mayor's UNCF Task Force and the Rev. Dr. Frank Napier, Jr. Scholarship Committee. He is the recipient of more than 150 awards, citations and honors including, selection to the Passaic County Technical Institute Hall of Fame and serving as Grand Marshall in the Paterson African Heritage Parade. He continues to garner respect and support from various segments of local, state, and national communities. Most recently, he was honored by Black Villages Magazine as "One of the 50 Most Influential Blacks in the State of New Jersey".*

*Assemblyman Wimberly is married to Kimberlynn and they are the parents of four sons: Justin, Jared, Jordan, and Jaden. He firmly believes that his faith in God and his sincere work ethic, coupled with a desire to forge ahead for a better future, will afford his district to be as great as the citizens that reside within its borders.*



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**Anthony Stewart**

*Mr. Stewart is the President/Co-Owner of American Classic Agency where he has partnered since 1997. Mr. Stewart is also CEO of Stewart Financial Services. He has received the American Classic Excellence Award (ACE) 7 times over the years and numerous other awards for leadership and sales. He is a co-author of the book Saving Middle America-Securing Financial Dreams where he shares the importance of planning and understanding the tax-free strategies while growing wealth for Middle American Families. He's also a member of the Million Dollar Roundtable. The growth of Stewart Financial is largely due to his passion for leading his team and developing leaders within his company.*

*In May 2012, he received President's Corporate at the 145th Annual Session of the Virginia Baptist State Convention. In 2015, he was awarded Most Admired CEO by the Daily Record. Mr. Stewart is a graduate of Bowie State University in Bowie MD where he resides with his wife and daughters.*



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**Rod West**

**Executive Vice President, Group President Utility Operation**

Rod West is Executive Vice President, Group President Utility Operation for Entergy Corporation based in New Orleans, LA. In his role, West is responsible for the operational and financial performance of Entergy's five operating companies, including electric and natural gas distribution, and customer service operations. In addition, he also oversees the utility's engagement with state and local regulators, economic development and customer centricity.

In his previous role as Chief Administrative Officer, West's responsibilities included the company's shared services functions supporting Utility, nuclear and wholesale operations, including finance operations, supply chain, business processes, administrative services, information technology, human resources and administration, federal policy, regulatory and governmental affairs and corporate communications. West also lead the development and execution of the company's environmental strategy.

As President and CEO of Entergy New Orleans from 2007-2010, West led Entergy New Orleans out of its post-hurricane Katrina bankruptcy and back to profitability. In the post-Katrina period, he is credited with leading the company's ongoing effort to replace nearly 850 miles of underground pipe damaged after Hurricane Katrina, an effort recognized as the 2009 Global Infrastructure Project of the Year by Platts Global Energy Awards.

West joined Entergy Corporation as senior regulatory counsel in April 1999 and served as director regulatory affairs for Entergy New Orleans from 2001-2003.

West serves on the board of directors for the Edison Electric Institute, as well as on the University of Notre Dame Hesburgh board of trustees. He currently serves on the College Football Playoff selection committee. Previously, he served 12 years on the Louisiana State University System Board of Supervisors, serving as chairperson from 2006-2007. He is also a past president of the Allstate Sugar Bowl



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### **Rod West continued**

*Prior to Entergy, West was senior attorney in the commercial litigation section of Vial, Hamilton, Koch & Knox, L.L.P. He spent five years with New Orleans-based Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrere & Denegre, L.L.P. He is a member of the State Bar of Louisiana.*

*West has a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame where he lettered three years for Lou Holtz and the Fighting Irish's 1988 National Championship football team. He received his Juris Doctor from the Tulane University School of Law and his MBA from Tulane University.*

### **Andrew E. Page**

#### **Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer**

*Andrew E. Page is the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, of Foot Locker, Inc. where he focuses on enterprise optimization to enhance stakeholder and shareholder value. Prior to Foot Locker, he served as Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Controller at Advance Auto Parts, Inc. where he oversaw all accounting, tax, internal controls, and external financial reporting.*

*Over the course of Andrew's 30+ year career, he has served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer at Under Armour, Inc. and has also held several other senior finance roles at FTI Consulting, Inc., AES Corporation, Inc., General Electric's Consumer and Industrial division, and Discovery Communications, Inc. He holds a masters from Georgetown University, a BA of Business Administration in Accounting from Eastern Kentucky University and is a certified public accountant. Andrew is based out of Foot Locker, Inc.'s headquarters in New York City.*

*Andrew also serves as an Independent Director at Kontoor Brands, Inc. (NYSE: KTB).*





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**D. Steve Boland**  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

*D. Steve Boland is chief administrative officer for Bank of America and is a member of the company's executive management team.*

*In this role, Steve oversees the delivery of the company's full range of capabilities for clients through its local markets organization including more than 90 market presidents and teams; Public Policy; Environment, Social & Governance (ESG); Corporate & Internal Communications, External Communications, Global Sports Sponsorships, Global Corporate Security and other related functions.*

*He is also one of the vice chairs for the company's Global Diversity & Inclusion Council and is co-chair of the ESG committee. He represents Bank of America as a member of the Executive Leadership Council (ELC) and serves on a variety of corporate and nonprofit boards of directors, including Frontdoor, Novant Health Foundation, and the National Urban League Board of Trustees.*

*Steve holds a degree in organizational studies from the School of Education and Social Policy from Northwestern University.*





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**Michael A. Wright**

*Executive VP, Head of HR & Diversity Practice  
Seiden Krieger Associates  
Former Senior Vice President and  
Chief Human Resources Officer  
Covanta*

*Mike has been a world-class Human Resources professional for his entire 30+ year career. He is currently Executive Vice President, Head of the HR & Diversity Practice at Seiden Krieger Associates in New York City. He offers his clients executive search capabilities in recruiting Chief Human Resources Officers and their direct reports including Talent Management/Acquisition, Diversity & Inclusion, Leadership Development/Organization Development, Training & Development, Total Rewards/Compensation/Benefits/Payroll, and Human Resources Information Systems.*

*A former senior C-suite executive with global experience reporting to and advising the CEO, Mike is adept at assessing talent skilled in business process improvement, technology utilization, and cultural transformation.*

*Mike's prior career is one of progressively impactful HR leadership roles in consumer-packaged goods and renewable energy companies such as the Altria family of companies (Kraft and Philip Morris) and Covanta where he was Senior Vice President & Chief HR Officer from 2009 to 2018. His experience as a member of the executive leadership team provided a sound understanding of corporate governance while leading the HR function as the company grew through acquisition and service expansion.*

*Mike has a BS in Industrial Engineering from North Carolina State University where he played Division 1 football and an MBA from Columbia University, where he was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Mike serves as an Independent Director and Chair of the Compensation Committee for Mobiquity Technologies (NASDAQ: MOBQ).*



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### **Mike Wright continued**

*He also serves as Chair-HR/Legal committee and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Greater Monmouth County, member of the Board of Trustees and President of the Advisory Council for Lunch Break and a member of The Executive Leadership Council, a membership organization committed to increasing diversity in C-suites and corporate boards. He has been included in Savoy magazine's list of the Top 100 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America for 3 years and Black Enterprise's list of 100 Most Powerful Executives for 2 years. He is also a lifetime member of the National Black MBA Association and the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in addition to being active with the NJ/NY chapters of the National Association of Corporate Directors.*

### **Dwight Gibson**

#### **President & CEO BlueLinx**



*Mr. Gibson, 46, has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of BlueLinx, and as a member of the Board since June 2021. Prior to joining BlueLinx, Mr. Gibson was the Chief Commercial Officer of SPX FLOW, Inc. (NYSE: FLOW), a global provider of process solutions and components across a variety of sanitary and industrial market applications. Previously, he served as President, Food & Beverage and Industrial Segments (May 2019 to May 2020) and President, Food & Beverage Segment (June 2016 to May 2019) for SPX FLOW. Prior to joining SPX FLOW, Mr. Gibson spent 11 years at HVAC manufacturer Ingersoll Rand, most recently leading significant growth initiatives as President of Strategic Initiatives for the company's climate segment. Mr. Gibson has also served as a director of Interface, Inc. (Nasdaq: TILE), a worldwide commercial flooring company since September 2019. Mr. Gibson received his Bachelors in Business Administration from Howard University, his Master's in Business Administration from Stanford University and a Master's of Science in International Strategy and Diplomacy from the London School of Economics.*



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**Fred M. Lowery**

**Senior Vice President and President, Customer Channels,  
Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.**

Mr. Lowery has served as Senior Vice President and President, Customer Channels, of Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc. since January 2021. In January of 2022, Mr. Lowery also assumed responsibility for Thermo Fisher's business in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Since joining Thermo Fisher in 2005, he has held several senior leadership positions across the company, including previously serving as President, Life Sciences Solutions and Laboratory Products. Prior to his time at Thermo Fisher, Mr. Lowery was with Maytag Corporation from 1999 to 2005 and began his career as an engineer at General Motors Company. Mr. Lowery serves on the DuPont Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees for Boston Medical Center, and on the Board of Trustees for both Tennessee Tech University and its Foundation.





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**James Ray**  
*Independent Board Director*  
*Retired President, Stanley Engineered Fastening –*  
*Stanley Black and Decker, Inc.*

*James Ray, Jr. currently serves as an independent director on the boards of Commercial Vehicle Group, Inc. (NASDAQ: CVGI), Spirit AeroSystems Inc. (NYSE: SPR) and he is Lead Independent Board Director at Leslie's Inc. (NASDAQ: LESL). He is a former director of R.R. Donnelley and Sons*

*James is a retired Executive Officer of Stanley Black & Decker. He served as President, for its \$2 Billion STANLEY Engineered Fastening global business. His career with Stanley Black & Decker started in 2013 when he joined as President for the Industrial & Automotive Repair business. Prior to that, James was Sr. VP & General Manager at TE Connectivity responsible for The Americas automotive business. James also served in senior executive leadership positions at Delphi Corporation and General Motors Corporation.*

*James earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Howard University and a Master of Science in Manufacturing Management from Kettering University. He also has executive education certificates from Kellogg School of Management (Northwestern University), Thunderbird American Graduate School (Arizona State University), and Rock Center for Corporate Governance (Stanford University Law School).*



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**Anton V. Vincent**

**President, Mars Wrigley North America**

Anton V. Vincent, president of Mars Wrigley North America, part of Mars, Incorporated, a global family-owned business with \$40 billion in annual sales and a diverse and expanding portfolio of confectionery, food and petcare products and services. Prior to joining Mars Wrigley in May 2019, Mr. Vincent served as chief executive officer at Greencore USA, a leading global manufacturer of convenience foods, from June through December 2018. Prior to Greencore, he spent much of his career with General Mills, holding various leadership roles including president of the Baking Division (from 2010 to 2012), president of the Frozen Frontier Division (2012 to 2014), and president of the U.S. Snacks Division (from 2014 to 2016). Director since March 1, 2021. Mr. Vincent also serves as an Independent Director for International Paper (NYSE: IP)

**Bennett L. Gaines**

**Senior Vice President, Corporate Services, and Chief Information Officer - FirstEnergy Service Company - Retired**

Bennett L. Gaines is senior vice president of corporate services and chief information officer for FirstEnergy Service Company, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp. Mr. Gaines is responsible for the delivery of IT services, including the development of a corporate IT strategy and governance process, as well as the communications and data network. In addition, his responsibilities include supply chain, corporate security, and corporate transportation.

Prior to joining FirstEnergy, Mr. Gaines served as vice president and chief information officer at Cincinnati-based Cinergy Corporation where Mr. Gaines was responsible for the delivery of all IT services and telecommunications/network operations.

Before joining Cinergy in 2003, Mr. Gaines was managing director, Business Services, at Powergen plc in the United Kingdom. He was responsible for the strategy and delivery



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### ***Bennett L. Gaines continued***

*of IT services and other shared services and handled all IT activities. Prior to this, he has worked for several Fortune 500 Companies such as IBM, EDS and McKesson in Senior Management roles in Manufacturing, Systems Development and Operations.*

*Mr. Gaines earned his bachelor of arts degree from Baldwin-Wallace University and received a master of arts degree from the University of Phoenix. He has been involved in numerous civic and community organizations, including serving as a Board Member of Akron YMCA and also on the Board of Akron and Cleveland Urban League. He is a Board of Trustee at Baldwin Wallace University, Berea OH.*

*Mr. Gaines is married to wife Linda and they have a daughter who recently graduated from Spellman College. In his free time he enjoys travel, is an avid golfer.*

### ***Derric A. Gregory Sr., CPA***

***Executive Business Development Consultant;  
Author - Life In the Key of G***

*Anton V. Vincent, president of Mars Wrigley North America, part of Mars, Incorporated, a global family-owned business with \$40 billion in annual sales and a diverse and expanding portfolio of confectionery, food and petcare products and services. Prior to joining Mars Wrigley in May 2019, Mr. Vincent served as chief executive officer at Greencore USA, a leading global manufacturer of convenience foods, from June through December 2018. Prior to Greencore, he spent much of his career with General Mills, holding various leadership roles including president of the Baking Division (from 2010 to 2012), president of the Frozen Frontier Division (2012 to 2014), and president of the U.S. Snacks Division (from 2014 to 2016). Director since March 1, 2021. Mr. Vincent also serves as an Independent Director for International Paper (NYSE: IP)*







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