

Robert C. Gross

**Senior Advisor
Michael Best Strategies LLC**

**Senior Counsel
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP**

Overview

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Bob previously served as the president, CEO, and executive board chair of First Interstate Bank of Utah, and as president, CEO, and director of Blue Healthcare Bank. He is founder and president of Robert C. Gross Associates, a national consulting practice that partners with boards, directors, and executives to enhance executive and board leadership, corporate governance, and organizational design and performance.

In government, Bob served as chief of staff to Governor Michael O. Leavitt and as the founding executive director of the Utah Department of Workforce Services — a role in which he combined five disparate state agencies into one. Following the success of that effort, he was appointed by the George W. Bush White House to serve in Baghdad as a senior advisor to the Iraqi Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Bob subsequently founded and served as the principal at Strategic Impact LLC, a government relations and public policy advisory firm.

Honors & Recognitions

- President's Award, National Association of State Workforce Agencies, 2000
- Friend of Utah State University College of Humanities and Social Sciences, 2014
- Alumni Speaker, Utah State University College of Humanities and Social Sciences, 2014

Professional Activities

- Member, United States 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, 2013-Present
- President and Director, National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD), Utah Chapter, 2013-Present
 - Leadership Fellow, 2013-Present



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Practices

Government Relations, Political Law
& Public Policy
Michael Best Strategies LLC
Opportunity Zones

- Member, NACD Faculty, 2014-Present
- President, National Association of State Workforce Agencies, 1999-2000
- Former Director, Utah Partners in Education, 1994-2006
- Former Member and Committee Chair, Association for Conflict Resolution
- Member, Utah Bar Association, 1979-Present

Education

- Pepperdine University, Straus Institute of Dispute Resolution-Mediation and Advanced Mediation, 2008
- University of Washington, Pacific Coast Banking School, with honors
- Ohio Northern University-Claude W. Pettit College of Law, Juris Doctor (J.D.), 1979
- Utah State University, Bachelor of Science (B.S.), 1972

Admissions

- Utah
- United States District Court, Northern District of Utah
- Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit

Community Involvement

- Director, Elora's Light Foundation, 2018-Present
- Former Director, Utah State University College of Business Center for Entrepreneurship, 2012-2015
- Former Director, Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors, 1994-1996
- Former Director, Salt Lake United Way, 1994-1996
- Former Director, Utah Opera Company, 1991-1996