

ERIC S. LEE

Proven leader, innovator who has built enduring organizations and guided large-scale social change.
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SUMMARY

- Conceived of and launched influential organizations working nationally and in New York City to improve social justice outcomes and strengthen government. Guided these through growth-stage and leadership transitions to become sustained, esteemed organizations.
- Built widely respected and diverse teams, recruiting exceptional professionals from entry-level associates to elected officials.
- Raised tens of millions of dollars in funding for NGOs and hundreds of millions of dollars in funding for local government. Guided municipal government budget exceeding \$6B annually.
- Introduced major public policy initiatives, among them ones which drove an unmatched 12-year record of lowering crime and reducing the overuse of jail under Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

EXPERIENCE

Bennett Midland, New York, New York

Founder and President, 2006–2018; Non-Executive Chair, 2019–present

Launched Bennett Midland and built the company into a leading management consulting firm whose clients span the United States, Europe and Israel. Successfully positioned the company for continued growth, ensuring a seamless transition to the leadership of a successor president.

- Conceptualized the business plan and brand identity for the firm and its evolution. Delivered 20% YOY revenue growth and profitability that exceeds that of competitors in the sector.
- Partnered with major philanthropic organizations—Bloomberg Philanthropies, the MacArthur Foundation, and Robert Wood Johnson among them—to launch multi-city initiatives across the U.S. Collectively leveraged \$450 million over eight years.
- Supported mayors in major American cities (Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Memphis, Newark, New York, New Orleans among them) with the implementation of their top policy objectives in areas of economic development, active transportation, homicide reduction, and workforce redeployment.
- Advised chief executives of major not-for-profits on strategic direction, including Friends of the High Line, the Innocence Project, New Museum, and Reinvestment Fund.
- Collaborated with partners to design and launch high-impact organizations, including university centers (Johns Hopkins Center for Government Excellence and Columbia University Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity) and independent organizations (Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund and New Inc, the first museum-based art and technology incubator).
- Crafted and fostered a distinctive company culture emphasizing purpose, collaboration and intellectual rigor. Hired and retained top-tier talent from inception, growing leadership from within the firm.

Office of the Mayor, City of New York

Deputy Criminal Justice Coordinator for Michael Bloomberg, 2002–2004

Formulated new public safety initiatives contributing to an unprecedented drop in crime and a sharp decrease in incarceration in New York City.

- Wrote policies to expand criminal defense legal services, ensure immediate access to job training from jail, and standardize the use of DNA to prosecute sexual assault.

- Designed and implemented the nation's first system to knit together data across all city, county and state justice agencies, improving decision-making and effectiveness and setting a national standard.
- Crafted the annual federal legislative agenda for criminal justice matters for the City of New York.
- Secured \$1.3B in federal funding to support anti-terror programs following 9/11; co-chaired the task force directing citywide anti-terrorism investments, strengthening public safety readiness.
- Guided annual budget process for 11 city and county agencies with a combined annual budget of \$6.2B. Oversaw \$1.6B capital budget.
- Successfully preserved and elevated service delivery during the worst fiscal crisis in New York City since the 1970s and in the face of a \$5B fiscal deficit.

Center for Court Innovation

Managing Director and Co-founder, 1996–2002

Member of the founding team that designed and launched a pioneering think tank focusing on criminal justice reform and community development, which today has grown into an organization of 400 with an annual budget of \$80M.

- Supported the implementation of problem-solving courts across the U.S.
- Raised tens of millions of dollars in recurring funding from the federal and state government.
- Directed the development of pioneering IT systems which supported better decision-making in the courtroom and were adopted nationally.

Midtown Community Court

Director of Operations, 1994–1996

Directed daily operations for the nation's first community court, which delivered a 45% reduction in the use of jail and reduction in crime. Supervised staff of 25 and coordinated 14 partner organizations.

Housing Works

Capital Projects & Programs Planner, 1993–1994

Project manager for the development of permanent housing facilities for formerly homeless men and women living with HIV and an adult day treatment center. Raised over \$3M in government funding.

Education

University of California, Los Angeles, M.A., Urban Planning, 1992

Vassar College, A.B., English Literature, 1986

Boards

TransitCenter, Chair, Board of Trustees; Center for an Urban Future, Board of Directors

Lectures

Topics covering urban transformation, organizational leadership, and innovation. Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, Shenzhen Center for Design among many others

Languages

Conversational in Spanish