

Michael Adams

Chief Executive Officer at SAGE

New York, NY, US

CEO of SAGE, the world's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older people

Biography

Michael Adams is the Chief Executive Officer of SAGE (Advocacy and Services for LGBT Elders), the world's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT older people. Founded in 1978 and headquartered in New York City, SAGE is a national organization that offers supportive services and consumer resources to LGBT older people and their caregivers. SAGE also advocates for public policy changes that address the needs of LGBT elders, provides education and technical assistance for aging providers and LGBT community organizations through its National Resource Center on LGBT Aging, and cultural competency training through SAGECare. With staff located across the country, SAGE also coordinates SAGENet, a growing network of affiliates in the United States. Prior to joining SAGE, Adams was the Director of Education and Public Affairs for Lambda Legal. Prior to that, he spent a decade leading cutting edge litigation that established new rights for LGBT people, first as Associate Director of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, and then as Deputy Legal Director at Lambda Legal. A graduate of Stanford Law School and Harvard College, Adams has authored numerous publications on an array of LGBT issues. He has taught law school courses on sexual orientation and gender identity and has served on advisory councils for AARP, the American Society on Aging, and the New York City Department for the Aging among others.

Areas of Expertise

Program Strategy, Non-Profit Finance, Strategic Planning, Shaping Public Debate, Persuasive Writing, Board Relationships, Media Spokesperson

Affiliations

Chair-Elect, Board of Directors, American Society on Aging - Current, Vice President, Board of Directors, LiveOn New York - Current, Member, Advisory Committee, Racial Equity to Accelerate Change (REACH) Fund - Current, Member, Advisory Council, NYC Department for the Aging - Current, Member, Principals Group, Diverse Elders Coalition - Current

Education

Stanford Law School

J.D. Law

Stanford University

M.A. Latin American Studies

Accomplishments

Transformed insolvent local non-profit into national aging leader

Growing budget eight-fold over ten years, launching highly effective program innovations, building nation-wide network of affiliates, and winning widespread recognition for organizational efficacy.

Successfully led major resource development overhaul

Securing agency's first six-figure individual gift, first seven-figure foundation grant, and first multi-million dollar government contract.

Successfully launched organization's first social enterprise

Introducing and growing market-driven initiative to expand LGBT cultural competency in long term care.

Effectively partnered with Board of Directors

To craft transformative strategic plans; achieved or exceeded plan goals.

Earned widespread recognition as leading expert on LGBT and minority aging issues

Through extensive public speaking, writing, media commentary and policy advocacy.

Co-founded country's first coalition of national diverse elder organizations

Uniting people of color and LGBT aging agencies in joint effort to transform public policy, shape public dialogue, and empower diverse 50+ people.

Created and led 22-person communications and marketing department

For one of nation's leading law reform organizations. Drove award-winning social marketing campaigns and rebrand for country's only national LGBT aging organization.

Led highly successful and highly visible litigation advocacy efforts

That established new legal rights and favorably shaped public opinion to support fairness and equity.

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