

Jonathan Mayes

DEI Expert, Former Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer at Albertsons Companies

Among the most influential retail industry executives for nearly three decades, Jonathan Mayes has been one of the leading voices in elevating diversity, equity, and inclusion within the organizations he has served. Mayes is the former senior vice president and chief diversity & inclusion officer at Albertsons Companies, one of America's largest grocery store and pharmacy chains, where he oversaw the organization's government relations, communications, sustainability, and philanthropy teams, and launched award-winning initiatives designed to position the business for success with DEI and corporate social responsibility at its foundation. He is a visionary who continues to drive the change toward a more representative and equitable workforce and has been twice recognized as one of the Top 100 Diversity & Inclusion executives in the U.S., in addition other honors and awards.

Exclusively represented by [Leading Authorities speakers bureau](#), Mayes is committed to “moving the ball down the field” when it comes to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the workplace. His talks are equal parts thought-provoking and action-oriented as he challenges audiences to identify areas where they are falling short in meeting the needs of underrepresented groups in the workplace — both as an organization and individually. He shares what it means to lead with inclusion, as well as real-life examples of the positive impact it plays in meeting strategic business objectives. His tools and resources for letting go of our unconscious biases and hiring and developing top diverse talent can be leveraged by any company making a conscious effort toward diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Prior to his role as Albertsons' senior vice president of external affairs and chief diversity and inclusion officer, Mayes spent several years at Safeway in various senior leadership roles before the two companies merged. As senior vice president of public affairs, government relations, CSR, and philanthropy, his team represented Safeway's reputation and image in the media, advanced the company's efforts as an industry leader in corporate social responsibility and sustainability, and provided strategic leadership on government relations. Mayes began his career in law as an attorney associate at Donahue Gallagher Woods, LLP and later as a senior attorney at American Stores before accepting his first role with Safeway in 1994. Today, he is the CEO of Jonathan Mayes & Associates, which advises organizations seeking to launch or enhance their DEI efforts.

In addition to being a Certified Diversity Executive and an internationally known expert on DEI and CSR, Mayes has served as a chairman, vice chairman, and board member for several leading organizations, including the California Grocers Association, the California Retailers Association, and the California Chamber of Commerce. Mayes was honored by his Alma Mater, Willamette University, with the [Distinguished Alumni Citation for Professional Achievement](#), recognizing his exceptional contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout his distinguished career. He was previously a guest lecturer on public policy and government relations at UC Berkley's Goldman School of Public Policy and continues to serve as a guest lecturer at the USC Marshall School of Business and Portland State University. Mayes is a Certified Equity Coach with the USC Race and Equity Center and a recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award from Willamette University, where he completed his Juris Doctorate degree. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and recipient of the 2022 Esther Peterson Award for outstanding service to the supermarket industry by the Food Marketing Institute. Mayes is also the recipient of honors from the San Francisco Bay Area Minority Bar Coalition and Charles Houston Bar Association for his exemplary contributions to the legal community. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Warner Pacific University and has been honored as the university's Alumnus of the Year.