

Robert E. Branson, Esq- President and CEO MMTC

Robert E. Branson, Esq., is President and CEO of the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council (MMTC), a non-partisan, national nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving equal opportunity and civil rights in the mass media, telecom and broadband industries, and closing the digital divide.

Prior to joining MMTC, Mr. Branson served as Of Counsel at Empire Consulting Group a strategic business and public policy firm serving leading technology, wireless, broadcast and other industry clients. He brings his unique perspective as someone who has worked inside and outside government and who understands the challenges ahead in the diverse world we are creating in corporate America.

In his corporate career, most recently, he was an Associate General Counsel with Verizon Communications. In that position, he had various responsibilities, including the 5G rollout in the Washington, DC area, privacy regulations, and relationship building with leaders in the federal and state governments. He also coordinated with trade associations and internally with other legal, public policy and business groups.

He has been the General Counsel of the Association of Local Television Stations, Chief Legal Counsel of Post-Newsweek Stations and an Assistant General Counsel at the National Association of Broadcasters. He also has worked at the Federal Communications Commission as a Senior Legal Advisor to a Commissioner.

Mr. Branson has served as President of the Federal Communications Bar Association where he has become acquainted with many of the leaders at the FCC, NTIA, FTC and other federal agencies. He is a two-time recipient of the FCBA Distinguished Service Award. He has championed diversity and inclusion in the Bar and has been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from MMTC.

He has served on the Board of Trustees at Simmons University in Boston and was named an Honorary Trustee after his service. He was a member of the Boards of the Ridley Scholarship Fund at the University of Virginia and the Hayride to Help Others in Washington, DC.

Mr. Branson received his law degree from Harvard University and his undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia.

Rhonda Nesmith Crichlow, SVP, Chief Diversity Officer, Charter Communications

Rhonda Nesmith Crichlow joined Charter Communications as Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer in 2016. Ms. Crichlow is responsible for the overall strategic development and implementation of Charter's diversity and inclusion initiatives. Ms. Crichlow also oversees Charter's Community Impact function, focused on strategic philanthropic investments and employee volunteerism initiatives.

Ms. Crichlow joined Charter from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation, where she served as Vice President, Head of U.S. Diversity and Inclusion, and President of the Novartis U.S. Foundation.

Before Novartis, Ms. Crichlow consulted for the Office of the Monitor, established pursuant to the Consent Decree entered in the Pigford v. Glickman and Brewington v. Glickman litigations. They involved nationwide class actions brought by African-American farmers alleging racial discrimination in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's farm credit and non-credit benefit programs.

Earlier in her career Ms. Crichlow worked as a tax attorney representing corporate clients. She also served as a judicial law clerk for U.S. District Judge Ronald L. Buckwalter in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

She received a B.A. in psychology and sociology from George Washington University, a Masters of Public Policy from Duke University and Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia Law School.

Amrit Singh- Anchor Spectrum News 1

Between anchoring Your Evening on Spectrum News 1 and hosting Music Diaries, a show that explores how artists and communities reflect and amplify each other, Amrit Singh tells universal stories from an unusual perspective. But then, his own story has been unusual: an attorney and a lifelong musician, editing Wisconsin's International Law Journal and working at a white-shoe law firm before Sean "Diddy" Combs tapped him to be the founding news anchor, Chief Political Correspondent, and music and culture editor of Combs's television network REVOLT TV. Of course, the shift to TV didn't happen overnight: Amrit first transitioned from being a lawyer to a journalist by spending nearly a decade writing and editing thousands of daily articles, interviews, reviews, and new artist profiles at the influential music website Stereogum.

Law, identity, politics, and the ways culture fuses and informs them has also been the through line of Amrit's career on TV. He's hosted a live 90-minute town hall special with presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, reported live from the Republican and Democratic National Conventions in 2016, interviewed myriad thought leaders and artists, and has now spent seven years hosting daily live television shows in studio and around the country, all while writing and producing numerous documentaries about everything from criminal justice to immigrant culture and music genres, including his NPR and BBC-acclaimed short film DOSA HUNT.

Amrit was born in NYC, graduating magna cum laude from Boston University and earning his Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin, but it is Los Angeles that has given him what he treasures most in life: He and his wife met in Silver Lake, their daughter was born in downtown L.A., and he's honored to spend every day sharing the stories of our SoCal community here at Spectrum News 1.

Pauline Gebon, Vice President, Member Success, NMSDC

Pauline Gebon, is the executive leader of the NMSDC Corporate Relations team. In this role she is responsible for the recruitment of new national corporate members, the collaboration, engagement and support of our existing corporate members and the fundraising efforts tied to sponsorships and contributions of our major events and programming. Pauline brings unique experiences, skills and value to this role as a veteran supplier diversity practitioner developing and leading programs for Fortune 50 companies. Under her leadership Pauline drives processes that:

- Optimizes members' experience by developing and implementing strategic initiatives that support corporate partner's priorities and solidifies the value proposition of membership
- Cultivates relationships with corporate members that results in a solid Return On Investment
- Facilitates member engagement strategies that drives corporate member satisfaction

Previously, Pauline held leadership positions where she was responsible for strategy development and implementation of supplier diversity programs in the US and globally. Pauline lived her commitment to minority business development through continued advocacy for inclusion with measurable results against defined goals Under Pauline's leadership the company's program improved to being recognized and awarded as a NMSDC Corporation of the year.

Pauline served on the NMSDC executive committee; the NMSDC Chairpersons committee and numerous NMSDC committees. She was the Chairperson for NY/NJMSDC; certification committee chair and education and development member for The Council. She was a Board member of the NYNJMSDC, the Supplier Diversity Group for ISM and the Supplier Diversity Council of the Conference Board. Other participation is with WBENC Revenue Generation Committee; NGLCC procurement council; and NMSDC BCF.

Pauline's work has resulted in numerous awards and recognitions, including Diversityplus and MBNUSA as Champion of Diversity, Advocate of the year award from NY/NJ MSDC and enabled MetLife many awards and recognition as a key contributor in the development of minority suppliers. She served as a panelist and speaker for various organizations.

Darretta Whitfield, Director of Supplier Diversity, Charter Communications

Darretta Whitfield is Director of Supplier Diversity for Charter Communications. She joined Charter in 2019 to lead the national program, and is responsible for the strategy, execution, and future roadmap across Charter's footprint. Prior to Charter, Darretta led eSourcing, Contract Management, and Supplier Diversity programs for various Fortune 500 corporations. Her industry experience includes cable/telecommunications, financial technology and services, consumer products, and paper/packaging manufacturing.

Darretta currently serves as an Executive Board Member for tech:SCALE since 2020, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Southern California Minority Supplier Development Council (SCMSDC) since 2022. She is a proud alumna of Clark Atlanta University's School of Business Administration, and is a native and current resident of North Carolina.

Marlan Hardie, AVP, Chief Digital Officer & Head of Diverse Services, World Wide Technology

Marlan Hardie has a distinguished 24 years in the technology industry leading Chief Digital Officers (CDO), Chief Experience Officers (CXO), Chief People Officers (CPO) and Chief Technology Officers (CTO) across the largest global service providers and multinational enterprises thru digital strategy, operations and transformation. He has deep domain expertise in modeling brand value for consumers, employers and their partners as they market and sell their solutions to a diverse, inclusive audience.

Mr. Hardie's career is unique given his financial performance and leadership experience in building SaaS, Cloud & networking platforms throughout his journey with Salesforce, Cisco and World Wide Technology for their most valuable customers and ecosystems. Having started his career with Ernst & Young as well as Cap Gemini and NEC, Marlan has consultative insight into delivering outcomes that enable powerful firms to provide satisfying experiences to their employees and delightful customer experiences that are profitable. He also has a significant track record at scale and depth working with models of digital transformation that apply to the enterprise B2B selling markets. In all engagements, Marlan leads with a genuine priority on the digital design of leading organizations having a direct impact on the surrounding community and the dignification of people.

Working with teams on a national level and delivering outcomes globally requires a level of trust and transparency few technology solution executives have and this is why public, pre-IPO and growth equity backed companies seek his council on how to scale their digital strategies across their cloud and telecommunications partners. He has consistently executed across the verticals Telecom, Healthcare, Financial Services and Education.

Under the leadership of WWT's Chairman, WWT's head of TBX, WWT SVP of GSP and with his peers across diversity, equity and inclusion and SaaS leaders in digital transformation, Mr. Hardie has pioneered new GTM models for leading telecommunications and CRM companies to consistently lead WWT's Digital CX and EX practice globally. Marlan serves as an industry practitioner of DX, host of the Arcet CX World Series, host of North American Customer Centricity Awards, and the Chief Digital Officer of Global Service Providers at World Wide Technology.

Ramiro Cavazos, President & CEO, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Ramiro A. Cavazos is President and Chief Executive Officer of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC), America's largest business advocacy organization for Hispanics. He is a trusted economic development expert and champion for bipartisan solutions that generate wealth to advance economic opportunity for the Hispanic community. Prior to his role at the USHCC, Ramiro was the President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SAHCC), the nation's first Hispanic Chamber of Commerce founded in 1929. During his time at the SAHCC, he fought for the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), was recognized as a 5 Star Accredited chamber, and also led numerous annual trade missions to Spain, Israel, Mexico, Canada, Cuba and Italy.

Ramiro previously served as the Director of Research and Economic Development at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, where he advanced public-private projects promoting entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation. He was also the past Director of Economic Development for the City of San Antonio, where he oversaw projects that focused on business expansion, retention and trade that led to the creation of more than 20,000 higher paying jobs for the seventh largest city in America. Cavazos also taught Economic Development at the Institute of Law and Public Affairs for The University of Texas at San Antonio.

His global perspective was honed by his experience working in the private sector for the Levi Strauss Company and Levi Strauss Foundation as Manager of Global Public Affairs & Contributions, where he was responsible for the Texas, Mexico, and Latin American regions. Additionally, he spent 15 years as a Bank Director at InterContinental Bank Shares Corporation (InterCon). His passion for small business is also fueled by his experience running his own public affairs business for 3 years serving clients such as AT&T, Valero Energy and H-E-B. Ramiro began his career in public service, where he worked in city management for the cities of San Antonio and Helotes, served as a Special Assistant to former U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas and as a legislative researcher for State Representative Irma Rangel, the first Hispanic woman elected to the Texas Legislature.

Today, Ramiro proudly serves as the Chairman of the Board for the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility (HACR), based in Washington, D.C., that advocates for Fortune 500 companies to invest in more equity and fair representation for Hispanics on corporate boards and publicly traded companies.

Ramiro has shared his views on Latino entrepreneurship, small business growth, trade, and commerce on: Fortune, Forbes, Time, Newsweek, CNN, the Associated Press, The Economist, The Washington Post, El País, El Herald, and many other media outlets. He has also been recognized by Latino Leaders Magazine as one of America's "101 Most Influential Latinos" for the last four years. In 2015, the Kingdom of Spain named Ramiro the Honorary Consul of Spain for San Antonio and South Texas. His efforts brought His Majesty King Felipe VI and Her Majesty Queen Letizia of Spain to San Antonio's Tricentennial events celebrating its founding by Canary Islanders in 1718. The King of Spain bestowed upon Ramiro the Order of Isabel the Catholic (Orden de Isabel la Católica), its highest honor given to a non-Spanish citizen for his service as a business advocate to expand the binational economic relationship between the United States and Spain.

Ramiro earned his master's degree in Public Administration from St. Mary's University, where he received the honor of Distinguished Alumnus, and served as a member of the Board of Trustees. He completed his bachelor's degree in Government from The University of Texas at Austin in three years. A native of Weslaco in the Rio Grande Valley, he is a 7th generation Texan. He and his wife Christa are the proud parents of two boys.