

James Strock

Environmental | Social | Governance

James Strock is an independent entrepreneur and reformer in business, government, and politics. He's a pioneer and longtime practitioner in the Environmental-Social-Governance space.

He is founder and CEO of the Serve to Lead Group, serving clients across the U.S. and around the world, including companies in various sectors, NGOs, and government entities.

He serves on the board of CVR Energy (NYSE: CVD). From 2010-12 he served as co-chair of the Arizona Governor's Solar Energy Advisory Task Force.

In addition to extensive business experience, Strock has served as a senior-level government executive. Immediately prior to establishing his company in 1997, Strock served for more than six years in California Governor Pete Wilson's cabinet as the state's founding Secretary for Environmental Protection. Following confirmation by the state senate, Strock led the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), an organization comprising 4000 employees, achieving significant, worldwide environmental, energy, and economic impact.

Strock's public service is built on five pillars: high environmental standards; simplified regulatory process; strict enforcement; entrepreneurial leadership; decentralized decision-making; market mechanisms to apply private sector innovation to public needs. These areas of emphasis have helped foster the dramatic cultural changes now advancing environmental improvement and sustainability through intergenerational accountability and continuous innovation.

During his tenure, major advances were achieved in protection of air, land and water. He led the agency to a focus on green technology development, recognized with a \$100,000 "Innovation" award from Harvard University and the Ford Foundation.

Other Cal/EPA achievements during his service include the adjudication and restoration of Mono Lake; significant reductions in air pollution from mobile and stationary sources; reform of pesticide regulation; and international initiatives ranging from participation in the negotiation and implementation of the North American Free Trade Agreement to enhanced cooperation with Germany, China and other nations. Strock also served on the Intergovernmental Policy Advisory Group to the U.S Trade Representative.

In 1989, President George H.W. Bush appointed, and the U.S. Senate confirmed Strock to serve as Assistant Administrator for Enforcement (chief law enforcement officer) of the U.S. EPA. Reporting to Administrator William Reilly, Strock led a major expansion and reorganization of the national program, while driving civil and criminal enforcement to record levels. He was instrumental in the development and passage of the Lieberman-Wilson Pollution Prosecution Act of 1990, and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Strock served as general counsel and acting director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (the federal government's human resources agency), member of the California State Personnel Board, special counsel to the U.S. Senate Environment & Public Works Committee, special assistant to USEPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus, and as a lawyer in private practice.

Strock is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in the World*, and *Who's Who in Finance and Business*. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Authors Guild, and PEN America. Past board service includes Enova Systems, Inc. and the Environmental Law Institute. He has been an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California and a guest professor at the University of Konstanz (Germany).

Among the many recognitions he has received are the Rajiv Gandhi Fellowship (India), the commendation of the California District Attorneys Association for environmental law enforcement, and the Ross Essay Prize of the American Bar Association.

He has extensive experience as a convener, mediator, and negotiator of complex, high-stakes disputes. He received training from the Harvard Negotiation Project, the American Arbitration Association and other professional groups, and has served on the neutrals rosters of state and federal courts.

He is a prolific and award-winning writer, whose most recent book is *Serve to Lead 2.0: 21st Century Leaders Manual*.

Strock was educated at public and independent schools in Austin, Texas, and New Orleans, Louisiana, and holds degrees from Harvard College (A.B., Phi Beta Kappa) and Harvard Law School (J.D.). During law school he served as a teaching fellow for Professor Richard Neustadt's course on presidential leadership. He subsequently studied literature for a year at New College, Oxford, on a Rotary Scholarship. He served to captain in the USAR-JAGC. Political Affiliation: Independent.

He is based in Rancho Santa Fe, California.

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