

## Contact

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(LinkedIn)

## Top Skills

Leadership

Strategy

Strategic Communications

## Honors-Awards

Distinguished Public Service Medal  
Medal for Exceptional Public Service  
Security Fellow

Best Lawyers Under 40

Jim Ellis Pro Bono Award

## Publications

Why Congress and the Pentagon  
Should Bypass Trump's Defense  
Spending Bill

The Economic and Security  
Dimensions of Protecting LGBT  
Rights (video)

What Trump's Trans Order Gets  
Wrong and Why It Matters

Blurred Lines: An Argument for  
a More Robust Legal Framework  
Governing the CIA Drone Program

Trump's Trans Troops Ban Would  
Require a Cruel and Expensive  
Witch Hunt

# Alex Wagner

National Security Executive • Attorney • Talent and Innovation  
Leader

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

## Summary

An accomplished senior executive with over two decades of public and private sector experience at the intersection of law, policy, politics, and technology, Alex is currently the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. He is responsible for the supervision of manpower, military and civilian personnel, Reserve component affairs and readiness support for nearly 700,000 Airmen, Guardians, and civilians across the Department of the Air Force.

During the Obama administration, he served as Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the Army and in previous appointments in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, he helped shape the development and implementation of DoD policies where the law is either unclear or undefined. In that capacity, Alex represented the Pentagon to the White House, the State Department, and other executive branch agencies seeking to forge consensus on controversial issues like detention, drones, and autonomous technologies while engaging internationally at two treaty negotiations at the United Nations, including as the primary Defense Department negotiator and as deputy head of the U.S. delegation.

While at Uber, Alex managed a team that employed ride data to develop a narrative demonstrating the impact of Uber's technology for under-resourced communities, urban planning, businesses, and the environment.

Alex has worked in various capacities on six U.S. presidential campaigns, including as the principal staffer responsible for engaging Obama for America's 150-member National LGBT Steering and Policy committee in 2008. Prior to law school, Alex worked as a reporter and policy analyst for the Arms Control Association in Washington, D.C.

## Experience

United States Department of the Air Force

Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)

June 2022 - Present (1 year 3 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel & Readiness)

May 2022 - June 2022 (2 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Aerospace Industries Association

Vice President, Strategic Initiatives

January 2018 - May 2022 (4 years 5 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Led AIA's efforts focused on talent development in the aerospace and defense industry, including specific initiatives to enhance workforce diversity, expand STEM education access, and protect employees' health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. I focused on enhancing the understanding of American innovation in aerospace and defense via strategic partnerships as well as annually overseeing the American Rocketry Challenge—the industry's signature STEM activity and the world's largest student rocket contest.

Avicenna Strategy

Policy Director

February 2017 - December 2017 (11 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

— Designed and implemented policy engagement strategies for clients related to religious freedom, national security, gender equality, and climate change.

— Implemented cross-cultural communications campaigns that bridge Eastern and Western societies, Silicon Valley and Washington.

Georgetown University Law Center

Adjunct Professor of Law

January 2011 - May 2017 (6 years 5 months)

From 2011 to 2017, taught 20-30 law students each Spring semester.

Developed a course that considers how the legal system affects various aspects of the lives of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender individuals; addresses privacy, and workplace issues; family relationships

(including marriage, partnerships, and parenting); speech and associational rights; and the interplay between law, politics, and policy as it relates to sexual orientation and gender identity.

## US Army

### Chief of Staff to the Secretary of the Army

November 2015 - January 2017 (1 year 3 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

As the principal strategic adviser to the Secretary of the Army, I provided policy, communications, legislative advice with managerial direction over his immediate office, while guiding the Army's civilian and military leadership with respect to the priorities, initiatives, and plans of the 22nd Secretary.

— Built and directly supervised an office staff of ~30, including political, career, and uniformed military, charged with leading a 1.4 million person organization with an annual budget of over \$140 billion;

— Centrally responsible for all operations, outreach (public and congressional), and strategic initiatives focused on advanced technologies and enhancement of combat lethality, including announcement and creation of the new Army Rapid Capabilities Office, "Hack the Army" bug bounty, and an Army Digital Service;

— Designed and supervised both a traditional and digital media engagement strategy to reach new audiences, resulting in growing from zero to over 50,000 social media followers in under nine months. This involved high profile policy speeches and earned media, including The Today Show, CBS Sunday Morning, Good Day LA, Wired, TechCrunch, and podcasts like "West Wing Weekly" and "Here's the Thing with Alec Baldwin";

— Developed processes to ensure the Secretary's vision was central to the Army's coordinated response to the National Commission on the Future of the Army recommendations and Secretary of the Army directives to expand opportunity and inclusion in the Army to all that can meet the standards; and

—Worked extensively with members of Congress and their staff to resolve questions and concerns, including those related to the budget, Arlington National Cemetery, and the confirmation process.

## Uber

## Global Policy Development

September 2014 - April 2015 (8 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

— Worked to craft both a domestic and international narrative demonstrating the impact of Uber's technology for communities of color, women, urban planning, business, and the environment.

— Led efforts to develop, coordinate, and present Uber's content and participation at the 2015 U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting, including the results of first national survey of Uber drivers; author/editor of Chicago: An Uber Case Study, presenting Uber's benefits for cities, riders, drivers.

## Office of the Secretary of Defense

5 years 4 months

### Senior Advisor, Rule of Law and Detainee Policy

March 2011 - September 2014 (3 years 7 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

— Devised and executed interagency policy efforts on autonomy in weapons systems, resulting in first international discussions at the UN in 2014;

— Worked closely with the National Security Council and interagency on landmines policy, including devising a DoD-led interagency working group on landmine modeling and simulation that enabled President Obama's 2014 UN announcement changing U.S. policy for the first time in 20 years.

— Served three years as Alternate U.S. Representative to the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) as well as Deputy Head of the U.S. delegation and principal DoD negotiator on cluster munitions protocol in 2011.

### Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Global Strategic Affairs

June 2009 - March 2011 (1 year 10 months)

— Served as policy advisor on DoD's implementation of President Obama's "Prague Agenda," including drafting and editing the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review, backstopping the New START Treaty negotiations and subsequent ratification strategy, and was the Office of the Secretary of Defense's representative on U.S. Delegation to the 2010 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference at the UN in New York.

— Liaison to industry for various cooperation and engagement components of the 2011 Defense Cyber Strategy; designed and received DoD buy-in on the framework for a voluntary int'l cyber regime.

## K&L Gates

Attorney

October 2005 - June 2009 (3 years 9 months)

— Lead associate directing U.S. Supreme Court argument and briefing strategy as counsel for respondent Washington State Democratic Party in Washington State Grange v. Washington State Republican Party, et al., a free speech challenge to the State's "Top Two" primary.

— Successfully briefed an activist's group challenge to the City of Seattle's parade permitting scheme in the 9th Circuit.

— Filed, managed, and resolved over 20 Internet -based software piracy and domain cybersquatting copyright and trademark lawsuits for Microsoft and Amazon.com, often involving extensive digital discovery efforts.

Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Project  
Office of Public Liaison & Intergovernmental Affairs  
November 2008 - January 2009 (3 months)

Obama for America  
LGBT Vote Research Coordinator  
August 2008 - November 2008 (4 months)  
Chicago, IL

Arms Control Association  
Nonproliferation Reporter/Analyst  
August 2000 - August 2002 (2 years 1 month)

DFI International  
Research Analyst  
June 1999 - July 2000 (1 year 2 months)

U.S. Department of State  
Intern  
June 1997 - September 1997 (4 months)  
Office of Defense Trade Controls, Bureau of Political Military Affairs

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## Education

Georgetown University Law Center  
J.D.

Brown University  
A.B., Political Science

