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Robert Nelson, a Certified Association Executive (CAE), is the founder and President of Nelson Strategic Consulting, a firm that focuses on creating high performance governance and high impact strategies. He brings over a quarter-century of successful executive leadership experience working with Boards and high-powered CEOs to transition Boards and organizations into high performing, strategic thinking entities. Throughout this time, Robert designed and facilitated governance system restructuring, strategy development, strategic problem solving, and governance training sessions for local to global organizations.

Prior to Nelson Strategic Consulting, Nelson served for almost two decades as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Coffee Association (NCA) of U.S.A. Nelson and his team transformed the association into a strategic thinking entity, resulting in a financially healthy, internationally influential, growing organization, successful at advocating for the industry. During his tenure, he worked with the private sector and governments worldwide to design and facilitate strategy development and problem-solving think tanks to address complex, grand challenges and issues ranging from acrylamide to producer sustainability to small farmer access to credit. In fact, his strategic response to a global economic crisis resulted in a Harvard Business School case study.

While at the NCA, Nelson served as a member of the official United States government delegation to the International Coffee Organization, where he actively participated in multi-lateral negotiations. Further, Nelson sat on Harvard University's Institute of Politics Global Food Policy Advisory Board and is a graduate of the Harvard Business School Executive Seminar on Agribusiness.

Nelson has successfully advocated for businesses interests in front of governments at the local, state, national and international levels for over quarter of a century. In addition, he has developed successful voter referendum strategies.

For a decade, Nelson served at the Florida Restaurant Association, where he was Senior Director of Government Affairs. In addition to his executive level positions in association management, Nelson held corporate level management positions with two food service chains: York Restaurants of General Mills, Inc. and RAX Restaurants.

He is the recipient of the Colombian Manuel Mejia Medal of Merit and The Mayor's Award for Distinguished Public Service (Harrisburg, Pennsylvania).