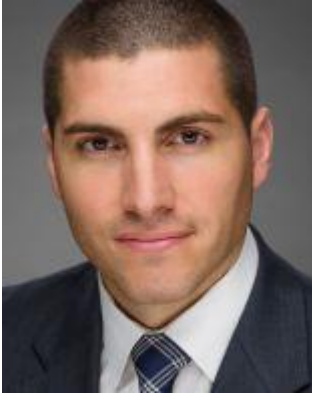

BIOGRAPHY

of

Justin Vélez-Hagan



Justin Vélez-Hagan is an economic policy analyst and researcher, as well as the founder and National Executive Director of [The National Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce](#). Additionally, he serves as an adjunct professor of economics and is the author of the [The Common Sense behind Basic Economics](#) (Lexington Books, 2015), as well as the upcoming [The Paradox of Fiscal Austerity](#) (Lexington Books, 2018).

Over the past decade, Vélez-Hagan has worked closely with the public and private sectors to advance policy priorities ranging from promoting business development and job creation efforts within the technology sector to improving economic development efforts in Puerto Rico to expanding the deployment of and access to U.S. telecommunications infrastructure. As an advisor and frequent guest speaker on these issues, Vélez-Hagan has and continues to work closely with a diverse stakeholder community, including federal, state, and local elected officials, leading advocacy groups, and the small business and tech startup community.

His unique knowledge of the economic conditions of Puerto Rico have led national legislators, congressional committees, and administration officials to seek his advice and request testimony, while he is also frequently invited to provide guest lectures at universities both on the mainland and in Puerto Rico.

His work has been featured in numerous national publications, including: *Forbes*, *Fox News*, *Politico*, *The Hill*, *CNBC*, *The Huffington Post*, and newspapers and various academic publications around the country and in Puerto Rico. He has also been a guest on *Fox News*, *BBC World News*, *Fox Business*, *Al Jazeera English*, *NPR Radio*, *SiriusXM*, and *Fusion*, among others.

Previously, Vélez-Hagan worked as an international developer of assisted living facilities. He also founded D.C. Concrete Technologies, which was a frequent guest on HGTV's *Curb Appeal*, NBC's *House Smarts*, and was featured in several national and local magazines and newspapers.

Vélez-Hagan serves on the boards of several organizations, including: the [Capital Area Asset Builders' Board of Directors](#), the [National Military Family Association's Technology Advisory Board](#), [The Latino Coalition's National Coalitions' Board](#), and the [Multicultural Media, Telecom, and Internet Council's Telecommunications and Internet Policy Task Force](#). Recently, he was invited to serve on [Maryland's GOMA Small Business Advisory Council](#).

Vélez-Hagan received a BS in Finance from the University of Louisville, an MBA from Arizona State University, and is completing his PhD dissertation at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County (2017). He is also a combat veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

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