Tony Samp

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Tony is a Senior Policy Advisor who represents clients before Congress and federal agencies on issues related to artificial intelligence (AI), national security, space and emerging technology, with a concentration on congressional strategies and appropriations.

- International Trade, Regulatory and Government Affairs

Tony was recently named a "Top Lobbyist" by The Hill, a leading publication in Washington D.C, which stated: "The ranks of policy experts, influencers and advocates run deep in Washington, but these are the people who stand out for delivering results for their clients in the halls of Congress and the administration."

He leads DLA Piper's AI Practice in Washington D.C. and brings 12 years of experience working with members of Congress on emerging technologies having served as senior policy advisor to Senator Martin Heinrich, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

He was the founding director of the Senate Artificial Intelligence Caucus and was Senator Heinrich's principal author of US$2.2 billion legislation, the Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act (AI-IA), that was endorsed by 11 major associations and institutions to organize a national strategy for AI and invest in academia, national laboratories, and industry. Tony also advised the 15-member National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence. Tony led a legislative strategy in the National Defense Authorization Act to create new career tracks in the Department of Defense for digital engineering focusing on digital technologies like 5G, cloud computing and AI.

Tony served as the lead advisor to the Ranking Member of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, Senate Armed Services Committee, overseeing over US$15 billion budget in space programs. Tony secured significant appropriations over 12 years to invest in satellite research and development capabilities and executed a legislative strategy to develop the military's leading responsive space program, which is now a nearly half-billion program and plays a critical role in the Space Force.

Tony helped found and manage the Congressional Directed Energy Caucus, and helped author, negotiate, and enact legislation on Directed Energy to (1) Create a US$100 million Directed Energy Weapon System Program to transition high-powered-microwave and high-energy-laser weapons systems to the military; (2) establish a Senior-level position at the Pentagon for the technology; and (3) require a Strategic Roadmap for fielding the technology.

Tony is also an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the bipartisan National Security Institute "dedicated to finding real-world answers to national security law and policy questions" based in Washington DC.

Tony Samp is not a lawyer.

Recognitions

- Named to Top Lobbyists 2021, *The Hill*, 2021

Education

- B.A., Baylor University
- M.A., Strategic Security Studies, National Defense University

Publications

When will Washington regulate artificial intelligence?

June 2021
Seeking to ensure a leading global role for the US in AI development and implementation is a prime motivator for American policymakers.

Coronavirus: Overview of healthcare funding stimulus and policy provisions in the CARES Act (United States)

10 April 2020
Among numerous health policy provisions in the CARES Act is one allowing BARDA to partner with private sector companies on R&D.

US $2T stimulus COVID-19 package includes significant R&D funding

10 April 2020

A summary of R&D funding in the CARES Act broken out by federal departments and agencies.

Hospitality industry update: President signs into law massive COVID-19 relief and economic stimulus package

3 April 2020
Phase 3 in the ongoing federal government efforts to respond to the health and economic implications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Coronavirus: Congressional leaders and the Trump Administration reach agreement on massive COVID-19 relief and economic stimulus package

26 March 2020
Senate Republican and Democratic leaders and the Trump Administration announced on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 that they have reached a deal on The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

Coronavirus: executive summary – key highlights from Washington (March 20, 2020) (United States)

20 March 2020

As the White House, Congress and federal government agencies scramble to address the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis, DLA Piper's Federal Law and Policy team is providing regular updates on the latest developments from the nation's capital.

Europe initiates regulations on artificial intelligence; industry presented with opportunity to provide inputs

5 March 2020
AI Outlook
The White Paper on AI initiates a process that could potentially establish the world's first far-reaching regulatory framework for AI.

NEWS

MEDIA MENTIONS

- Quoted, "The United States Plans to Expand Research through this New Law", *Analytics Insight*, January 2021
- Quoted, "U.S. Law Sets Stage for Boost to Artificial Intelligence Research", *AAAS*, January 2021
- Quoted, "Trump Could Torpedo a Bill to Boost Funding for AI", *Wired*, December 2020
- Mentioned, "Rocket Lab hires D.C. lobbying firm DLA Piper", *Space News*, April 2020
- Quoted, "Richard Branson headlines Air Force event, pitches Virgin Orbit's capabilities for national security" , *Space News*, September 2019