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.

- 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.

INSIGHTS

Publications

Data privacy bill in Congress would create federal enforcement over algorithms

29 June 2022
AI Outlook
Policymakers are paying ever more attention to algorithms and the growing role they play in our lives.

US Congress tries to decode algorithms

27 January 2022
AI Outlook
Many elected officials (and their staffers) are becoming more familiar with how social media companies operate as a business model.

US and EU pledge to promote "innovative and trustworthy" AI

19 October 2021
AI Outlook
Key details and recommendations.

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.

With the goal of countering China's tech ascendancy, the US Senate approves the US Innovation and Competition Act

16 June 2021
AI Outlook

The comprehensive technology policy and funding legislation strives to fund incentives for semiconductor chips production, along with aggressive diplomatic, national security and trade measures to ensure American leadership.

Technology, artificial intelligence in focus for the Biden Administration and the 117th Congress

18 March 2021
AI Outlook
Washington sees maintaining and extending US leadership in technological innovation as a vital national security imperative.

Landmark artificial intelligence legislation advances toward becoming law

16 December 2020
AI Outlook
An overview of the key AI initiatives and funding set out in the defense bill.

National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence releases Second Quarterly Report

12 August 2020
AI Outlook

The report includes recommendations to update export controls, screen foreign investment, accelerate research and establish a National Reserve Digital Corps.

NEWS

DLA Piper's Steven Phillips and Tony Samp named to *The Hill's* 2021 Top Lobbyists list

3 December 2021
DLA Piper is pleased to announce that Steven Phillips and Tony Samp have been named to *The Hill's* 2021 Top Lobbyists list recognizing those who "stand out for delivering results for their clients in the halls of Congress and the administration."

DLA Piper announces beta launch of Artificial Intelligence Scorebox tool

5 October 2021
DLA Piper is pleased to announce the beta launch of its Artificial Intelligence Scorebox, a digital tool aimed at helping organizations and businesses assess AI adoption readiness based on a series of questions and criteria.

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