

# JAMES WALLY BREWSTER

*Challenging audiences around the globe to elevate the tough conversations in their personal and professional worlds with dignity and diplomacy to break barriers to success, stimulate unprecedented growth and unleash peak performance in all areas of life.*

## QUICK FACTS

- FOREIGN POLICY MAGAZINE's "Top 100 Global Thinkers"
- OUT MAGAZINE's "Out 100" List
- DUARTE MEDAL OF FREEDOM Recipient – The highest honor given by the Dominican Republic.
- Made history when became the first openly gay Ambassador to ever serve in the Western Hemisphere as the US Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.
- Tenure left a mark on history when his appointment ignited a highly publicized international conversation on prejudice and tolerance that not only changed the landscape of equality in Latin America, but led to the Catholic Church and Pope Francis issuing a publicly apology for the first time in the religion's history on behalf of sexual discrimination.
- Regularly speaks on the power of elevating tough conversations, and how approaching with dignity and diplomacy can break barriers to success, ignite unprecedented growth, and unleash peak performance in all areas of life. Empowers audiences by sharing his unique tools and blueprint for how to tap into and ignite the self-awareness, confidence, courage, and empathy needed to elevate impactful conversations in their own personal and professional worlds.
- A sought-after advisor on diversity and inclusion, guiding organizations worldwide on building a work culture that thrives in our current global society using his unique, comprehensive, and impactful approach that teaches the true meaning behind "diversity and inclusion."

## FULL BIO

**Ambassador James (Wally) Brewster is an internationally recognized Executive, Political Leader, Human Rights Activist, and Keynote Speaker. Named by Foreign Policy Magazine as one world's "Top 100 Global Thinkers," Ambassador Brewster is known for his unwavering commitment towards championing progress and change in the face of opposition, challenges, and controversy.**

As the former U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, his appointment made history in 2013 when he became the first openly gay Ambassador to ever serve in the Western Hemisphere – a move that infamously unsettled influential Dominican religious leaders and ignited a historic global conversation on prejudice and tolerance that impacted nations, religions, and societies worldwide. Lauded for the dignity and resoluteness with which he approached conflict throughout his tenure, Ambassador Brewster is credited for not only accomplishing landmark diplomatic and societal advancements within the Dominican Republic, but also for igniting a historic global conversation on prejudice and tolerance that impacted nations, religions, and societies worldwide.

A highly sought-after speaker and global thought leader on diversity, inclusion, and the timely importance of human rights on today's global society within corporations and government – the Ambassador's success over the years is evidence of how having the courage to elevate tough conversations with diplomacy and dignity can break boundaries, stimulate unprecedented growth and change, and achieve the seemingly unachievable in all areas of life.

Engaging and candid, Ambassador Brewster shares his inspiring personal journey while challenging audiences to unleash their maximum potential in both life and business, providing dynamic and powerful tools to aid in achieving peak performance regardless of the challenges obstructing their path. Throughout his thought-provoking and transformative talks, audiences learn how to overcome their fears, tackle the uncomfortable, avoid stagnation, strategically approach conflict, and engage in powerful conversations that connect, influence, innovate, and activate change. With personal anecdotes and incomparable insight, Ambassador Brewster creates significant learning moments that helps create more adaptable, transparent and effective leaders.

“ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR FEAR BUT DON'T GIVE INTO IT.  
BE BRAVE. BE VULNERABLE. BE RESILIENT.”

– AMBASSADOR JAMES WALLY BREWSTER –

During his tenure as US Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Ambassador Brewster's political, strategic, and policy expertise is credited for making landmark and unprecedented diplomatic and societal advancements - all despite the well documented obstacles that consistently challenged his efforts. From exposing corruption, to advancing the rights of the marginalized, to changing the landscape of equality in Latin America – the Ambassador's dedicated work with multiple governments is responsible for accomplishing numerous critical initiatives during his term, included protecting the rights of the stateless population of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic, advocating equal representation for LGBTQ individuals, exposing the human trafficking of women and young girls, and increasing the awareness of gender-based violence.

His successful leadership in spearheading policies and negotiations led to key advancements in environmental laws, public health programs, indictment of corrupt foreign officials, trade policy, international immigration laws, and enforcement of drug policies against international drug cartels. He was a top negotiator for multiple agreements and treaties between the U.S. and foreign governments, including signing the first extradition treaty between the U.S. and Dominican Republic in over 100 years, as well as implementing the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Preclearance operations at Punta Cana International Airport, boosting the Dominican economy through increased tourism.

As an expert in Latin America and the Caribbean business and political communities, Ambassador Brewster had a positive and significant impact on trade between the U.S. and countries in the Western Hemisphere. His knowledge of NAFTA, CAFTA, HELP and HOPE in addition to Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and trade policy has made the Ambassador a top resource for international companies and leaders of foreign governments.

Ambassador Brewster is currently the CEO of Insignias Global, a strategy firm consulting with CEO's and political leaders around the globe. His experience on a global level – both politically and professionally – has given Ambassador Brewster unique insight and deep understanding of how consumerism and cultural dynamics impact international business and development. Drawing on his time as a successful Diplomat, Chief Executive and Corporate Leader – Ambassador Brewster is regarded as an innovator and leading expert in a range of disciplines that include International Politics, Foreign Policy and Trade, Government Relations, Diplomacy, International Business Strategy, Crisis Communication, Global Retail and Product Development, Consumer Dynamics & Evolution, Market Intelligence, and Marketing Positioning/Branding.

Ambassador Brewster's experience and expertise in Diversity and Inclusion has also made him and his company a sought-after resource by leading Corporations, Foundations, and Human Resource teams worldwide. With an approach towards Diversity and Inclusion that is more than simply “check-the-box,” Ambassador Brewster and his team frequently guides companies on understanding the true meaning behind “Diversity and Inclusion” in the corporate environment, sharing his unique and comprehensive approach towards building a work culture that thrives in our current global society. His insight on the most impactful ways to implement diversity and inclusion policies, training, tools, and resources have helped organizations worldwide increase their culture competency and spur success on a global level.

Prior to his appointment to the President's cabinet, Brewster served as Managing Partner of SB&K Global, an international political and brand strategy firm specializing in consumer dynamics, political and human rights advocacy, and reputation management. In this role, Brewster worked with Fortune 500 executives rebranding and repositioning their assets worldwide. Preceding SB&K Global, Ambassador Brewster served as an Officer and Senior Executive at General Growth Properties, where he led all investor relations, marketing, and branding efforts of the second largest shopping center real estate investment trust (REIT) in the world. In his role, Brewster became recognized as one of the country's top experts in the areas of brand optimization, retail crisis management and increasing shareholder value.

Using his extensive experience as an internationally recognized Diplomat, successful C-Suite Executive, history-making Human Rights Activist, and leading Global Thought Leader – the unique combination of his political and professional experiences has made Ambassador Brewster a highly sought-after keynote and motivational speaker. Speaking at Company Events, Conferences, and Universities – in addition to collaborating with Senior Level Executives, CEO's and Corporate Boards – Ambassador Brewster not only offers a wealth of knowledge on some of the most vital issues confronting America and the International Community today, but also provides audiences dynamic and powerful tools to challenge traditional thinking in order to break barriers to success in business, politics, and life. His engaging and thought-provoking talks have not only inspired audiences, but also challenge them to harness the transformative power that elevating conversations with diplomacy and dignity can have...both personally and professionally. His experience has also made him a valuable resource for Business Leaders and Executives on Diversity and Inclusion, including how to modernize our approach for implementing true diversity and inclusion in workplace culture.

Ambassador Brewster's collective work and efforts over the years have garnered significant international recognition, including being awarded the highest honor given by the Dominican Republic, the "Duarte Medal of Freedom," for his impact on the nation. He was also recognized by FOREIGN POLICY MAGAZINE in 2016 as one of the "Top 100 Global Thinkers" for his work against corruption and defending human rights; named to OUT MAGAZINE's "Out 100" list for his influential impact on advancing rights for the marginalized; honored by the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) with the "Global Humanitarian Award" for his advocacy on behalf of sexual minorities and HIV prevention in the Dominican Republic; and was a finalist for the U.S. State Department's "Sue M. Cobb Award" recognizing America's top diplomats for exemplary diplomatic service.

Ambassador Brewster continues to promote democracy around the world, meeting with leaders in Western Europe and Latin America while serving on the Advisory Boards of the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), National Democratic Institute - Ambassador's Circle (NDI), and The Atlantic Council - Ambassador Leadership Council. An active leader in advancing the rights and freedom of all individuals throughout his entire career, Ambassador Brewster served as the National Co-Chair of the LGBT Leadership Council for the Democratic National Committee and the National LGBT Co-Chair of the Obama 2012 Re-Elect Campaign. He has also been involved with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) for more than 30 years and served on its National Board of Directors. In addition, the Ambassador was the National Co-Chair of the Obama Leadership Circle, as well as a Presidential Partner and National Finance Committee member.

A highly regarded commentator on critical political and social issues, Ambassador Brewster frequently appears in international news media outlets around the world discussing a range of Global and Political topics that include Human Rights, Immigration and Border Security, Foreign Policy, Geo-Political Issues, Corruption in Government, Human Rights, and International Commerce.

A native of Lindale, Texas, Ambassador Brewster received his education in Business Administration with a focus on Marketing at Tyler Junior College and Texas A&M University.

“BEING A DIPLOMAT ISN'T JUST FOR THOSE OF US IN THE POLITICAL ARENA.  
DIPLOMACY IS THE ART OF COMMUNICATING WITH PEOPLE  
IN AN INSIGHTFUL, EFFECTIVE, AND EMPATHETIC WAY.

SO ADDRESS THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM.  
STOP ALLOWING YOUR FEARS TO PARALYZE YOU.  
GET COMFORTABLE WITH BEING UNCOMFORTABLE  
AND BECOME A BETTER DIPLOMAT FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS.”

– AMBASSADOR JAMES WALLY BREWSTER –