

Brothers on the Hill!

By: Brother Leon Valentine



First Vice President of Sigma
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Capitol Hill is a historical landmark, housing both the Senate and House of Representatives, and is one of the most important symbols of democracy within our nation and in the world. There are a multitude of representatives and congressional staff that work together to help lobby, influence, and shape today's governmental laws especially those that enforce equality and fair act amongst all people.

Now in 2023, the Hill is more diverse than ever, with a rising number being people of color. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated is well represented on the Hill.

This month, we are highlighting Brother Keenan Hale, First Vice President of Sigma Sigma Sigma Chapter as he shares his journey as a lobbyist and its impact on lawmakers in business. Brother Keenan Hale occupies a unique role as it relates to the Hill

and it shapes many of the country's businesses and corporations. Brother Keenan Hale is a lobbyist in the private sector. Hale has been working on the Hill since 2015, working alongside Congressman Al Green, representing Houston, Texas. As a legislative aide. With his early start as a lobbyist, Bro. Hale was tasked with drafting legislation with corporations and appropriating financial funding for districts for projects within the Houston, Texas area.

“Early in my career, I [supported the passage] of two pieces of legislation in 2019, which passed on the house floor that made unanimous consent, one of which being a program for high school students to receive voting registration information and another on for disaster relief during hurricane Harvey crisis. I was able to lobby, meet and collaborate with the Texas delegation to help with supplying funding for disaster relief for citizens and organizations in the area,” says Hale.

In the private sector, Brother Hale works for Batie & Associates as a lobbyist. He meets with congressional staff members in the Senate, as well as legislative or government agencies to communicate issues on behalf of major corporations and businesses. Although not lobbying traditionally in the public sector, Brother Hale is directly involved with activities on the Hill that impact major corporations. Depending on the bill or tasks, he can be on the Hill every day or once every two months. “As a lobbyist, being able to connect with executives and government officials from different companies and share with them the black perspective makes me enjoy what I do. Oftentimes, as one of the few black people in the room while lobbying, I try to make sure that the bills and laws being passed are important for black people and do not go unnoticed. I also try to ensure the corporations are giving back to the urban communities they are making profit and revenue from,” says Hale.

This Sigma brother is making moves on Capitol Hill as a leader, bridging the gap between laws being made that impact many of the areas that impact our lives. Seeing positive examples of brothers and black men who are leading the charge, sets a standard toward judicial change in our nation

