

## Witt Global Partners

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As a former White House cabinet member and director of FEMA, I coordinated federal disaster response and recovery on behalf of the White House and oversaw more than 350 disasters, some of which were the most devastating disasters of all time. During my tenure, we turned FEMA from an unsuccessful bureaucratic agency to an internationally acclaimed all-hazards disaster management agency.

Following my service in government, I authored a book titled *Stronger in the Broken Places: Nine Lessons for Turning Crisis into Triumph*.

I have: served as senior advisor to fortune 500 companies and government leaders around the world; provided strategic counsel to the top European executives of a major multi-national corporation; advised many government leaders and chief executive officers for companies large and small around the world.

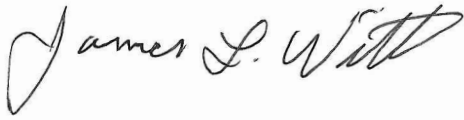
For example, I was hired: by Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco to oversee reconstruction efforts in the wake of Hurricane Katrina; the University of Texas System to prepare, process, and recover claims for damages from FEMA related to natural disasters; to serve on the Management Team of Global Options Group LLC, which provided consulting on emergency and disaster preparedness to local and state governments; as advisor to CEO of BP during the Horizon oil spill crisis; and as CEO and Managing Partner Witt Global Partners, a Little Rock-based Government Relations and Disaster Consulting Firm which I formed in 2016.

As you can easily see, my entire professional career has been related to natural emergency clean-up. When disasters strike, regardless of the fine intentions and extraordinary efforts of 'after-event' teams, there is never enough support equipment available. Even the US Government, through use of military services, cannot afford to dedicate sufficient resource to resolve the needs of local populations. Often time, unwarranted delays are introduced merely due to various cross-country regulations.

Much of this can be mitigated by The Coalition of Hope Foundation and Project Excelsior. By converting ships designed for 'storming the beaches' into humanitarian 'storm the beaches' with relief supplies etc, is a brilliant application of resources. There have so many situations where logistics was a limiting factor. As a civilian vessel, it can readily navigate to any location. It can not only be used to 'deliver the goods', but also be outfitted with state of the art medical and communications equipment.

As you might know, even with my decades of applicable experiences, I am nevertheless honored for the request to provide this testimonial letter. I am now and remain available to provide any continued support for such a brilliant project.

- James Lee Witt

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James L. Witt". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.