

MEDIA PACK

The Honorable Daniel H. Sohn



The Honorable Daniel H. Sohn – official photo

The Honorable Daniel H. Sohn is an award-winning business and destination marketing executive, human rights and DEI consultant, and civic leader whose career reflects a powerful intersection of executive leadership, public service, and social impact.

With deep expertise in chamber of commerce management, economic and workforce development, destination marketing, and public policy, Sohn is widely recognized for advancing business ecosystems while championing equity, inclusion, community and civic engagement.

Over the course of his career, Sohn has held senior executive and founder-level leadership roles, including:

- Interim CEO, El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau
- CEO, Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce
- President & CEO, Antioch Chamber of Commerce
- President & CEO, Antioch Convention & Visitors Bureau
- President & CEO, Orlando Pride Chamber
- Executive Director, Laguna Hills Chamber of Commerce
- Founder, Florida Center for Civic Engagement

Across these roles, he has led strategic initiatives focused on membership growth, economic resilience, workforce development, tourism & destination promotion, civic engagement, and government affairs. His leadership has consistently strengthened organizational sustainability while positioning institutions as influential drivers of regional economic strategy and public policy engagement.

In 2018, Sohn made history as the first openly LGBTQ+ individual elected to the City Council in the Town of Haverhill, Florida, and the first out bisexual person elected to public office in the state. Following a re-election campaign outcome in which he lost incumbency by ONLY one vote, Sohn founded the Florida Center for Civic Engagement to expand civic literacy and participation. Through this work, he launched Florida Civics Week, an annual statewide initiative dedicated to strengthening public understanding and celebration of the democratic and civic process. Learn More Here: **Florida Civics Week**

In February 2020, Sohn made history alongside his husband, Kai, as the first LGBTQ+ couple to be married inside the Florida State Capitol Building. Their wedding was recognized as a powerful symbol of progress, visibility, and equality, reflecting Sohn's lifelong commitment to advancing inclusion, civil rights, and representation both personally and professionally. See Coverage Here: **Tallahassee Democrat**

After relocating to California, Sohn was nominated by Governor Gavin Newsom and appointed by the Director of the Selective Service, in the name of U.S. President Joe Biden, to serve as a Board Member representing California on the nation's Selective Service System. See Coverage Here: **Imperial Valley Press**

In December 2024, Sohn was appointed as a District 1 Commissioner to the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights and was officially sworn into office on January 28, 2025, on a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He currently serves as Chair of the Commission's Visibility Project, which promotes public awareness and engagement surrounding human rights issues while also reviewing reported human rights violations within Sonoma County. As a certified Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion facilitator and Human Rights Consultant, and a 2021 graduate of the U.S. Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights, Sohn also serves as an Expert Advisory Board Member for Human Rights & Diplomacy in Commerce & Economics.

See Coverage Here: **KTLA / EIN Presswire**

Since May 2024, Sohn has served as Board President of the Sonoma/Napa County United Nations Association Chapter, leading initiatives that advance the United Nations' mission of human rights, sustainability, and social justice.

His contributions have earned widespread recognition, including:

- 2022 – Pride Business Leadership Award, North Bay Business Journal
  See Coverage Here: **North Bay Business Journal**
- March 2023 – "Orlando Magic Diversity Game Changer," recognized by the Orlando Magic and the National Basketball Association for advancing social justice and equality
  See Coverage Here: **Watermark Online**
- 2024 – President's Volunteer Service Award, bestowed by U.S. President Joe Biden, in recognition of significant contributions to volunteerism, civic engagement, and community service. The award was presented on the President's behalf in partnership with AmeriCorps and Points of Light by Antioch, CA Mayor Lamar Hernandez-Thorpe on October 17, 2024.
  See Coverage Here: **Antioch Herald**
- December 2024 Appointment / January 28, 2025 Swearing-In – Commissioner, Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights, sworn in on a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  See Coverage Here: **KTLA / EIN Presswire**

Additionally, Sohn has been named an honorary member of The Los Vigilantes, a distinguished civic organization whose honorary members also include former U.S. Presidents Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford & former California Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante.

An accomplished author and thought leader, Sohn has penned Lemonade for Sale!: A Guide to Nurturing the Spirit of Entrepreneurship! and Sit. Stay. Lead.: Unleashing the Power of Canine-Inspired Leadership.

Both books are available in hardcover, softcover, and ebook formats at Lulu.com, Barnes & Noble, Amazon, Walmart.com, Books-A-Million, and directly through **www.DanielSpeaks.org.** They inspire readers to turn ideas into action and embrace innovative leadership.

A sought-after speaker, Sohn is known for delivering high-energy, impactful presentations that resonate across business, government, and nonprofit sectors. His ability to translate complex challenges into clear, actionable strategies positions him as a leading voice at the intersection of leadership, economic development, tourism, and human rights.

Sohn resides in Sonoma County, California, with his husband, Kai, and their five dogs—Sammy, GG, Lukas, Gillian, and Gracie. He is an avid collector of dog figurines and a passionate hockey fan.

SPEAKING TOPICS

Pick a topic. Daniel brings the rest.

Every talk is tailored to your audience.

SIGNATURE

Too much. On purpose.

Daniel is quirky and weird and never fit in, and that is exactly how he brings people in. Being too much, on purpose, and leading with empathy, he shows how the thing that makes you different can make room for everybody else.

RESILIENCE

The Heat Is What Makes It Possible to Cook

For anyone who has ever felt like the one who does not belong: Daniel shares how never fitting in became his strength, and how the lessons his mother taught him turned pressure and naysayers into fuel. The heat is not the obstacle. It is what makes the end product.

SIGNATURE

Even an Advocate Needs an Advocate

Words Daniel carries with him from his mother, Helene G. Sohn, the advocate and leader she was. Daniel spends his life showing up for everyone else; this talk shares the lesson she taught him about the people in his own corner, and what that teaches about empathy, caregiving, and letting yourself be supported, to inspire others the way she inspired him.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership That Brings Everyone In

Inclusive leadership drawn from chambers, nonprofits, and public office: how to build rooms where every member, partner, and guest belongs, and where people do their best work.

HUMAN RIGHTS · DEIAB

Human Rights and Belonging at Work

From his work as a Human Rights and DEI consultant and commissioner: practical, human ways to champion inclusive practices and advance real opportunity in your organization.

BUSINESS ADVOCACY

Chambers, Small Business, and Thriving Communities

Lessons from running multiple chambers of commerce and business associations: strengthening local economies, supporting small businesses, and building vibrant, thriving communities.

CIVICS

Civics, Public Service, and Showing Up

A former lawmaker and civics champion on why participation matters, how government actually works, and how ordinary people create meaningful change through strategic partnerships.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Start Where You Are: The Lemonade Stand School of Business

The spirit behind his book Lemonade for Sale!: nurturing entrepreneurship, turning life's what-ifs into opportunities, and building something real from a simple idea.

FACILITATION · RETREATS

Retreat Facilitation for Boards and Organizations

A strategic thinker in the facilitator's chair: Daniel guides boards and organizations through the hard conversations with empathy and pace, and sends everyone home with a plan they actually believe in.

Daniel speaks at, and facilitates:

- Keynotes
- Podcasts
- Corporate Retreats
- News Shows
- Conferences
- Pride Month Events
- Panels
- Workshops

NEWS & MEDIA

Daniel in the news

Articles about Daniel from the outlets that have covered his work, collected in one place. Every headline and web address below is clickable.



ORLANDO BUSINESS JOURNAL

Everyone's game: Embracing diversity, equity and inclusion in the sports industry

https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2024/04/10/diversity-equity-inclusion-sports-daniel-sohn.html



THE PRESS

Small Business Investment Center launched by Antioch Chamber of Commerce

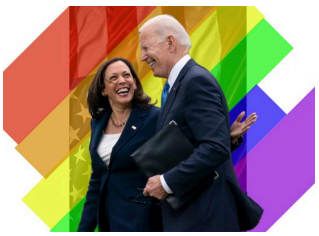
https://www.thepress.net/features/small-business-investment-center-launched-by-antioch-chamber-of-commerce/article_e180c180-2f92-11ed-a246-435cf74d049f.html



CALEXICO CHRONICLE

I.V. Regional Chamber CEO Appointed to Selective Service Board

https://calexicochronicle.com/2021/11/05/i-v-chamber-ceo-tabbed-for-selective-service-board/



MEDIUM

A Case for Continuity: Why President Biden & Vice President Harris Deserve a Second Term

https://medium.com/@danielsohn365/title-a-case-for-continuity-why-president-biden-and-vice-president-harris-deserve-a-second-term-c5911b8aae17



WATERMARK ONLINE

Orlando Magic to honor Chamber CEO

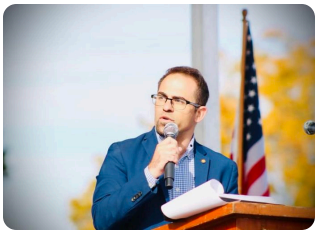
https://watermarkonline.com/2024/03/05/orlando-magic-to-honor-pride-chamber-ceo/



THE DESERT REVIEW

Imperial Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony

https://www.thedesertreview.com/imperial-valley-regional-chamber-of-commerce-grand-opening-and-ribbon-cutting-ceremony/image_db4a619e-2314-11ec-9079-db63a8f77f71.html



THE DESERT REVIEW

Presidential appointment graces the Valley

https://www.thedesertreview.com/news/presidential-appointment-graces-the-valley/article_561a6986-3db5-11ec-bfc5-57a3849e1763.html



ANTIOCH HERALD

Travis Credit Union breaks ground on new Antioch branch building

https://antiochherald.com/2023/01/travis-credit-union-breaks-ground-on-new-antioch-branch-building/



CONTRA COSTA NEWS

ANTIOCH CITY COUNCIL AGREES TO $125K TO ANTIOCH CHAMBER FOR GENERAL SUPPORT

https://contracosta.news/2022/11/29/antioch-city-council-agrees-to-125k-to-antioch-chamber-for-general-support/



NORTH BAY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Senior lobbyist of Sonoma's Floridian Group wins Pride Business Leadership Awards

https://www.northbaybusinessjournal.com/article/article/senior-lobbyist-of-sonomas-floridian-group-wins-pride-business-leadership/



INSTINCT MAGAZINE

Gay Couple Weds At Florida Capitol After Previous Ban

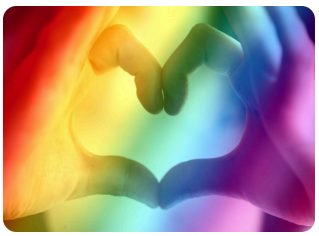
https://instinctmagazine.com/gay-couple-weds-at-florida-capitol-after-previous-ban/



ORLANDO BUSINESS JOURNAL

Orlando LGBT business leaders, nonprofits against proposed Florida bill with workplace restrictions

https://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2023/12/11/lgbt-center-central-florida-dont-say-gay.html



OUTSFL

Uncomfortable but Essential: The True Essence of Allyship in the LGBTQ Community and the Corporate World

https://outsfl.com/guest-essay/uncomfortable-but-essential-the-true-essence-of-allyship-in-the-lgbtq-community-and-the-corporate-world-opinion



HOLTVILLE TRIBUNE

Imperial Valley Regional Chamber Opens for Business

https://holtvilletribune.com/2021/08/05/imperial-valley-regional-chamber-opens-for-business/



EAST BAY TIMES

New CEO to take reins at Antioch Chamber of Commerce

https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2022/05/14/in-brief-new-ceo-to-take-reins-at-antioch-chamber-of-commerce/



TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Making history: First same-sex wedding held in Florida Capitol

https://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/2020/02/13/making-history-first-same-sex-wedding-held-florida-capitol/4739901002/



IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

Regional chamber CEO appointed to draft board

https://www.ivpressonline.com/news/local/regional-chamber-ceo-appointed-to-draft-board/article_eedcd38c-404b-11ec-b278-574db233d900.html



KTLA / EIN PRESSWIRE

USIDHR Graduate Sworn In as Human Rights Commissioner in Sonoma County

https://ktla.com/business/press-releases/ein-presswire/782886366/usidhr-graduate-sworn-in-as-human-rights-commissioner-in-sonoma-county/



SONOMA COUNTY / COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Daniel H. Sohn — Commissioner Profile, Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights

https://sonomacounty.gov/administrative-support-and-fiscal-services/human-resources/boards-commissions-and-committees/commission-on-human-rights/about-us/roster-of-commissioners/daniel-sohn



ANTIOCH HERALD

Former Antioch Chamber executive to be honored with President's Volunteer Service Award Thursday

https://antiochherald.com/2024/10/former-antioch-chamber-executive-to-be-honored-with-presidents-volunteer-service-award-thursday/

FOLLOW DANIEL

Follow Daniel!

Keynotes, book news, chamber work, and the occasional dog-inspired leadership lesson, straight from Daniel.

FACEBOOK
https://www.facebook.com/hesgotourback

INSTAGRAM
https://www.instagram.com/hesgotourback

X (TWITTER)
https://www.twitter.com/hesgotourback

For speaking and media inquiries, start at **www.DanielSpeaks.org** — the full biography, books, and News & Media coverage in this pack live there.