

**James A. Bennett
Director since 2019**

Mr. Bennett has served as Executive Director of External Affairs for First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company (First Citizens) in Columbia, South Carolina since January 2024, having previously served as South Region Mid-South Area Executive from January 2015 to January 2024, in addition to prior roles as Executive Vice President, Director of Public Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer. Before joining First Citizens, Mr. Bennett became the youngest bank president in South Carolina when he was named President of Victory Savings Bank in 1989.



Mr. Bennett has been actively involved with the Columbia Urban League for more than 35 years, serving previously as League Chairman, and is a former chairman of the board of Claflin University, a private, historically black university located in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Mr. Bennett currently serves as chair of the Midlands Business Leadership Group, as well as chair of the University of South Carolina Educational Foundation. He is a member of the board of directors of Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina and former chair of the South Carolina Bankers Association.

Mr. Bennett received his undergraduate degree from the University of South Carolina and is a graduate of the South Carolina Bankers School.