

Cliff Bates

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EXECUTIVE IT LEADER

Strategic, execution-driven Executive Vice President with 25+ years of IT leadership in top-50 U.S. banking. Proven track record directing \$100M+ budgets, leading global teams of 250+, and driving core banking modernizations, active/active data center resilience, and enterprise-wide cyber vulnerability remediation. Trusted advisor to C-suite and board-level executives, specializing in aligning IT strategy with operational agility, risk mitigation, and regulatory compliance.

Executive IT Leader offering 25+ years of experience in enterprise infrastructure transformation, cyber risk mitigation, and high-performance team building for a forward-looking organization.

Executive Core Competencies

- **Strategic Leadership:** Enterprise IT Strategy & Vision, Board & Executive Alignment, Global & Offshore Talent Leadership, AI & Emerging Technologies
- **Operations & Financials:** \$100M+ P&L / Budget Management, Strategic Vendor & Contract Management (IBM, Microsoft, ServiceNow, TCS, Splunk, Oracle, etc.), Active/Active Multi-Site Data Center Resilience, High-Availability Infrastructure
- **Risk & Security:** Cyber Vulnerability Remediation, Information Security & Cyber Defense, Regulatory Compliance & Examination Defense (FDIC/FFIEC/GLBA), DR & Business Continuity
- **Modernization & Governance:** Core Systems Transformation, Enterprise Architecture, Risk Management & Audit Governance, Crisis & Incident Management

Executive Leadership & Experience

03/2025 – Present Executive Career Transition & Professional Development

Undertook an intentional sabbatical focused on strategic executive networking, global travel, and staying abreast of emerging enterprise technology trends prior to market re-entry.

12/2017 – 03/2025 Executive Vice President, IT Director - Zions Bancorporation — Salt Lake City, UT

- **Enterprise Operations:** Directed enterprise IT infrastructure operations, technology governance, and data center strategy supporting 450+ financial locations and 20,000+ technology components.
- **Financial Stewardship:** Managed an annual operating budget exceeding \$100M, optimizing cost structures and vendor licensing efficiency while maintaining continuous high availability.
- **Data Center Resilience:** Architectural leader behind transforming Zions' infrastructure from active/passive to an active/active multi-data center model, achieving non-disruptive uptime.
- **Cyber Vulnerability Remediation:** Spearheaded enterprise-wide patching and threat mitigation across 20,000+ components in close partnership with corporate cybersecurity teams.
- **Audit & Governance:** Deployed a risk management governance framework across 200+ staff, producing measurable audit rating improvements across enterprise environments.

03/2013 – 12/2017 Senior Vice President, Core Technical Readiness - Zions Bancorporation — Salt Lake City, UT

- **Core Banking Modernization:** Partnered with the Enterprise CIO to execute Releases 1 & 2 of the multi-year FutureCore TCS BaNCS deployment.
- **Vendor & Offshore Delivery:** Directed technical architecture, interface development, non-functional testing, and integration with offshore teams (TCS).

2011 – 03/2013 - Vice President, IT Enterprise Communications Manager Sr. - Zions Bancorporation — Salt Lake City, UT

- **Enterprise Communications, Data & Networking:** Managed teams overseeing enterprise communications infrastructure, including IVR, VoIP/telephony systems, networking, storage, and backup frameworks.

2004 – 2011 - Vice President, IT Manager - Zions Bancorporation — Salt Lake City, UT

- **Data Storage, Movement & Authentication:** Led Data Transmission Services, Storage Infrastructure, and Distributed Enterprise Services across the corporation.

2000 – 2004 - IT Systems Engineer - Zions Bancorporation — Salt Lake City, UT

- **Server Administration:** Supported data-center server environments, remote offices, and technical integration during the Zions & First Security merger.

1998 - 2000 - IT Consultant - Uinta Business Systems - Contractor to Zions Bancorporation and other Utah-based companies — Salt Lake City, UT

- **Consultant with Numerous Hats:** Provided systems administration, network design, and security consulting for Zions Bancorporation and regional clients.

Education & Community Leadership

Bachelor of Science: Business Management — University of Phoenix, Salt Lake City, UT (2009)

Executive & Community Involvement:

- Co-Chair, Zions Bank Paint-a-Thon
- Member, Zions Peer Bank Forum (MAAG)
- Leadership Involvement, ZTC Building Committee