

Images



Catherine P. Bessant

Job Title

Chief Operations and Technology Officer

Organization

Bank of America

Bio

Catherine P. Bessant is chief operations and technology officer at Bank of America, and is a member of the company's executive management team. Since 2010, Bessant has led Global Technology and Operations (GT&O), delivering end-to-end technology and operating services across the company through nearly 95,000 employees and contractors in more than 35 countries.

Bessant has held a number of senior leadership roles for the company. She was president, Global Corporate Banking; president, Global Product Solutions and Global Treasury Services; chief marketing officer; president, Consumer Real Estate and Community Development Banking; national Small Business Segment executive; and president of the Florida market. She joined the bank as a corporate banker in 1982.

Bessant represents our employees on a number of important topics, serving as executive sponsor for the company's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Pride executive board, the LGBT Ally program, and the Disability Advisory Council. In 2018, she was named No. 1 among OUTstanding LGBT+ Ally Executives, presented by the Financial Times.

Active in the community and region, Bessant received the 2018 Distinguished Service Award from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. In addition, she was awarded the North Carolina Order of the Long Leaf Pine and was recognized by the Charlotte Business Journal with the Women in Business Lifetime Achievement Award. She chairs the North Tryon Vision Plan Advisory Committee.

Bessant recently led the formation of the Council on the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Managed by the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, the council will convene the brightest minds from tech, business,

academia and government.

Bessant serves on the board of directors of Zurich Insurance Group, is an independent member of the USA Field Hockey board of directors, and is on the advisory board for the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. Along with Ross School faculty, alumni and students, she summited Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro, the world's tallest freestanding mountain, in August 2018.

For the second consecutive year, she is ranked No. 1 among the "25 Most Powerful Women in Banking" by American Banker. She also appears on Working Mother magazine's "50 Most Powerful Working Moms" list of 2018.

[Download Cathy Bessant's biography \(printable PDF format\)](#)

Follow Cathy Bessant on Twitter: [@CathyBessant](#)

Recent Press Releases

Oct. 11, 2018 - [Bank of America Named Winner of the AnitaB.org 2018 Top Companies for Women Technologists Program](#)

Apr. 10, 2018 - [Harvard Kennedy School and Bank of America Announce The Council on the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence](#)

Articles

Dec. 5, 2018 - [Bank of America Tech Chief Defines Responsible AI Projects](#), Wall Street Journal

Nov. 19, 2018 - [2018 Charlotteans of the Year: Cathy Bessant](#), Charlotte Magazine

Oct. 8, 2018 - [BofA Fintech Guru: Blockchain Morph Into Big Impact On Consumers Years Away](#), Forbes

Oct. 5, 2018 - [In shadow of #MeToo, women execs call for greater leadership diversity](#), American Banker

Sept. 23, 2018 - [Bank of America's Cathy Bessant: The Most Powerful Woman in Banking](#), American Banker

May 8, 2018 - [Bank of America's Cathy Bessant receives UNC Charlotte Distinguished Service Award](#), Charlotte Business Journal

Apr. 26, 2018 - [Why Amazon and Google Haven't Attacked Banks](#), Wall Street Journal

Apr. 25, 2018 - [How AI Anxiety Is Creating More Jobs for Humans](#), Fast Company

Apr. 18, 2018 - [BofA's Cathy Bessant talks workforce equality, shattering the glass ceiling](#), Charlotte Business Journal

Apr. 10, 2018 - [Bank of America, Harvard form group to promote responsible AI](#), American Banker

Mar. 26, 2018 - [Bank of America ponders what comes next for its land as North Tryon braces for boom](#), Charlotte Observer

Mar. 12, 2018 - [AI as new tool in banks' crime-fighting bag?](#), American Banker

Feb. 1, 2018 - [How Bessant helped boost Bank of America's bottom line](#), EuroMoney

Photo Gallery and Videos/Webcasts



[Cathy Bessant Photo Gallery](#)



[CNBC: Bessant on financial cybersecurity, May 10, 2018](#)



[CNBC Capital Exchange, May 10, 2018](#)



[2018 FinTech Ideas Festival](#)



[Hub Culture: Bessant at Davos, Jan. 23, 2018](#)



[Bloomberg TV: Bessant on Responsible AI](#)



[American Banker podcast: "Responsible AI"](#)



[2017 American Banker Women in Banking Gala](#)



[2017 Cambridge Cyber Security Summit](#)

Boards and Memberships

- [North Tryon Advisory Committee](#)
- [University of Michigan Ross School of Business, Advisory Board](#)
- [Zurich Insurance](#)

