

🖨️ Click to print or Select 'Print' in your browser menu to print this document.

Page printed from: <https://www.law.com/corpcounsel/2022/03/07/lawyer-who-rose-to-become-grocery-giants-diversity-chief-departs/>

Lawyer Who Rose to Become Grocery Giant's Diversity Chief Departs

"To borrow an old phrase, 'this work is a marathon and not a sprint,'" Jonathan Mayes said on LinkedIn. "[We] haven't reached the finish line, but [we're] making progress."

By Hugo Guzman | March 07, 2022



Jonathan Mayes, senior vice president and chief diversity and inclusion officer at Albertsons Cos., the nation's second-largest grocery chain, announced on LinkedIn last week that he left the company at the end of February.

The attorney's tenure with Albertsons and its predecessor, Safeway, goes back to 1994, when he joined Safeway's legal department. By the time Boise, Idaho-based Albertsons acquired Pleasanton, California-based Safeway for \$9.4 billion in 2015, Mayes had risen to become Safeway's senior vice president of public affairs, government relations, CSR and philanthropy.

"When I began my legal career in 1994 at Safeway, I never imagined the various leadership roles I would be privileged to have over the years," Mayes said on LinkedIn. "But the greatest highlight of my 27+ years there ... has been the phenomenal people I've had the pleasure to know and work with inside and outside the company."

Mayes said in the post that he soon will announce his next endeavor, the launch of a speaking and consulting firm. He could not be reached for further comment.

His departure comes as Albertsons is expanding its supplier diversity program, which seeks to connect the company with suppliers that are at least 50% owned by an American citizen from one of the following categories or ethnicities: African American, Asian American, Hispanic, Native American, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, service-disabled veteran or female.

"Through this program, we are able to partner with new diverse businesses that also reflect the diverse communities we serve across the nation," Mayes said in a press release last month.

"To borrow an old phrase, 'this work is a marathon and not a sprint,'" Mayes added on LinkedIn. "[We] haven't reached finish line, but [we're] making progress."