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The Way Ahead
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“Find a way to get in the way.”

– John Lewis

After college, I worked full time on a state-wide political campaign. The candidate was destined to fail, but that wasn't the point. What we really wanted to do was keep the needle moving, keep folks talking, and keep our eyes on the future of a blue Georgia. I packed my car up and drove to every county in the state, meeting in basements, churches, and sometimes truck stops. I interviewed dozens of individuals and community groups to understand their experiences and aspirations, with the hopes of informing future campaigns on how to capture their hearts and votes. What I felt that year was the magic of the South – its people. They're genuine, generous, and ironically, the most accepting folks that I have ever met.

What I learned, however, was that the people I met were being failed at multiple levels by the governments and organizations that are meant to protect them and to enrich their lives. A school teacher made sandwiches while we talked, so she could take them to her students the next day. A welder volunteered to repair safety rails at that school because no funding had materialized to pay his fee. The list goes on. Government can do better for those folks and they deserve it.

When I had the privilege of interning for him, Congressman John Lewis, my hero and no stranger to the moral failure of government, told me about the importance of “finding a way to get in the way.” So, when I pivoted to consulting, government and public sector consulting was and has been a natural fit. I wanted to contribute my talents to enabling better government for the benefit of citizens. I've loved the work I've done.

Now, though, I'm called back home to the South, to again leverage my skills and my passion for my beloved people, those who have showered me with so much love. I want to get in the way of all the failures of governance that are disadvantaging Southerners. My dream is to vastly expand the public sector portfolio of a major consulting company to include agencies and organizations serving the people of the South. There are so many problems that can be solved by better management solutions. In 3-5 years, I could play a major part of bringing those solutions to the folks that need them.

To that end, I hope to soak up as much knowledge, make as many connections, and learn as many stories as I can while pursuing an MBA. Then, I want to pack it all up and move home, to the Deep South, to put it to work.