

David Johnston
Vice President, Asset Protection & Retail Operations
National Retail Federation

David Johnston is vice president of Asset Protection & Retail Operations for the National Retail Federation, the world's largest retail trade association. In his role, he leads asset protection and store operations focused initiatives and member programs, facilitating engagement, promoting best practices and advocating on policy initiatives focusing on crime, violence, loss and issues challenging the profitability of retail store operations.

With over thirty-seven years of retail asset protection experience, David's career has been split between positions as a practitioner, solution provider and consultant across various retail segments. As a practitioner, he has held positions leading and overseeing loss prevention technologies, data analytics, e-commerce and omnichannel fraud prevention, and global corporate security and asset protection teams. Prior to joining the NRF in November 2022, David led the global security, loss prevention and digital fraud functions for Inspire Brands, a multi-branded restaurant company spanning 32,000 locations across 65 countries.

As a solution provider and consultant, David supported hundreds of retailers across the globe, developing data analytics, loss prevention and fraud prevention programs that focused on sustaining a profitable omni-channel environment. His overall experience provided him with a well-rounded perspective of retail needs, built upon partnership, servant leadership and bringing individual value and innovation to the industry.

David is a regular speaker and spokesperson on various asset protection topics across the retail and complementary industries. He has been portrayed and presented across various media outlets as an expert in the industry. David continues to remain engaged across the industry, supporting the evolution of the profession. A former board member and past president of the Restaurant Loss Prevention & Security Association (RLPSA), and long-term member of the NRF Loss Prevention Council, David currently serves on the Board of Advisors for the Loss Prevention Research Council, an active member of ASIS, and supports future professionals as an advisor for the Attleboro High School's Criminal Justice Vocational Program.

David received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice and his master's degree in security studies from the University of Massachusetts's at Lowell.