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Top Skills

Government

Microsoft Partner

Executive Relationships

Dinesh Sastry, JD — BS EECS

Founder & President at Illuminant Capital Holdings, LLC | Vice Chairman at Simba Fiber | Venture Partner | Start-up Advisor | Business Strategy | Business Development | Capital Intros | Blockchain & AI Solutions
San Francisco Bay Area

Summary

I'm a global investment strategist, political advisor, and founder of Illuminant Capital Holdings, LLC, with over 20 years of experience raising capital, building strategic alliances, and advising world leaders. I currently serve as Vice Chair of Simba Fiber, helping deliver fiber-optic infrastructure across Africa—one of the most transformative telecom projects on the continent.

With a B.S. in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science from UC Berkeley and a J.D. in Corporate & Securities Law from Georgetown Law, I've led capital raises for private equity funds, structured international defense technology deals, and advised sovereign wealth funds, startups, and family offices across the U.S., U.K., India, and Asia-Pacific.

A former Trustee of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC), I was among the top national fundraisers for President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. I've worked closely with U.S. Presidents, Indian Prime Ministers, and Fortune 100 CEOs on policy, diplomacy, and global economic strategy.

I'm currently focused on frontier technologies—AI, blockchain, clean energy—and storytelling ventures that bring purpose and impact together. My current creative endeavor, The Mysterious Story of God, is in development as a feature film exploring themes of leadership, identity, and justice.

Let's connect if you're building something bold and meaningful—across borders, sectors, or generations.

<https://illuminantcap.com/>

Experience

Redwood Collective

Venture Partner

January 2024 - Present (1 year 6 months)

San Francisco Bay Area (Global Focus)

As Venture Partner at Redwood Collective, I help steward a differentiated, high-performance Fund of Funds that invests in top-tier, often inaccessible Silicon Valley venture capital firms and high-growth technology unicorns. Our focus is on unlocking value in late-stage venture rounds—Series B, C, D, and beyond—where companies are on the cusp of exit or IPO and the risk-reward profile is asymmetric in favor of LPs.

Fund I has returned north of 5x ROI, and Fund II is tracking toward even higher performance, supported by new pipeline commitments and direct co-investments in breakout unicorns.

Key Highlights:

- Access to elite VC funds like Westly Group (early Tesla investor), Darwin Ventures (founded by Frank Caufield of KPCB), KPCB, Founders Fund, Lightspeed, 8VC, SNR and Witt Capital
- Democratizing VC access: While most top-tier Silicon Valley funds require \$10M–\$20M minimums, Redwood allows entry at a \$1M threshold—enabling broader participation in this historically exclusive asset class.
- Co-investments with GPs in their winners, maximizing exposure to exponential growth companies approaching liquidity events.
- LP-friendly terms: 1.25% management fee, 10% carry on funds, 20% on direct deals.
- Focused 100% on U.S.-based tech, with an 80% allocation to later-stage deals and diversified exposure across vintages.

I bring over three decades of experience in finance, private equity, and global advisory, having collaborated with iconic Finance leaders such as John Doerr, Sandy Robertson, Ambassador John Roos, Edward Mathias (Carlyle Group), John Ledecy and Vice President Al Gore. My advisory portfolio includes sovereign wealth funds, family offices, and institutional LPs across the U.S., Asia, and Europe.

If you're interested in joining this journey and investing alongside us in some of the world's most dynamic growth companies, feel free to DM me.

Illuminant Capital Holdings, LLC

Founder & President

March 2009 - Present (16 years 4 months)

San Francisco, London, New Delhi

- Advising global ventures on cross-border capital strategy, M&A, and family office syndication.
- Advised sovereign wealth funds, VCs, and founders across tech, green energy, commodities, and defense.
- Raised multi-million-dollar rounds and launched partnerships across the U.S., Asia, and EMEA.

DeepXL

Member of the Board of Advisors

April 2025 - Present (3 months)

San Francisco Bay Area

DeepXL Advisory Board

A deepfake detection framework for a safer and more authentic online environment for all.

Advisory board member since 2025.

Novospir

Member of the Board of Advisors

April 2025 - Present (3 months)

San Francisco Bay Area

Novospir Advisory Board

Revolutionizing the gaming industry with a scalable social puzzle game that allows publishers to monetize without intrusive tactics.

Advisory board member since 05/25.

BiTechnologies

Board Member

April 2025 - Present (3 months)

United States

BiTechnologies Advisory Board

Revolutionizing portfolio management: Integrating cutting-edge technology for tailored investment strategies and sustainable financial growth

Advisory board member since 05/25.

AdvisoryCloud

Member of the Board of Advisors

May 2025 - Present (2 months)

United States

AdvisoryCloud Advisory Board

An advisory board for every company, team, project, person.

Advisory board member since 05/25.

Falkon Systems Inc.

Senior Business Development Executive

March 2025 - Present (4 months)

San Francisco and Houston

Driving Business Messaging Innovation & Compliance

At Falkon Systems, I lead strategic initiatives to transform business messaging with automation, security, and compliance. Our platform, **Falkon SMS, redefines enterprise communication by:

Enabling secure & compliant business texting

Empowering teams with automation & workflow optimization

Enhancing customer engagement with shared inboxes & AI-driven messaging

In my role, I focus on:

Strategic partnerships– Connecting Falkon with enterprises to optimize their messaging workflows

Revenue growth– Crafting high-impact business strategies to scale adoption

Industry leadership– Positioning Falkon as a trusted vendor in regulated industries

Let's connect to explore the future of business communication & compliance!

Authentical

Senior Advisor

January 2025 - Present (6 months)

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia & San Francisco Bay Area

Authentical is on a mission to prevent forgery by providing any credential issuer credentials on the blockchain to protect the value, validity, and authenticity of a product or work of art and protect the reputation of the organization. This applies to all forms of creative art and luxury brands and sports and entertainment and enables provenance for the creator as well as guaranteed royalties to the creator on secondary market sales.

Delta Cognition

Chief Strategy Officer (CSO) AI & Industrial Intelligence

March 2023 - Present (2 years 4 months)

San Francisco, Melbourne

Melbourne, San Francisco

- Advising AI startup in predictive analytics, logistics, and automation.
- Helped design GTM strategy for award-winning tools across sectors.

SIMBA FIBER

Vice Chairman

January 2023 - Present (2 years 6 months)

Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Tanzania)

- Spearheading Africa's most ambitious fiber-optic rollout.
- Driving strategic capital partnerships with impact funds and development banks.
- Enabling digital infrastructure for the fastest-growing youth population on Earth.

Consultant

CampIgn Strategist and Diplomatic Liaison

August 1991 - Present (33 years 11 months)

United States and India

- Advised leaders in the U.S., India, and the Middle East.
- Brokered backchannel diplomacy post-1998 nuclear crisis between Clinton and Vajpayee governments.
- Initiated the U.S. acknowledgment of Diwali as an official White House celebration.

IT Trailblazers LLC

Senior Strategic Adviser

March 2023 - January 2025 (1 year 11 months)

Business Development, Capital Introductions, sales, marketing.

Einsights

Senior Advisor

March 2016 - June 2019 (3 years 4 months)

Singapore and Sidney, Australia

AI, Data Analytics, CRM

Iron Pillar

Member of Advisory Board

June 2017 - October 2018 (1 year 5 months)

Mumbai, Shanghai, Palo Alto, Mauritius, and Singapore

Iron Pillar is a venture growth investor focused on mid stage technology investments in India. We back proven and innovative companies in the Consumer Tech and Enterprise Tech sectors, post a Series A round of venture capital funding.

Headquartered in Mumbai, with a presence in Mauritius, Palo Alto, Shanghai and Singapore, the 6-member Iron Pillar founding team brings 100+ years of combined experience and directly relevant and complementary skill sets in venture investing, M&A/investment banking, operations and technology.

We actively partner with technology entrepreneurs and early stage investors to support companies by leveraging our experience and networks in India, the U.S. and China/Asia.

Nuevo Power

Senior Advisor

January 2014 - June 2016 (2 years 6 months)

Milpitas, California

Portable solar energy packs that replace Diesel power and Turnkey Solar projects that replace Diesel.

Blackstreet Capital Holdings, LLC

Senior Advisor, Director Investor Relations

March 2002 - February 2004 (2 years)

United States

LBO and Private Equity. Sourced deals, raised initial capital of fund, and nurtured relationships with investors.

Milestone Merchant Partners, LLC.

Senior Advisor, Director Investor Relations

March 2002 - February 2004 (2 years)

United States

Merchant Bank, Mergers & Acquisitions, Asset management, private placements.

Democratic National Committee (DNC)

Trustee

March 1998 - December 2003 (5 years 10 months)

Washington DC

- Raised double-figure millions for national campaigns.
- Chaired DSCC High Tech Council.
- National fundraiser for Clinton-Gore 2000, Biden, and Harris.

HAWTHORNE GROUP, L.L.C.

Senior Business Advisor

February 2001 - June 2002 (1 year 5 months)

United States

Capital introductions for VC Funds, PE Funds, and Fund of Funds. The company was a Private Placement Agent.

Laszlo & Associates

PR & Political Strategist

May 1997 - September 1997 (5 months)

Rosslyn, Virginia

Did PR and political strategy for some of the firm's clients including Rabbi Arthur Schneier's work at the Commission for International Religious Freedom and for General Colin Powell's trip to Trinidad & Tobago. This firm was the public relations partner for famed political strategist Frank Luntz' polling and political strategy firm.

California Democratic Party

Lead District Organizer

June 1994 - November 1994 (6 months)

San Mateo, California

Field Organizer for Democratic Party in San Mateo County. Responsible for ground game in victorious Diane Feinstein campaign with close margin.

Kathleen Brown for Governor
Northern California Co-Manager
March 1994 - June 1994 (4 months)
San Francisco, California

One of three managers of the Northern California Gubernatorial Primary campaign. Engaged in community outreach, public relations, Democratic club outreach, and fundraising.

Berkeley Process Control
Technical Writer
November 1993 - March 1994 (5 months)
Point Richmond, California

Part-time Technical writer for manuals in automated Machine Controller company.

Jerry Brown for President
Campaign Aide & National Organizer
August 1991 - July 1992 (1 year)
San Francisco, California

Travelled throughout the United States as a campaign aide with variety of responsibilities including advance, debate negotiations, field organizer, and state coordinator, and travel aide.

National Semiconductor
Paid Software Engineering Intern
May 1991 - August 1991 (4 months)
Sunnyvale, California

Developed Software solution MOSP for converting IBM CMS output into UCB Spice chip design software input. Also worked on other semiconductor projects.

Education

University of California, Berkeley
Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Electrical Engineering and Computer Science · (1989 - 1994)

Georgetown University Law Center

Doctor of Jurisprudence, Corporate and Securities · (1998 - 2001)