

## **Sajan George** **Senior Advisor**

### **PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

Mr. George is a Senior Advisor of Areté Capital Partners. With more than 25 years in the turnaround and restructuring business, he has earned the reputation of an engaged and devoted leader, known for his unique crisis management skills and ability to lead and motivate in even the most stressful situations. Mr. George's career can roughly be broken down into three phases, nine years each.

The first phase was with Arthur Andersen (1993-2002) wherein he developed a variety of turnaround and restructuring skills in the international cities of Toronto (Canada), Adelaide (Australia) and Atlanta (USA). The highlight of this phase was the precedent setting restructuring of Orange County, CA and its emergence from the largest municipal bankruptcy in US History.

The second phase was with Alvarez & Marsal (2002-2011) wherein he developed a variety of crisis management skills. The highlight of this phase was building a National Practice of Education Turnarounds in the public sector, leading a diverse team of over 25 crisis management and restructuring professionals in some of the most precedent setting public sector restructuring engagements in the country, including the transformation of the New Orleans Parish School District after Hurricane Katrina and the transformation of the entire New York City Public Education System.

The third phase was launching his own non-profit turnaround firm to target failing bottom 5% public schools in the U.S., Matchbook Learning. Sajan built a team and led the turnaround of the country's worst performing public schools in Detroit, Newark and Indianapolis. He designed a unique personalized learning management platform, Spark, to scale this way of turning around individual schools by turning around individual students' performances. He created an Accelerator to share this learning and turnaround methodology with other schools and piloted that in Washington, DC. The highlight of this phase included numerous national awards and recognitions including a TEDx talk, an invitation to the White House, various mentions in national publications and awards from various social enterprises.

Mr. George has recently founded and leads POLK Capital, a new venture that invests in micro-middle market companies (i.e., <\$25M in revenues) in Indiana, transforming their growth with a blend of redemptive entrepreneurship, workforce development, and patient capital deployment. POLK Capital is drawn to companies that can provide sustainable job and career pathways that enable struggling members of our society to flourish.



# PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

## CAREER EXPERIENCE

<b>ARETÉ CAPITAL PARTNERS</b> <i>SENIOR ADVISOR</i>	03/21 – Current
<b>PRAXIS</b> <i>MANAGING PARTNER</i>	2021 – Current
<b>POLK GROUP</b> <i>CEO / FOUNDER</i>	2019 – Current
<b>MATCHBOOK LEARNING</b> <i>CEO / FOUNDER</i>	2011 – 2019
<b>ALVAREZ &amp; MARSAL</b> <i>MANAGING DIRECTOR &amp; NATIONAL HEAD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION</i>	2002 – 2011
<b>ARTHUR ANDERSON</b> <i>SENIOR DIRECTOR</i>	1993 – 2002

## EDUCATION/CERTIFICATIONS

<b>UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO</b> – <i>Ontario, Canada</i>	
<i>Bachelor of Science, Accounting</i>	1992
<i>Master of Accountancy</i>	1992

*Chartered Accountant*  
*Chartered Business Valuator*  
*Member of the Turnaround Management Association*

\* References Available Upon Request \*