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### **Times Facts**

Sebastian Dortch joined the *St. Petersburg Times* in 1996 as an assistant metro editor. During his tenure, he has worked as a political coordinator, national editor and city editor. In 2002, he was named to the newly created post of diversity officer with the goal to help the company better understand and serve its readers by creating a workplace that celebrates varied backgrounds, races and beliefs. In 2004, Sebastian joined the Human Resources team as Director where he has overall responsibility for HR functions and Safety and Security Operations.

### **Talking Points**

- Diversity in News Coverage and as a Business Value
- Newspaper Editing
- Recruitment and Development Strategies

Sebastian is a regular guest speaker, panelist and trainer and has participated in numerous journalism and newspaper industry events.

### **Education**

Sebastian graduated from Tennessee State University with a bachelor's degree in speech communication and theater and has completed Northwestern University's Advanced Executive Program.

### **Background**

Sebastian was introduced to journalism at Tennessee State University, where he served as editor of the campus newspaper. After a post-graduate internship at the *Los Angeles Times*, he worked eight years at the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* in Knoxville, TN. He then joined the *Dayton Daily News*, where he edited national projects and helped lead the paper's local news report for two years. He and his wife, Sibyl, are the proud parents of seven children. Sebastian's interests include reading, plucking the bass guitar and working with teenagers and young adults at his church.

### **Awards**

Sebastian has won local and state reporting awards and his edited projects have been recognized nationally.

### **Contact**

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**Sebastian Dortch**  
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**St. Petersburg Times**

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