

DAVID T. SCHAEFER, CLFP
CEO
Orion First

Mr. Schaefer is the founder and chief executive officer of Orion First, which has become an industry leader since its formation in 2001. His focus is on growing Orion into the leading loan and lease servicing company in the United States. He is a strong advocate for capital formation focused on the small and medium business market.

With a career spanning forty-five years in the commercial finance industry, Dave's leadership experience has been influenced by a broad range of roles including business development, treasury, operations, technology, accounting and portfolio management. He has been involved in both prime and sub-prime markets. His experience includes leading two independent commercial equipment finance companies and a consumer/commercial collection agency.

Dave is an active leader and advocate for small and medium sized businesses. He most recently was invited to serve on the US Chamber of Commerce's national Small Business Council. He served on the Board of Directors of the Equipment Leasing and Finance Association from 2009 to 2019 and served as chairman in 2018. He also served as the chairman of LeasePAC, a non-partisan federal political action committee. He formerly served on the board of directors of the United Association of Equipment Lessors (now the National Equipment Finance Association). He obtained his Certified Leasing and Finance Professional certification in 1996.