

LAWYERS Of Color

CAUCUS ISSUE

2019



**The Congressional Black
Caucus Foundation**

**Top Lobbyists
& Influencers**

**Dynamic Capitol
Hill Staffers**



Hogan Lovells

Hogan Lovells, including partners Ari Fitzgerald and Lillian S. Hardy, supports Lawyers of Color and its annual Congressional Black Caucus reception which honors top lobbyists.



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Christopher Nelson - Gabriela Martinez - Kaitlyn Williamson - Yolanda Young Lawyers of Color is a 501^c(3) devoted to promoting diversity in the legal profession and advancing democracy and equality in marginalized communities.

We conduct and commission research and studies regarding the intersection of the legal profession and social justice. We also create and curate articles, blogs, studies, and videos. Our global online community advocates for the well-being of our people, especially marginalized communities. We mobilize to eradicate injustice. We give change agents a vehicle to respond quickly and forcefully to oppressive and damaging policies and systems. We motivate business, political, and community leaders to effect change and advance equality.

Editorial Calendar

February 2020

Power Issue

March 2020

*Black Student's
Guide to Law
Schools & Firms*

July 2020

Hot List

September 2020

Caucus Issue

October 2020

Nation's Best



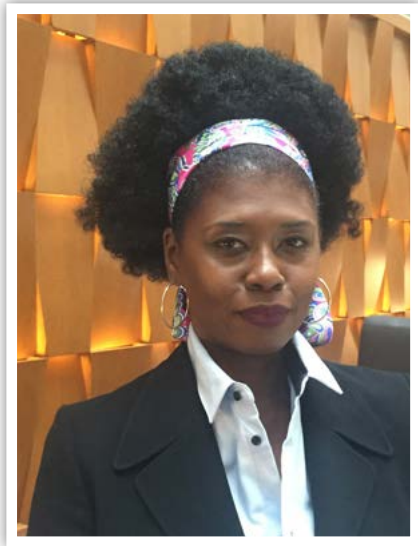
Congratulations to our
colleague **Earle Jones**
on being selected as a
Top Lobbyist & Influencer.



Comcast NBCUniversal is proud to support Lawyers of Color.



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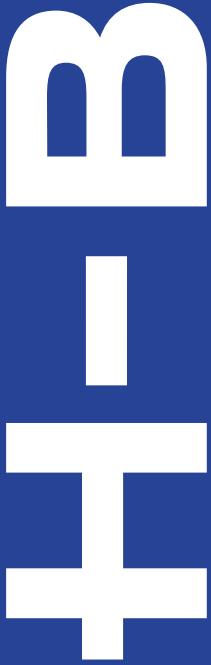


Lawyers of Color is delighted to release our annual Caucus Issue. Within these pages we recognize the esteemed members of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, as well as their dynamic Capitol Hill Staffers and the nation's Top Lobbyists & Influencers.

Lawyers of Color's selection committee, comprised of its fellows, advisers, and editorial staff, chose distinguished members of the legal professional who may not fit the traditional definition of a lobbyist but are on the front lines of consequential national political and policy battles.

Our team is especially appreciative to Ari. Q. Fitzgerald and his law firm of Hogan Lovells for hosting the Caucus Prelude Reception. We also thank honorees Earl F. Jones of Comcast Corporation, De'Ana H. Dow of Capitol Counsel LLC, and Singleton McAllister of Husch Blackwell for their support.

Yolanda Young
President & Executive Director



HUSCH BLACKWELL

Bold in vision. Confident in action.

Husch Blackwell congratulates Singleton McAllister on being named to Lawyers of Color Top Lobbyists & Influencers for 2019. We celebrate broad perspectives and believe the talent and knowledge of our people move clients forward.



Singleton McAllister
Partner

huschblackwell.com

750 17th Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006 | 202.378.2300

Arizona | California | Colorado | Illinois | Missouri | Nebraska | Tennessee | Texas | Washington, DC | Wisconsin

Capitol Counsel
congratulates our colleague

De'Ana Dow

on being named to
Lawyers of Color's list of
Top Lobbyists and Influencers.

Congratulations De'Ana!



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Caucus Foundation

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& Influencers

LAWYERS OF COLOR INITIATIVES

Create a black law student judicial clerkship collaborative

Throughout the country there are judicial clerkship programs targeted at diverse law students; however, few clerkships go to black law graduates. We are going to create a collaborative that helps determine and scale the most effective methods and programs.

Provide qualified summer associate candidates to firms that have difficulty recruiting black law students.

We contacted nearly 100 law firms that had less than 1 percent black lawyers. Most did not respond, but of the three who responded, two explained they were IP firms and found it difficult to find black law students with STEM degrees. We are going to create a free black law student resume bank and pre-screening interview service law firms.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

Congratulations to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation on its empowering Annual Legislative Conference!

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation was established in 1976 by members of the Congressional Black Caucus. It is an American educational foundation that conducts research on issues affecting African Americans.



Rep. Karen Bass

D-CA-37
Serving since 2011



Rep. John Lewis

D-GA-05
Serving since 1987



Del. Eleanor
Holmes Norton

D-DC
Serving since 1991



Rep. Maxine Waters

D-CA-43
Serving since 1991



Rep. Sanford D. Bishop

D-GA-02
Serving since 1993



Rep. James E. Clyburn

D-SC-06
Serving since 1993



Rep. Alcee L. Hastings

D-FL-20
Serving since 1993



Rep. Eddie Bernice
Johnson

D-TX-30
Serving since 1993



Rep. Bobby L. Rush

D-IL-01
Serving since 1993



Rep. Bobby Scott

D-VA-03
Serving since 1993



Rep. Bennie Thompson

D-MS-02
Serving since 1993



Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

D-TX-18
Serving since 1995



Rep. Elijah E.
Cummings

D-MD-07
Serving since 1996



Rep. Danny K. Davis

D-IL-07
Serving since 1997



Rep. Gregory W. Meeks

D-NY-05
Serving since 1998



Rep. Barbara Lee

D-CA-13
Serving since 1998



Rep. WM Lacy Clay, Jr.

D-MO-01
Serving since 2001



Rep. David Scott

D-GA-13
Serving since 2003



Rep. G.K. Butterfield

D-NC-01
Serving since 2004



Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II

D-MO-05
Serving since 2005



Rep. Al Green

D-TX-09
Serving since 2005



Rep. Gwen Moore

D-WI-04
Serving since 2005



Rep. Yvette D. Clarke

D-NY-09
Serving since 2007



Rep. Hank Johnson

D-GA-04
Serving since 2007



Rep. Andre Carson

D-IN-07
Serving since 2007



Rep. Marcia L. Fudge

D-OH-11
Serving since 2008



Rep. Cedric L.
Richmond

D-LA-02
Serving since 2011



Rep. Terri Sewell

D-AL-07
Serving since 2011



Rep. Frederica S. Wilson

D-FL-24
Serving since 2011



Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr.

D-NJ-10
Serving since 2012



Rep. Joyce Beatty

D-OH-03
Serving since 2012



Rep. Hakeem Jeffries

D-NY-08
Serving since 2013



Rep. Marc Veasey

D-TX-33
Serving since 2013



Rep. Robin Kelly

D-IL-02
Serving since 2013



Sen. Cory Booker

D-NJ
Serving since 2013



Rep. Alma Adams

D-NC-12
Serving since 2014



Rep. Brenda Lawrence

D-MI-14
Serving since 2015



Del. Stacey Plaskett

D-VI
Serving since 2015



Rep. Bonnie Watson
Coleman

D-NJ-12
Serving since 2015



Rep. Dwight Evans

D-PA-02
Serving since 2016



Sen. Kamala D. Harris

D-CA
Serving since 2017



Rep. Lisa Blunt
Rochester

D-DE
Serving since 2017



Rep. Anthony Brown

D-MD-04
Serving since 2017



Rep. Val Butler
Demings

D-FL-10
Serving since 2017



Rep. Al Lawson

D-FL-05
Serving since 2017



Rep. A. Donald
McEachin

D-VA-04
Serving since 2017



Rep. Steven Horsford

D-NV-04
Serving since 2018



Rep. Colin Allred

D-TX-32
Serving since 2018



Rep. Antonio Delgado

D-NY-19
Serving since 2018



Rep. Jahana Hayes

D-CT-05
Serving since 2018



Rep. Lucy McBath

D-GA-06
Serving since 2018



Rep. Joe Neguse

D-CO-02
Serving since 2018



Rep. Ilhan Omar

D-MN-05
Serving since 2018



Rep. Ayanna Pressley

D-MA-07
Serving since 2018



Rep. Lauren Underwood

D-IL-14
Serving since 2018

A close-up portrait of a Black woman with short, dark hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a black, textured top and a diamond earring. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

LAWYERS Of Color

thanks our honorary chair

Kendra F. Brown, Chief of Staff to
Congressman G. K. Butterfield



LAWYERS Of Color

Caucus Prelude Reception

September 10, 2019







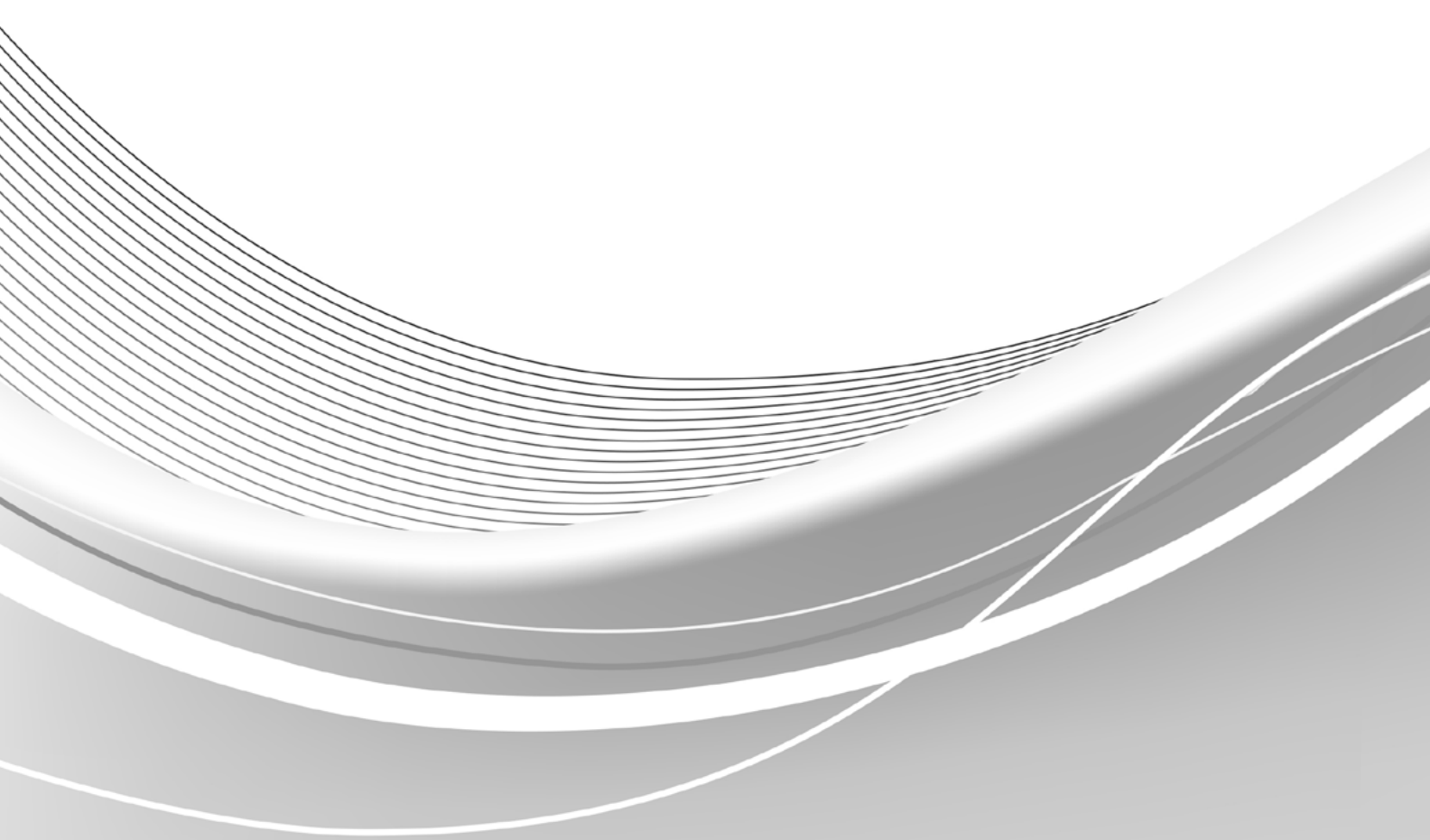






CAPITOL HILL STAFFERS

**Lawyers of Color salutes
Dynamic Capitol Hill Staffers**





Andre
J. BARNETT

Tax Counsel
Senate Finance Committee

LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center
J.D., University of the District of Columbia -
The David A. Clarke School of Law
B.A., University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Before being appointed tax counsel for the Senate Finance Committee by Republican senator, Chuck Grassley of Iowa, Andre Barnett had been a tax adviser at Ernst & Young. Prior to that he was a senior tax associate in mergers and acquisitions at Grant Thornton LLP and a tax associate at Brennan Law Firm.



Andrea
D. MARTIN

Legislative Director and Counsel
Rep. Andre' Carson

J.D., Howard University School of Law,
B.A., Duke University

Andrea is a 25-year congressional staff veteran. She previously served as a chief of staff, senior policy advisor and as policy director for the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Progressive Caucus.



Andres William
BASCUMBE

Counsel
Office of Congresswoman Maxine Waters

J.D., American University,
B.A., Florida State University (cum laude)

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Bascumbe currently advises Congresswoman Waters on technology, defense, tax, national security, and intellectual property issues. Bascumbe currently serves on Florida State University's Young Alumni Council, as a Director on the LGBT Congressional Staff Association's Board, and as a Fellow at the Internet Law & Policy Foundry. Bascumbe is also a Member of the Federal Communications Bar Association, Congressional Black Associations, and the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association.



April
JONES

Senate Commerce Legislative Assistant
Senator Amy Klobuchar

J.D., The George Washington University Law
School; B.A., University of Southern California

April Jones serves as a Counsel for Senator Amy Klobuchar, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation for United States Senate. Before this, she worked for the Federal Communications Commission. Earlier in her career, she started as a Law Clerk at United States Attorney's Office, or at U.S. Department of Treasury.



Ariel
ECKBLAD

Chief Of Staff
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Harvard Law School, M.Sc.,
University of Oxford; B.A., Spelman College

Ariel Eckblad serves as Chief Of Staff at U.S. House of Representatives. Before this, she acted as an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University Law Center and also at American University Washington College of Law. She started her career in 2010 as a Fulbright Scholar at U.S. Department of State.



Arthur D.
SIDNEY

Chief of Staff and Chief Counsel
Congressman Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

LL.M., American University, Washington
College of Law, J.D., Howard University
School of Law, B.A., Vassar College

Complex international trade litigator for nearly 10 years, having worked in the federal government and private sector. He wrote briefs and participated in oral argument for numerous cases before the Court of International Trade, Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, World Trade Organization, and North American Free Trade Agreement. He also wrote one brief that was filed with the Supreme Court; unfortunately, for Mr. Sidney writ of certiorari was denied.

Mr. Sidney has served as a professor of law and to undergraduates at American University, Washington College of Law, Howard University School of Law, and University of Maryland University College. He has taught International Business, Business Law, Global Business Management, legal writing, and Administrative Law, and other courses.

Mr. Sidney began his career on the Hill working with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (Houston, Texas). Presently, on the Hill, in addition to his role as Chief of Staff and Chief Counsel, Mr. Sidney is involved in patents, copyright, trademark, antitrust, international trade, and transportation and infrastructure issues. He is admitted before the D.C., PA., and Court of International Trade bars.

Mr. Sidney is nearly fluent in Spanish, conversant in Portuguese and studied Italian and Swahili. Avid tennis player.



Bakari
MIDDLETON

Counsel
Senator Cory A. Booker

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center;
B.A., Duke University

Bakari Middleton serves as principal policy advisor to the Senator on a wide portfolio of issues before the Senate Commerce and Senate Judiciary committees, including: technology, media, telecommunications, competition policy, intellectual property, cybersecurity, privacy, transportation, and consumer protection issues.

He works with Congressional offices, regulatory agencies, administration officials, and other external stakeholders to develop and promote the Senator's priorities and to successfully advance legislative initiatives.



Bertram
LEE JR.

Policy Counsel
Public Knowledge

J.D., Howard University School of Law,
B.A., Haverford College

Prior to joining Public Knowledge Bert was Policy Counsel at the Committee for Education and Labor under Chairman Robert C. Scott covering technology, labor, and health care issues for the Committee. He also served as an Associate at Laura Murphy & Associates where he helped develop strategy for the Facebook civil rights audit. Bert has a deep interest and knowledge in the intersection of tech and civil rights law and hopes to continue the work of protecting the rights of marginalized communities.



Caren
STREET

Chief of Staff
Karen Bass

J.D., George Washington Law,
B.A., Howard University

Caren Street is Chief of Staff to Representative Karen Bass (CA-37), Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, and the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. Prior to joining Chair Bass, Caren served as Policy Director for the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) under the former Chair Cedric Richmond. In this capacity, she supported the legislative efforts of each of the Members of the Caucus and advanced the Chair's agenda for the 115th Congress. Before moving to the House, Caren worked for former Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) for almost 9 years, ending her tenure as Senior Policy Advisor for business, economic development, and labor issues. Caren began her Hill career as an intern and staff assistant for Johnny Isakson (R-GA). She is a product of Howard University and earned her law degree from George Washington University at night while working full-time. She hails from Stone Mountain, Georgia, and is a long-suffering Atlanta Falcons fan.

Carl Ezekiel “Zeke” ROSS

Investigative Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

J.D., College of William & Mary Law School
B.A., Oral Roberts University

Prior to being named Investigative Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics, Zeke Ross was an assistant United States attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice. He had previously been an associate at Arnold & Porter LLP and a law clerk for the Honorable James R. Spencer.



Charles R. GAYLE

Oversight Counsel
House Judiciary Committee

J.D., National Law Center at
George Washington University

Charlie Gayle is a seasoned litigator with 20 years of investigative law enforcement experience at the local, state, and federal levels. Charlie began his career as an Assistant Solicitor in Baltimore City, where he litigated police misconduct matters. He then moved to the Baltimore County State’s Attorney’s Office where he specialized in prosecuting violent narcotics and gang networks. He then spent six years as an Enforcement Attorney with the CFPB before joining the House Judiciary Committee as Majority Oversight Counsel. Charlie is passionate about mentoring and developing young leaders. He currently mentors African American youth through the St. John Baptist Church Mentoring Program in Columbia, MD; his last mentee joined the US Marines. He previously volunteered at Maryland Leadership Workshops, which develops leadership skills in middle and high school students.



Charlyn STANBERRY

Chief of Staff
Rep. Yvette D. Clarke

J.D., Florida International University-
College of Law; M.P.A.; B.S.B.A.,
University of Central Florida

Charlyn Stanberry serves as Chief of Staff for Rep. Yvette D. Clarke, the Vice Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Previously, Charlyn served as Vice President of External Affairs for a consulting firm, Counsel for the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council and Professional Staff for the Congressional Black Caucus.

Charlyn is admitted into the Maryland Bar and is a member of the National Bar Association, Federal Communications Bar Association, and Women’s Bar Association of DC. She is an Adjunct Professor at the University of the District of Columbia and serves in leadership roles with Junior League of Washington and New Leaders Council DC. A proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., she received the 2018 GWAC Rising Star Award and 2015 NBLSA Alumni of the Year Award.



Christopher QUINTYNE

Legislative Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Southern University Law Center;
M.P.A., Southern University Law Center;
B.A., American University

Christopher Quintyne serves as Legislative Counsel in the office of Congressman Hakeem Jeffries (NY-8), where he handles budget, labor, and housing issues. Prior to this role, Chris served as Associate Director of Legislative Affairs for the Mayor of DC. He also worked in local government managing the day to day operations of two municipalities in Maryland. Chris holds a law degree and a masters of public administration degree from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Additionally, he serves as a member of AU’s Alumni Board and on the Board of Directors of D.C. Doors. While at AU, he was a member of the Beta Beta Theta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.



Claytrice M.
HENDERSON

Legislative Director
Congressman Bennie G. Thompson

J.D., Florida A&M University College of Law,
B.A. Rust College (cum laude)

Earlier this year, Ms. Henderson was responsible for drafting “The Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home National Monument Act”. This landmark legislation was introduced by Congressman Bennie Thompson to establish the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Home as a national monument, which ultimately became law. Before working in Congressman Bennie Thompson’s personal office, Claytrice worked for three years on the United States House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security as a Legislative Assistant on the Border and Maritime Subcommittee. She has recently been selected to be a lecturer for the Rust College Ida B. Wells-Barnett Distinguished Lecture Series. Ms. Henderson is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



Corliss
CLEMONTS-JAMES

Deputy Chief, Legislative Resource Center
Office of the Clerk
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Antioch School of Law

Since 1985, I have been employed with the United States House of Representatives and have enjoyed the honor of serving the constituents of seven Members of Congress. I have held the status of Chief of Staff for five of the seven Members. In 2008, I enjoyed the honor of serving the first African American female Clerk of the House, Lorraine Miller, as Deputy Chief of the Legislative Center; I continue to serve under the leadership of the second African American Clerk of the House, Cheryl L. Johnson in the same capacity. I spend my spare time advocating for foster children and have been a foster parent for the past 13 years having received several awards for my dedication and commitment to this cause.



Danielle
JOHNSON

Counsel
House Committee on the Judiciary

J.D., Harvard Law School, B.A., University of
Southern California (magna cum laude)

Danielle Johnson assists the Committee’s Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet on intellectual property matters. She began her legal career in the litigation and intellectual property rights practice groups at Covington & Burling LLP and later joined the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office as a trademark attorney. Prior to joining the Committee, Danielle was in private practice at Kelly IP, LLP, an intellectual property boutique. While at Kelly IP, Danielle was a member of the editorial board for The Trademark Reporter, the International Trademark Association’s legal journal, and Vice Chair of the American Intellectual Property Law Association’s Trademark Internet Committee.



Donnice M.
TURNER

Senior Education Policy Advisor
Senator Bernard Sanders
Senate Budget Committee

J.D., Howard University School of Law, M.A.,
Clark Atlanta University, B.A., Spelman College

Donni Turner is senior education policy advisor to Senator Bernard Sanders and budget analyst with the Senate Budget Committee. Donni is responsible for the Senator’s College for All free college/debt cancellation bill, K-12 education and child care/Head Start, among other legislative priorities. Donni worked for the Senator’s 2016 presidential campaign and has extensive experience in legislative policy, having worked in every branch of government, on the federal, state and local levels and in the private sector. She began her career working for Senator Max Cleland, where she led the effort to enact legislation to establish the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Donni served as legislative director for U.S. Representative David Scott and was responsible for homeland security issues for Senator Richard Durbin.

Donni is a member of the State Bar of Georgia.



Erick
HARRIS

Legislative Counsel
Congressman Steve Chabot
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Washington University in St. Louis,
B.A., Vanderbilt University

Primarily, Erick handles judiciary issues and also focuses on financial services, tax, healthcare, labor, and technology issues. Erick formerly served as Legislative Counsel to Congresswoman Emerson and as an aide to Senator Talent and at the U.S. Department of Justice in the Office of the Solicitor General.

While completing his law degree, Erick served on the Wiley Rutledge Moot Court Board and as Senior Editor of the Washington University Jurisprudence Review. He appeared on various media outlets to discuss the 2008 Presidential election. In college, Erick served on the Honor Council and completed internships with the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, the British House of Commons, and at the White House during the George W. Bush Administration. Erick is originally from Cape Girardeau, Missouri and is a member of the Federalist Society.



Ebony BROWN

Assistant Counsel
Office of the Legislative Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Howard University School of Law,
B.A., The University of Georgia

Ebony Brown is an Assistant Counsel at Office of the Legislative Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives. She has been in this position since 2017. Before this, she acted as an Appellate Law Clerk at The Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands.



Elliot DOOMES

Counsel
Subcommittee on Economic Development,
Public Buildings, and Emergency Management

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,
B.S., Morehouse College

Elliot Doomes began his career on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant to Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and has been serving as Counsel for the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management on the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee since 2007.

His role is to advise the Ranking Member of the Committee, Rep. Peter DeFazio, and Ranking Member of the subcommittee, Rep. Dina Titus, on conducting oversight and proposing legislation for federal real estate activities, emergency management and federal economic development agencies. He also conducts legal research, interprets laws, rulings, and regulations for the subcommittee and develops strategy, arguments, and testimony in preparation for oversight of federal agencies within the subcommittee's jurisdiction which include the General Services Administration, the Architect of the Capitol, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and several regional economic development agencies.



Gidget BENITEZ

Legislative Assistant
Rep. Val B. Demings

J.D., American University Washington College
of Law, B.S., University of Central Florida

Gidget Benitez is a licensed attorney (Maryland) and the Founder and Producer of AfroLAWtina, a podcast dedicated to providing information and resources to Black and Hispanic women pursuing legal careers. As the 2018 CHCI Law Graduate Fellow, she clerked for the Honorable Hiram E. Puig-Lugo and then served as Law Fellow to Senator Tammy Duckworth. Gidget has also served in various leadership roles within the American Bar Association - Intellectual Property Section and the Hispanic Bar Association of DC. In 2018, she was Chair of the Diversity Report Committee, where she co-authored the HBA-DC's inaugural Diversity Report. Her areas of expertise include intellectual property law, as well as technology, housing, and education policy.



Halimah NAJIEB-LOCKE

Counsel
Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., The George Washington University Law
School, B.A., University of San Francisco (cum
laude)

Ms. Halimah Najieb-Locke handles all acquisition related policy issues and legislative development, including Title XIII of the National Defense Authorization Act, acquisition workforce, industrial base policy, supply chain security, foreign military sales (FMS)/export controls and technology transfer. She is originally from Los Angeles, California, but has been in Washington D.C. since 2012. While attending GW Law for her J.D., Halimah earned the honor of the Justice Thurgood Marshall Civil Liberties Award for her efforts in the public service sphere. She is honored to be among those chosen for this recognition.



Hope E. GOINS

Staff Director
House Committee on Homeland Security

J.D., University of Arkansas, (with honors),
B.A., Tougaloo College, (with honors)

Hope E. Goins is the top advisor to Committee Chairman Bennie G. Thompson on all matters related to the oversight of the Department of Homeland Security and national security related matters throughout the Executive Branch. Throughout her tenure on the Committee, Ms. Goins has also been Chairman Thompson's most senior advisor on matters related to counterterrorism, countering violent extremism, intelligence, cyber security, natural disasters, and civil rights and civil liberties.

Under Ms. Goins's leadership, the House of Representatives passed over 100 of the Committee's bills during the 115th Congress, including the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act, the first reauthorization of the Department of Homeland Security since its inception. Ms. Goins has given lectures to both domestic and international audiences.

She was selected to give remarks at the German Marshall Fund Transatlantic Women of Color Summit. She has given lectures at George Washington University, George Mason University, Georgetown University, the University of Memphis, the University of Arkansas, and American University. She is a member of the Congressional Black Associates, Women in Government Relations, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and the Intelligence and National Security Alliance. Recently, she provided enhanced leadership training to Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated.

A graduate of Tougaloo College, Ms. Goins is a lifetime member of the Tougaloo College National Alumni Association and the 40 under 40 Society. Because of dedication to the college, she has been named Young Alumnus of the Year and Alumnus of the Year. Ms. Goins has also received an award from the Washington Area Inter alumni Council for her contributions. She is a member of the United Negro College Fund Hall of Honors.



James GEE

Chief of Staff
Rep Bonnie Watson Coleman
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Seton Hall University School of Law,
M.P.A., University of Pennsylvania,
B.A., Fordham University

James Gee has been around politics in general -- and the New Jersey General Assembly in particular -- for most of his life. He began his career as an intern to then-Assembly Appropriations Chairman John S. Watson while still a student in high school. While attending Morehouse College in Atlanta Georgia, Mr. Gee worked in the Georgia Senate, quickly distinguishing himself as a skilled political operative.

In 2014, Mr. Gee was the Campaign Manager for Bonnie Watson Coleman in her Congressional run in New Jersey's 12th Congressional District. Mr. Gee currently serves as Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman's Chief of Staff.



Janelle McCLURE

Legislative Director
Representative Colin Allred

J.D., Washington University School of Law,
B.S.B.A., Washington University in St. Louis

Janelle McClure is an experienced lawyer and legislative staffer. She has years of experience building the diverse coalitions needed to get legislation enacted into law. Her policy expertise rests in health care, trade, education, and civil rights. Originally from the Midwest, she has previously worked for Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri and Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan. Janelle is a public servant at heart and regularly volunteers in her church and as a math and reading tutor to a fifth grader.



Jared CAMERON BASS

Professional Staff Member
House Appropriations Committee

J.D., Temple University, M.A. University of
Delaware, B.A. Eastern University

Prior to his work on the House Appropriations Committee, Jared Cameron Bass was the Senior Counsel for Education and Strategy at New America, a senior policy advisor within the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development at the U.S. Department of Education, and the lead higher education staffer on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce—Democratic Staff. Before coming to Washington, D.C., Bass shaped policy at the State and local levels of American government. He worked as a research fellow in the Office of the Philadelphia City Council President and also served as a legislative fellow in the Delaware House of Representatives.



Jocelyn M.
HARRIS

Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Quinnipiac University School of Law (cum laude), B.A., Spelman College (magna cum laude)

Jocelyn Harris has served on Capitol Hill as an attorney for nearly a decade. Ms. Harris is knowledgeable about the legislative process and on the application of House rules, parliamentary procedure, and committee and floor procedure. Ms. Harris currently works on budget process issues, immigration, law enforcement, and justice issues for the House Committee on the Budget. Ms. Harris was a Stennis Emerging Congressional Staff Leader in the 113th Congress. Prior to serving on Capitol Hill, Ms. Harris worked in private practice where she represented corporations in complex commercial litigation and labor and employment disputes. In private practice, she was active on motion practice, pretrial proceedings, depositions, and served on the firm's diversity committee. Ms. Harris is from New Haven, Connecticut and currently lives in Northern Virginia with her family.



John
CHRISTIE III

Legislative Director
Rep. Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, B.A., Hampton University (magna cum laude)

John Christie is Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.'s point of contact on all federal policy related to education, labor, criminal justice, immigration, transportation and trade. John joined Rep. Adams's office in 2017 as a Legislative Assistant where, in addition to his work on the aforementioned issues, is also the chief point of contact on the Congresswoman's Congressional Bipartisan HBCU Caucus, a coalition of 94 Members of the U.S. House and Senate. John is a native of the Washington, D.C. area.



John
HEINEMANN

Counsel
Financial Services Committee

J.D. University of Texas, B.A. College of Idaho

Prior to working for Congress, Heinemann was a Senior Associate for the Risk and Regulatory Compliance Group of Grant Thornton, where he co-chaired the practice group's Fintech Working Group. Before Grant Thornton, he worked for Promontory Financial Group. He currently serves as a member of the board of directors of the American Constitution Society's Washington, DC chapter, and was honored as a Next Generation Leader by the parent organization in 2014. In 2013, he was a finalist in the Wings of Excellence essay competition, which granted him access to the St. Gallen Symposium in St. Gallen, Switzerland. He was a member of the executive board for the Black Law Student Association during his time in law school.



Jonay
FOSTER HOLKINS

Legislative Counsel
Congressman David N. Cicilline

J.D., University of Arizona; B.A., Johns Hopkins University

As Counsel for a senior member of the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, Jonay works on a wide range of issues including civil rights, criminal justice, financial services, gun safety, housing, immigration, intellectual property, and taxes. Prior to that, she was a Senior Associate attorney at Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP, where she litigated on behalf of various federally-qualified community health centers and Head Start programs across the nation. After graduating from law school, she clerked for a federal judge at the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona. While in law school, she served President Obama as a legal intern in the White House Counsel's Office and an associate in the White House Office of Presidential Personnel.



Kellie
ADESINA

Chief Counsel
House Agriculture Committee

J.D., The Ohio State University,
B.A., Bethune-Cookman College (summa cum
laude)

Before joining the House Agriculture Committee, Kellie was Senior Counselor in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In this role, she served as the Chief of Staff to the General Counsel and provided legal advice and services regarding the broad range of activities at USDA. Prior to USDA, Kellie was Legislative Director to Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH), providing counsel on an array of legislative issues including the 2014 Farm Bill. Kellie has also worked in the offices of Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA) and Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ). She is a native of Newark, N.J.



Kemba
HENDRIX

Diversity Director
Committee on House Administration

J.D., Howard University School of Law,
B.A. Xavier University of Louisiana

Kemba Hendrix is the Director of the House Diversity Initiative sitting on the staff of the Committee on House Administration. In this capacity, she manages the initiative designed to increase recruitment, retention, and development of a more diverse workforce as well as increase awareness of diversity issues among congressional staffs. She has dedicated her career to conflict resolution, educating others, conducting training on creating inclusive environment. A lawyer by training, Kemba worked at OPM as Adviser to the Deputy Associate Director of Senior Executive Service and Performance Management, providing advice concerning interpretation of law and policy for the office. Further, she developed and facilitated training modules on EEO Laws, Diversity and Inclusion, Bullying and Harassment and conflict resolution. Kemba also advised the Chief Diversity Officer at the Department of State. Previously Mrs. Hendrix was a lawyer in at firm in Calverton Maryland and was a law clerk in Prince Georges County Circuit Court. Kemba is also an alum of Teach for America and spent years teaching fourth and sixth graders at Fairfax County Elementary School.



Kendra
BROWN

Chief of Staff
U. S. House of Representatives

J.D., Vermont Law School, M.Div., Howard
University, B.A., Hampton University

Kendra transitioned back to Capitol Hill from her role as Senior Director for Diversity, Inclusion and Affinity for the Washington College of Law at American University where she led the law school's diversity and inclusion initiatives and work.

She is a Former National Chair of the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA). During her term, NBLSA was active in election protection, academic planning, career development, and extensive advocacy efforts.

She is committed to community engagement and empowerment as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and The Links, Incorporated. She serves on the Leadership Committee of Street Law, Inc, a global, nonpartisan nonprofit organization that develops classroom and community programs to educate young people about law and government. Additionally, she is a member of the DC Regional Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington.



Kevin
CARSON

Chief Counsel
U.S. Senate

J.D., Rutgers University,
B.A., University of Virginia

Experienced counsel and advisor with a demonstrated history of bipartisan and bicameral work in the United States Senate. I focus on the following policy areas: economy, banking, tax, trade, immigration, guns and judiciary issues.



Kevin R.
BURRIS

Director of Oversight and Investigations
House Financial Services Committee

J.D., Harvard University,
B.A., University of Maryland

He began his legal career as a securities lawyer in the New York office of a large, multinational law firm. He later moved to DC to work as a congressional staffer. He has spent his entire Hill career conducting congressional investigations - first for Chairman Jay Rockefeller in the Senate Commerce Committee's Office of Oversight and Investigations and then for Ranking Member Tom Carper on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee's oversight team. He joined Chairwoman Maxine Waters' staff on the House Financial Services Committee in 2016 as the Chief Oversight Counsel. Over the span of his career in congressional oversight, he has served as the lead investigator for dozens of matters.



Kimberly
MITCHELL

Counsel
U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement
Administration

J.D., Northwestern University,
B.A., Howard University (summa cum laude)

Kimberly Mitchell is an astute civil litigator and burgeoning policy advisor. Kimberly began her career in "Big Law," primarily litigating discrimination claims and employment disputes. She then transitioned to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as a trial attorney. In this role, Kimberly litigated civil actions involving the DEA, its employees, and the laws it enforces. What she valued most, though, was providing thoughtful and practical policy advice. This year, DOJ detailed Kimberly to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. In this role, Kimberly works on crime and national security matters; serves as a subject-matter expert on drugs and related civil rights issues; and collaborates with stakeholders and other congressional staff on proposed criminal legislation.



Kimberly W.
ROSS

Chief of Staff and Chief Counsel
Office of Rep. Joyce Beatty
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., University of Maryland Carey School of
Law, B.A., Notre Dame University of Maryland

Kimberly Ross has worked on the Hill since 2000 serving in several senior capacities. In her current role, Kimberly manages a 15-member staff; leads and helps execute the policy and direction of legislation, communications, fiscal, constituent services, and outreach efforts for the Office as well as political priorities, strategies and fundraising. She also focuses on several key passion priorities including financial literacy, wealth gap elimination and economic equality, diversity and inclusion, civility and women's issues. Prior to coming to the Hill, Kimberly practiced regulatory law in the areas of telecommunications, gas and electric. She also completed the Johns Hopkins University Executive Leadership Development Program. Kimberly is an alumna of the Congressional Stennis Fellows Program and is a respected speaker on staffing and the institution. She has received several awards and recognitions for her legislative accomplishments-- for exemplary work on veterans' issues, including from the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Gold Star Wives respectively and on healthcare issues, the Kellogg Foundation Congressional Award for work on eliminating Health Disparities. Since 2016, she has served as a Member of the University of Maryland's Carey Law School Board of Visitors and mentor to several students and staff throughout her career. She is admitted to the bar of Maryland, member of several bar associations, women's and Hill staff organizations, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and resides in Maryland with her husband.



Lakecia Foster
STICKNEY

Policy Director
House Democratic Caucus

LL.M., New York University School of Law;
J.D., Cleveland Marshall College of Law ;
B.A., University of South Carolina

Lakecia Foster Stickney, JD, LL.M, a native of Spartanburg, SC, started her career on Capitol Hill as Legislative Counsel for former Congressman Mel Watt. She also served as Tax & Health Counsel to Congressman Mike Thompson, a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee and as Economic Policy Advisor to U.S. Senator and Democratic Whip Richard Durbin. During her first stint on the Hill, which spanned eight-and-a-half years, she actively managed a diverse and substantial legislative portfolio that included tax, financial services, and trade, and achieved many legislative and regulatory accomplishments.

Prior to returning to the Hill in 2019, she served as Director of Congressional and Political Affairs at the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), where she led and developed advocacy initiatives on tax.



Lasagne
WILHITE

Director, Office of Employee Advocacy
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Harvard Law School,
B.A., Princeton University

Lasagne Wilhite is the Director, Office of Employee Advocacy, at U.S. House of Representatives. She stood in this position since 2018. Before this she spent 7 years as an Attorney at the Department of Justice. Earlier in her career she served as an Associate for Reed Smith LLP and Arnold & Porter LLP.



Lauren
DUDLEY

Counsel
U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure
Committee

LL.M., J.D., American University Washington
College of Law, B.A., University of Maryland
College Park, (High Honors)

Lauren Dudley has previously served as Counsel to the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations and before that as Legislative Counsel for Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC) handling transportation, infrastructure, water, environment, economic development and emergency management issues. Lauren serves on the board of the Women's Congressional Staff Association (WCSA) and previously led WCSA's diversity and inclusion efforts and mentoring programs.

While working on Capitol Hill, Lauren has completed the following professional programs: Hoover Institution Stuart Family Congressional Fellowship (2018); Project on Government Oversight Congressional Oversight Boot Camp (2017); Board Source Certification in Non-Profit Management (2017); and the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars Congressional Fellowship (2016). In her free time, Lauren is a member of the Junior League of Washington, where she serves as Assistant Council Director for the League's Cultural Community Placements.



Lauren
SCOTT

Legislative Assistant
Office of Senator Tom Harkin

J.D., University of Iowa College of Law,
B.A., Iowa State University

Lauren Scott has been working on employment, labor, and workforce-related matters in both the public and private sectors, including on the staff of former U.S. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions where she assisted in the development of policies that promote financial security for working families and the passage of groundbreaking legislation, including the Workforce Innovation and Investment Act. Lauren received her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law and B.A. in Advertising from Iowa State University.



Leon
HORTON, IV

Legislative Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Howard University School of Law,
B.A., The University of Alabama

Leon Horton, IV is a Legislative Counsel at U.S. House of Representatives. He is a staffer for the Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection & Innovation subcommittee with the Committee on Homeland Security. Before this he served as a Policy Advisor for Impact Strategies.



Meagan M.
SUNN

Professional Staff Member and Technology Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law

Meagan M. Sunn is a technology and telecommunications advocate in Washington, D.C. Prior to the Hill, Ms. Sunn was an in-house counsel at USAC, the administrator of the \$10 billion Universal Service Fund, connecting low-income communities and rural America to broadband services. At the FCC, Meagan clerked for Commissioner Mignon Clyburn and the Wireline Competition Bureau. In the private sector, Ms. Sunn held law clerk positions in government relations at CTIA, Comcast NBCUniversal, and VMware.

Meagan serves Women In Government Relations' TTIP Taskforce, the Congressional Tech Staff Association, and Creative + Development, a non-profit dedicated to equipping underserved communities for careers in technology and digital media.

In law school, Ms. Sunn served NBSA, NAACP, the Journal of Law and Technology, and was named an Earle K. Moore Fellow by MMTTC.



Meaghan
LYNCH

Press Secretary
Sen. Kamala D. Harris

J.D., Howard University School of Law,
B.A., North Carolina State University

Meaghan Lynch serves as Press Secretary to Senator Kamala D. Harris (Calif). Lynch was most recently the Communications Director and Counsel for Congressman G. K. Butterfield (D-NC), where she developed the office's overall messaging strategy and served as the primary spokesperson for the office. The North Carolina native is a Co-Organizer of the Black Women's Congressional Alliance. She's also a member of the Maryland State Bar. The 2011 North Carolina State University graduate earned her law degree at Howard University.



Monalisa
DUGUÉ

Deputy Chief Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary

J.D., Valparaiso University Law School,
B.A., DePaul University (honors)

Monalisa was born in Nassau Bahamas. She started her career at O'Hagan Smith & Amundsen in Chicago, working on environmental law, and medical malpractice. She later found a home at Cook County Public Defenders' Office in Chicago for 11 years. Today, Ms. Dugué uses that experience to help shape criminal justice reform policies. She has served as lead counsel on several monumental legislation like Violence Against Women Act, First Step Act, and many others that have tremendous impact on the lives of millions. She is a committed soldier for justice, a fierce leader, passionate advocate for change, and above all, a doting mother of two beautifully gifted children—a junior at Princeton and a high school sophomore at School Without Walls. Monalisa owes all of her blessings to God above!



Monica
CLOUD

Deputy Chief Of Staff
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Washburn University School of Law,
B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Monica Cloud is a Deputy Chief Of Staff at U.S. House of Representatives. At the same time she is the owner of her own company, M.R. Cloud Consultancy, for the last 20 years. Earlier in her career she served as a Chief Financial Officer and also a Deputy Director.



Narda
JONES

Senior Technology Policy Advisor and Counsel
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
U.S. Senate

J.D., Brooklyn Law School,
B.A., Wesleyan University

Narda Jones is an experienced Legislative Counsel with a demonstrated history of working in the government administration industry. Skilled in Nonprofit Organizations, Privacy Law, Analytical Skills, Government, and Media Relations. A strong community and social services professional graduated from Federal Executive Institute. Before this position she spent 13 years at International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission.



Nicole
JULIUS

Communications Director & Policy Advisor
Congressman G. K. Butterfield
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Loyola University Chicago School of Law,
B.A. Spanish, English Literature, Oakwood
University

Nicole Julius has served in the U.S. House of Representatives for nearly four years as a communications and policy professional in Member offices and as a policy fellow with the Congressional Black Caucus in the 114th Congress. She also served in an adjunct faculty position at Loyola University Chicago School of Law supporting the department of Experiential Learning. She focused her legal studies in International Law and studied European and international law in Rome, Italy. A lover of world travel and cultural immersion, she studied Spanish language and culture in Valencia, Spain, taught English as a second language in South Korea and has traveled to over 15 countries.



Rachel
ROSSI

Counsel
U.S. House Judiciary Committee

J.D., Pepperdine University School of Law

Rachel Rossi is Counsel with the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on the Judiciary (Majority), assigned to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. Ms. Rossi previously practiced in the Central District of California as a Deputy Federal Public Defender, and in Los Angeles County as a Deputy Public Defender. From 2017-2019, Ms. Rossi was detailed from the Federal Public Defender to the office of Senator Richard J. Durbin, the Democratic Whip. In Senator Durbin's office, Ms. Rossi was the lead staffer on the First Step Act, the major federal criminal justice reform bill signed into law last year. It enacted comprehensive sentencing and prison reforms, including the retroactive application of revisions to unfair and racially disparate crack cocaine laws, which has resulted in 1,386 reduced sentences, to date.



Rashage
GREEN

Deputy Chief Counsel
Senate Special Committee on Aging

J.D., William Mitchell College of Law,
B.A., Hampton University

Rashage previously served as a presidential appointee in the Obama administration in the Congressional, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Office at the Office of Personnel Management and in the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs at the Department of Education. Rashage left the administration as Director of Higher Education and Oversight Strategy, where she advised senior department officials on numerous higher education issues and coordinated departmental responses to congressional oversight requests. Prior to joining the administration, she served as Senior Counsel for Congressman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott. In that role, Rashage advised the Congressman on a wide-range of legislative issues and successfully advocated for the Member's priorities in various policy proposals including, but not limited to, higher education, telecommunications, housing, and voting rights.



Rayshon
PAYTON

Legislative Director
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., University of Oklahoma College of Law,
B.A., Oklahoma City University

Rayshon Payton is the legislative director for Kendra Horn, U.S. Representative for the Oklahoma's 5th District. Every day, Payton is living his dream of being a lawyer and doing work that helps people.

Before this, he was working in the U.S. House of Representatives, which quickly led to a spot with the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee. Payton was associate director working on policies and initiatives for the Senate's Democratic leadership. He did that for almost five years.



Reginald
BABIN

Counsel
Senate Democratic Leader, Charles E. Schumer

J.D., The George Washington University Law
School, B.A., Louisiana State University

Reginald Babin is a Counsel for Senate Democratic Leader, Charles E. Schumer. He holds this position since 2017. He started his career as a law clerk for ExxonMobil and also Gauthier, Houghtaling & Williams.



Robert A.
HICKMAN

Transportation Counsel
Senator Charles. E. Schumer, Democratic Leader

J.D., Harvard University, B.A., The College of
New Jersey, (cum laude)

Robert Hickman advises Senator Schumer on transportation, infrastructure, and economic development. Prior to joining Sen. Schumer's staff, he served as Sr. Legislative Counsel for Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr. (NJ-10), focusing on the Representative's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee work.



Robert L.
ESKRIDGE, III

Chief of Staff
Congressman Al Green (TX-09)

J.D., Boston College Law School,
B.A., Morehouse College, (summa cum laude)

Rob Eskridge, Esq. serves Congressman Al Green and his congressional offices (Texas' 9th Congressional District) as its Chief of Staff. He previously served as Counsel to United States House of Representatives Committee on Ethics where he was one of the Committee's advisors on matters related to House Ethics rules, House rules, executive agency regulations, and federal statutes.

Rob received his law degree from Boston College. A Presidential Scholar, he was a member of the National Black Law Students Association, semi-finalist of the ABA-sponsored Negotiations Competition, and an interning prosecutor in The Hague, NL on the Milosevic, Oric and Tadic cases at the UN-ICTY. Rob is a summa cum laude graduate of Morehouse College (3.91 GPA), where he was a Morehouse Presidential Scholar, a Oprah Winfrey Angel Network Scholarship Recipient, president of the Morehouse Sociological Association, and a two-time study abroad participant. "



Simone (Hall)
WOOD

Counsel
United States Senate

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center;
B.A., University of Virginia

Simone Wood is a Professional Staff Member at the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. She held several positions in US Senate since 2013.



Tiffany Paschal
SMITH

Chief Tax Counsel
U.S. Senate Finance Committee

LL.M, Georgetown University, J.D., University of
Illinois, B.A., University of Illinois

Ms. Smith has worked with the Senate Finance Committee since 2007. She has worked on all major tax legislation since joining the Committee. Ms. Smith has handled a variety of tax issues, including international and corporate tax, tax exempt organizations and estate and gift taxes. Ms. Smith has also worked on small business/pass-throughs and individual issues.

Prior to working with the Senate Finance Committee, Ms. Smith worked with the Office of Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service as Assistant to the Branch Chief and Attorney-Advisor, working on procedural issues. Ms. Smith began her legal career at the City of Chicago's Office of Chief Counsel as an Assistant Chief Counsel where she handled local tax issues in the Regulatory and Aviation Litigation Division.



Timothy B.
GRAHAM II

Legislative Counsel
Rep. G. K. Butterfield

J.D. Wake Forest University School of Law,
B.A., The University of North Carolina at
Greensboro

Timothy manages Congressman Butterfield's Energy and Commerce portfolio as it relates to telecommunications, consumer protection, and federal oversight. He is specifically focused on how technology policy may be utilized to improve the condition of communities of color and other vulnerable or marginalized populations. In his spare time he enjoys basketball, movies, and playing with his daughter, Ava.



Tona BOYD

Chief Counsel
Senate Judiciary Committee
United States Senator Cory A. Booker

J.D., Harvard Law School; B.A., University of Notre Dame, (summa cum laude)

Prior to joining the Senate Judiciary Committee, Tona served for nearly a decade as a federal civil rights prosecutor in the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. There, she investigated and prosecuted complex criminal conspiracy cases involving police brutality and obstruction. In addition to official misconduct, Tona also specialized in federal hate crime and human trafficking matters. Before joining the Department of Justice through its Honors Program, she clerked for the Honorable Roger L. Gregory on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Tona received the Harvard Law School Dean's Award for Community Leadership in 2009, the Notre Dame Black Alumni Exemplar Award in 2006, and Notre Dame Alumni Association Distinguished Undergraduate of the Year and the Yarrow Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Achievement in Peace Studies in 2003.



Tonia S. AWONIYI

Director of Advice and Education
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics

J.D., University of Maryland School of Law;
M.S., University of Baltimore; B.A., Morgan State University, (cum laude)

Tonia is Director of Advice and Education to the United States House of Representatives Committee on Ethics. Previously, Tonia served as the Director of Education and Training to the United States Select Committee on Ethics and as Assistant General Counsel/Deputy Designated Agency Ethics Official to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, where she was detailed to the White House. Tonia holds a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law, a M.S. from the University of Baltimore, and a B.A. from Morgan State University.



Tonya N. SLOANS, ESQ.

Career Maximization Strategist and Senior Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics

LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., University of Wisconsin, B.S. Xavier University of Louisiana, (summa cum laude)

Tonya N. Sloans, Esq. is an advocate for women in the marketplace who teaches women how to be power performers both as employees and entrepreneurs through her company, PowerWoman Enterprise, LLC. In addition, Tonya leads the Financial Disclosure Office of the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Ethics as a senior ethics attorney. With more than 18 years of career success in the Washington, DC's halls of power, Tonya has lived out the very formula she shares with women nationwide.

Whether performing trainings for employers, speaking to groups of women, or making media appearances as she did on "Matter of Fact" with Soledad O'Brien, Tonya pours herself into helping women maximize their career potential.



Trevor BLAKE

Senior Associate Counsel
Office of House Employment Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,
B.A., Harvard University

Trevor Blake is Senior Associate Counsel at Office of House Employment Counsel. Before this, he spent 9 years at US Department of Justice. Earlier in his career, he worked as an Associate for various companies like Venable LLP, Krubin O'Brien LLC, and Testa Kurwitz and Thibeault LLP.



Twaun SAMUEL

Chief of Staff
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., University of Mississippi School of Law,
B.A., University of Mississippi

Twaun Samuel has held several positions throughout his five years of service on Rep. Waters' staff, most recently as Senior Counsel and Legal Fellow/Intern Coordinator on the House Financial Services Committee, of which Waters is the Ranking Member.

Mr. Samuel holds a BA degree in International Studies from the Croft Institute of International Studies (University of Mississippi) where he studied Political and Economic Transitions, with a regional focus in Latin America. Twaun completed a semester of studies at the Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro where he examined the nation's political history, all as Mexico was in the midst of its significant 2006 presidential election cycle. Following his studies at Croft, Twaun earned a J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law. Twaun is a 111th Congress John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Staff Fellow and 2009 Truman National Security Scholar.



Vincent BROWN

Counsel
United States Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

J.D., American University Washington College of Law, B.S., Carnegie Mellon University

Vincent Brown serves as a Counsel at United States Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. Before this he held multiple positions in public and public companies, such as EY, GE, Democratic Party of Georgia, Federal Election Commission, Georgia House Democratic Caucus.



Virgina GIBBS

Legislative Counsel
Senator Chris Van Hollen

J.D., Howard University School of Law, B.A., Duke University

Virgina Gibbs serves as a Legislative Counsel at United States Senate. Before this, she held multiple fellow and intern positions at various companies like USPTO, Banner and Witcoff, Ltd, Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission.



Waverly GORDON

Deputy Chief Counsel
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., Duke University ; B.S., Claflin University

Waverly Gordon serves as Deputy Chief Counsel for the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the U.S. House of Representatives. In that role, she provides counsel to the Committee on procedural, jurisdictional, and legal issues. Previously Ms. Gordon served as Health Counsel for the Committee and as Senior Policy Advisor for Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky. Ms. Gordon joined Congresswoman Schakowsky's staff after serving as a Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Louis Stokes Urban Health Policy Fellow. During her Fellowship, she served in the Office of Congresswoman Donna Christensen and with the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Ms. Gordon received a Bachelor of Science from Claflin University, a Master of Health Administration from The Ohio State University, and a Juris Doctor from Duke University.



Wendell Frank WHITE JR

Senior Policy Advisor/Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives

LL.M., Cardozo School of Law, J.D., Mercer University - Walter F. George School of Law, B.A., Mercer University

Wendell Frank White Jr serves as a Senior Policy Advisor/Counsel at U.S. House of Representatives. He holds this position since 2018. Before that, he spent 7 years at US Congress, acting as a Legislative Assistant.



Wintta WOLDEMARIAM

Policy Director to the Majority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., The University of Texas at Austin, B.A., Duke University

Wintta Woldemariam serves in the U.S. House of Representatives as Policy Director to the Majority Whip, Jim Clyburn.

Prior to returning to Capitol Hill, she worked as counsel in the Washington, D.C. office of King & Spalding. In this role, clients turned to her for the experience and perspective she acquired in strategic legal and policy roles in the White House, the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and the Texas state government.

Immediately prior to joining the firm, Wintta served as Ethics Counsel to then-President Barack Obama in the Office of the White House Counsel, where she advised senior White House officials on federal ethics law.

She is an adjunct faculty member at Johns Hopkins University where she teaches graduate business courses on crisis communication and ethics.



Yana L.
MILES

Senior Counsel
Committee on Financial Services

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,
B.A., Georgetown University, (cum laude)

Yana Miles is responsible for legislative and regulatory issues impacting consumer rights, access to credit, and financial institutions.

Prior to joining the Committee on Financial Services, Yana served as senior legislative counsel for the Center for Responsible Lending, where she led the organization's advocacy on a variety of issues, including housing finance and fair lending.

Yana previously worked as a Fellow with the Fair Housing Project of the Washington Lawyers' Committee, where she worked on litigation involving discrimination in housing related transactions. Yana also served on the outreach and policy staff of the House Democratic Caucus on Capitol Hill.



Yelberton
WATKINS

Chief of Staff
Office of Majority Whip
US House of Representatives

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,
B.A., Duke University

Highly regarded in Washington, Watkins has been featured in National Journal magazine in its annual edition of top Capitol Hill aides. For the past four years, he was named by Roll Call newspaper as one of the top 50 staffers on the Hill. In 2007, he was named a prestigious Liberty Fellow. In 1995, as a delegate of the American Council of Young Political Leaders, he traveled to the former Soviet Union, as Official International Observer for the Russian legislative elections. In 1999, he was a member of the American delegation to the American Council on Germany Young Leaders Exchange. In 2001 he was a delegate to the Transatlantic Forum in Munich, Germany. He has participated in official delegations to Gambia, Israel, Singapore, Brazil, Taiwan, France, Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan, Colombia and Morocco.



Yvesner
ZAMAR

Senior Legislative Assistant
U.S. House of Representatives

J.D., University of the District of Columbia - The
David A. Clarke School of Law, B.A., Florida
State University

Yvesner Zamar serves as the Senior Legislative Assistant for Congresswoman Deb Haaland, one of the first Native American women ever elected to Congress, where he manages her defense, health, and financial services portfolio. He also staffs her on the House Armed Services Committee and the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

He previously served as a Legislative Counsel to Congressman John Conyers, Jr., the Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee and Co-Founder of the Congressional Black Caucus, where he managed key Pollinator Protection and Maternal Mortality Legislation. Additionally, he coordinated the Congressman's annual braintrust which encompassed policing, racial justice, international affairs, and voting rights.



Yvette
BADU-NIMAKO

Legislative Director & Counsel
Congressman Elijah E. Cummings

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,
B.A., Georgetown University

Yvette is an attorney who, in her current role, manages legislation and floor proceedings for Congressman Cummings and manages legislation, committee hearings, and investigations as part of his Oversight Committee staff.

Most recently, Yvette worked as a Counsel for the Office of Regulations within the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, providing regulatory guidance on Bureau regulations. She also served as a Congressional Liaison within the Bureau, working on oversight matters, and acting as the point of contact for Congressional Caucuses and Members of the House of Representatives.

Previously, Yvette was appointed to serve in the Obama Administration as an Attorney Advisor for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legislative Affairs. She has additional experience working for various Congressional offices and as an independent consultant.



Zephrairie
BUETOW

Legislative Director
U.S. Senate

J.D., Loyola University Chicago School of Law,
M.A., Loyola University of Chicago, B.A.,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Zephrairie is a passionate advocate, dedicated to ensuring equitable access to quality education and economic parity in America. With the zeal of a litigator and the research skills of an academic, Zephrairie is creative, industrious, and possesses the remarkable ability to lead as part of a team.

Zephrairie received her Juris Doctor in May 2011. She also earned a Master of Arts in Education with a concentration in Cultural and Education Policy Studies in December of 2011. Zephrairie firmly believes in equal justice and the moral utility of the law, striving to effectuate meaningful policy, to eliminate existing social inequalities, and to improve the quality of life globally.



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Nation's Top Lobbyists & Influencers**



Albert
SANDERS

Public Policy & Government Affairs Counsel
Google Inc.

J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law School;
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Albert Sanders is Public Policy & Government Affairs Counsel for Google Cloud.

Before joining Google, Albert was Associate Counsel to President Barack Obama at The White House, where he counseled President Obama and his senior advisers on cyber security, privacy, internal investigations, congressional oversight, and high stakes litigation. He previously worked as an attorney at the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, and the law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld.

A California native, Albert grew up between Compton and South Central L.A. He studied political science at Morehouse College and earned his J.D. at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He's licensed to practice in California and Washington, D.C. Outside of work, Albert plays competitive USTA tennis, SCUBA dives, snowboards, and occasionally walks with gorillas in Rwanda.



Alethia M.
JACKSON, ESQ.

Head of Federal Affairs and Political Outreach
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J.D. Syracuse University College of Law,
B.A. University at Albany

Alethia Jackson heads Federal Affairs and Political Outreach for Walgreen Co. During her tenure, Alethia has helped the company increase and maximize its advocacy presence in the Nation's capital, where she oversees outreach initiatives to Members of Congress and stakeholders. Alethia develops and implements strategies to advance the company's policy priorities.

Prior to joining Walgreens, Alethia was Vice President of Federal Affairs at America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) where she provided substantive, strategic and political counsel to health insurance executives of Fortune 500 and not-for-profit companies.

Alethia loves the arts and sits on the Board of Trustees for Arena Stage Theater. She also sits on the Board of Running Start, Inc., a nonpartisan, nonprofit that provides leadership training for young girls in preparation to run for public office.



Antoinette C.
BUSH

Executive Vice President and Global Head of
Government Affairs
News Corp

J.D., Northwestern University Law School; B.A.,
Wellesley College

Antoinette (Toni) Bush is Executive Vice President and Global Head of Government Affairs for News Corp, a global media company and home of Dow Jones, The Wall Street Journal, New York Post, newspapers in the UK and Australia, HarperCollins Publishers and Realtor.com, among other businesses.

Ms. Bush is responsible for leading the company's government relations efforts in the US, the UK and Australia. She also heads the company's Philanthropy Committee. Prior to News Corp, Ms. Bush was the partner in charge of Skadden Arps' Communications Group and represented global media/entertainment and telecom entities.

Ms. Bush was Executive Vice President of Northpoint Technology Ltd., where she led legal and regulatory strategies. She also served as Senior Counsel to the Communications Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate

Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and worked on numerous bills, including the landmark Cable Act of 1992.

She chairs the board of directors of The HistoryMakers and serves on a number of boards, including Ares Management LLC, My Brother's Keeper Alliance and The Economic Club of Washington, D.C. She's a graduate of Northwestern University Law School and Wellesley College.



Ari O.
FITZGERALD

Partner
Hogan Lovells US LLP

J.D., Yale Law School, A.B., Harvard College,
(magna cum laude)

Ari Fitzgerald provides strategic, legal, and policy advice on a wide range of communications and spectrum policy issues to some of the world's largest and most dynamic communications network operators and equipment manufacturers, as well as a diverse assortment of industry trade associations and investors. He especially enjoys helping automobile manufacturers and other technology companies bring new and innovative communications-related products and services to market.

Ari had a distinguished career in government before joining Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells) as a partner in 2001. He was a legal advisor to former FCC Chairman Bill Kennard, as well as deputy chief of the FCC's International Bureau. He also worked as a legal advisor in the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel, where he advised the White House, executive agencies, and the U.S. attorney general on constitutional and federal statutory interpretation matters.



Bradley KNOX

Senior Vice President & Counsel
Aflac, Inc.

J.D., Regent University, B.S.,
Oral Roberts University

Brad Knox joined Aflac in 2006, most recently serving as vice president & counsel of Federal Relations. Brad is responsible for leading Aflac's Federal Relations team and representing Aflac in legislative and regulatory matters with the federal government, including providing policy direction, coordinating federal affairs initiatives and lobbying for the company's interests in Washington, D.C.

Prior to joining Aflac, Brad served as chief counsel to the Committee on Small Business for the U.S. House of Representatives, where he was actively engaged in supporting international business development efforts in Central and Eastern Europe for domestic small and medium-sized businesses. Prior to that, he was the founder and president of DigiTech Systems Solutions Inc. in Montgomery, Alabama. For 10 years he served as an Air Force Judge Advocate General (JAG), during which time he achieved the rank of major and served as chief of civil litigation; a faculty member at the Air Force JAG School; and a reservist assigned to the joint Task Force on Global Network Operations in Washington, D.C. Brad began his professional career with Shell Oil in Houston as a computer programmer and analyst.

Brad holds a bachelor's degree from Oral Roberts University and a Juris Doctor from Regent University School of Law. He is a founding member of The Gloucester Institute and serves on the boards of Meridian International Center, Congressional Awards Foundation, Small Business Council of America and the Hoops for Youth Foundation in Washington, D.C.



Cecelia THOMAS

Senior Government Relations Manager
Trust For America's Health

B.A. University of Michigan; J.D., Fordham
University School of Law

Cecelia Thomas is Senior Government Relations Manager at Trust for America's Health. In this role, Cecelia leads TFAH's advocacy around infectious disease and other public health issues, including funding for prevention. Most recently, Cecelia served as Manager of Legislative Affairs for Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) and Planned Parenthood Action Fund. In that capacity, Cecelia advocated to protect federal funding for health centers, implemented PPFA's legislative strategy and co-led the National Sex Education Coalition. Prior to her time with PPFA, Cecelia served as Counsel for U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Associate Director of Oversight at the U.S. Department of Commerce Office of the Secretary. She has also served on the staff of the U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Office of Senator Bernie Sanders. Cecelia has also worked on multiple presidential and congressional campaigns.

Cecelia received her J.D. from the Fordham University School of Law and graduated cum laude from University of Michigan with a degree in political science.



Chanelle HARDY

Strategic Outreach &
Senior Partnerships Counsel
Google Inc.

J.D., Howard University School of Law;
B.A., University of Maryland

Chanelle Hardy is an attorney and public policy expert dedicated to advancing policies that promote economic growth, opportunity and justice. She is a member of the Public Policy team at Google, focusing on Strategic Outreach and External Partnerships. Most recently, she had the honor to serve as Chief of Staff to Federal Communications Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, the first woman to serve as Commission Chair and the only African American currently on the dais.

Before that she led the Washington Bureau of the National Urban League - the nation's oldest civil rights and urban advocacy organization; was Counsel and Chief of Staff to former US Congressman Artur Davis; and served as an FTC staff attorney, Fellow and Counsel at Consumers Union, and fifth grade teacher. She is a member of the boards of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and the Black Women's Health Imperative.



Chris RANDLE

Government Affairs
Facebook

J.D., Howard University School of Law;
B.A., Howard University

Chris Randle joined Facebook in 2018. Randle joins Facebook from Capitol Hill, where he worked as legislative director to Democratic congressman Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY). He previously worked for a number of Democrat politicians including Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA).



Crystal ASHBY

Executive Vice President, Government & Public
Affairs and Strategic University Relationships
BP America Inc.

J.D., DePaul University College of Law;
B.A., University of Michigan

Crystal Ashby is a dynamic and innovative executive with a record of success leading government and external affairs, legal and ethics and compliance organizations.

She is a lawyer who transitioned from practicing law into key business partnerships. Until 2015 she was a leader at BP America holding various senior roles. During her time at BP she also served on various internal BP Boards and was executive sponsor to several affinity groups. Prior to joining BP she practiced as a litigator in Chicago, Illinois.

In addition to serving on the Genesys Works National Board, Crystal also serves on the board of the Executive Leadership Council and the Holocaust Museum Houston and is a former trustee of the National Urban League. She is a member of the Association of Corporate Counsel ELI faculty on Crisis Management and The International Women's Forum.



Cynthia PULLOM

Director, Financial Services Policy
Investment Company Institute

J.D., Harvard Law School; B.S., Florida A&M
University, (summa cum laude)

Cynthia Pullom joined ICI in April 2018 as Director of Financial Services Policy.

Before joining ICI, Pullom served as chief policy counsel for US Senator Christopher Murphy (D-CT) on matters related to financial services, tax, judiciary, and telecom. She has also worked for Representative Terri Sewell (D-AL) as legislative counsel on financial services, tax, and judiciary issues.

Before her Capitol Hill service, Pullom served as an associate at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP.



Danielle McBETH

Partner
Alcalde & Fay

J.D., American University Washington College
of Law; B.A., Florida A&M University

Danielle McBeth is a seasoned government relations and public affairs practitioner who advocates on behalf of the firm's corporate, public, and education clients. Ms. McBeth has successfully worked on behalf of a client portfolio with issues ranging from transportation, economic development, and infrastructure to education, technology, and immigration.

Prior to joining Alcalde & Fay, Ms. McBeth served as press secretary for the Florida Commission on Education Reform and Accountability and as the information specialist for the Florida State University Center for Professional Development. Ms. McBeth began her career as a journalist for several newspapers including the New York Times Regional Newspapers, the Spartanburg Herald-Journal and the Tallahassee Democrat.

A native of Jackson, Mississippi, she currently serves as Vice President of the Washington Government Relations Group.



David MORGAN

Vice President Government Affairs
American Express Company

J.D., Harvard Law School; LL.M., Georgetown
University Law Center; B.S., Cornell University

David Morgan served for ten years as Vice President Government Affairs for the American Express Company. In that role, he managed the government and public affairs portfolios for the American Express OPEN business and the Tax and Human Resources functions and also served as Treasurer for the American Express Company's political action committee.

Prior to joining Amex, David was the President of the New Orleans Partnership, a nonprofit organization that coordinated investments and tax credits to support affordable homeownership, business expansion, and skilled employment opportunities in New Orleans particularly following Hurricane Katrina.

Prior to that, David served for six years as the tax and legislative counsel to a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee.



De'Ana H. DOW

Partner and General Counsel
Capitol Counsel LLC

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center,
B.S., Bowie State College, (Honors)

De'Ana H. Dow is one of the most respected experts on energy markets and financial services issues in the country. Her specialty is knowledge of financial markets and the policies, rules and regulations of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. She also is versed in the regulatory actions of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve. As a lobbyist for CME Group, and regulatory counsel for NYMEX, Dow managed efforts related to the Dodd-Frank Act and successfully guided the companies through a complex legislative agenda. At Capitol Counsel, Dow has successfully assisted clients with CFTC and SEC compliance issues, as well as securing regulatory relief and obtaining favorable interpretations for innovative financial products.



DeDe LEA

Executive Vice President, Government Affairs
Viacom, Inc.

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center;
B.A., Howard University

Currently, DeDe Lea is Executive Vice President-Government Affairs at Viacom, Inc.

She is also on the board of Washington Hospital Center Corp. and Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

In her past career Ms. Lea occupied the position of Vice President-Government Affairs at Belo Corp., Vice President-Government Affairs at Viacom, Inc., Executive Vice President-Government Relations at Viacom, Inc. and Senior VP-Government Relations at National Association of Broadcasters.

She received a graduate degree from Georgetown University and an undergraduate degree from Howard University.



Demetrius G. McDANIEL

Shareholder
Greenberg Traurig, LLP

J.D., The University of Texas School of Law;
B.B.A., The University of Texas at Austin

Demetrius McDaniel is the Co-Regional Operating Shareholder of Texas and Chair of the firm's Texas Government Law & Policy Practice. Demetrius counsels and provides advocacy for Fortune 500 and other large private and public sector clients on federal, state and local legal and public policy matters.

Prior to joining the firm, Demetrius worked in several capacities as a special assistant to a statewide official and as a legislative assistant to a member of the Texas legislature, which enabled him to gain knowledge about the workings of Texas state government. After his work in state government for seven years, Demetrius joined a major international law firm. During his almost 20 years at that firm he rose to the level of capital partner, and he represented many of the firm's major clients on significant issues before the executive and legislative branches of federal and state government.



Dominique McCOY

President
The McCoy Federal Strategies Group LLC

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center;
B.A., Wesleyan University

Mr. McCoy brings more than 20 years of proven leadership success with a focus on financial services, housing, and community development. As a counsel and policy advisor on Congressman Barney Frank's House Financial Services Committee staff from 2004-2013 and subsequently as a Senior Advisor at USDA and HUD from 2013-2017, Mr. McCoy worked with top political and industry leaders. These positions required a diverse set of skills, including legal and policy analysis; advocacy and communication; project management, consensus building, negotiation and strategic decision-making; extensive writing and drafting; ability to achieve results in a fast-paced environment and a willingness to take initiative.



Donald R. CRAVINS, JR.

Vice President of Policy & External Affairs
Charter Communications

J.D., Southern University Law Center (cum
laude), B.A. Louisiana State University

Don Cravins, Jr. serves as VP of Policy and External Affairs at Charter Communications. Previously, Don served as SVP for Policy of the National Urban League. In 2004, he was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives and in 2006, elected to the Louisiana Senate. In 2009, Cravins left the legislature to serve as Staff Director of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business. In 2013, Cravins began serving as Chief of Staff for U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu. In his spare time, Cravins is an adjunct professor at The George Washington University and serves as a Major in the National Guard. He is married to Yvette Cravins and they have three children.



Donnica HAWES-SAUNDERS

Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility and
Government Affairs
Heineken USA

J.D., University of Dayton School of Law,
B.A., Spelman College (magna cum laude)

Donnica Hawes-Saunders is responsible for advancing the company's legislative and regulatory objectives as well as managing strategic partnerships with key organizations and stakeholders on a national, state, and local level. Prior to joining HEINEKEN USA, Donnica worked on Capitol Hill for several years.

In 2019, Donnica was nominated and awarded membership with the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL), which gives elected officials and policy experts a global perspective through their international exchange programs. She also serves as an Ambassador for The Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), a program for emerging and seasoned leaders in their 30s and 40s who promote philanthropy and service in the interest of the Museum.



Dontai SMALLS

Vice President, Global Public Affairs
United Parcel Service, Inc.

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center;
B.A., Howard University

A native of South Carolina, Dontai Smalls joined UPS's Global Public Affairs function in the Washington, DC office in October, 1999. In his current role as Vice President, Global Public Affairs, Dontai works to advance all of UPS's international interests on Capitol Hill, particularly among trade and customs modernization.

His expertise also includes managing UPS' global aviation portfolio in DC, acting as the Washington head for managing the relationships between UPS and Europe, including the embassies, and bridging the relationship between UPS and the Congressional Study Groups, which provides substantive, issue-based opportunities for Members of Congress to engage with their counterparts abroad.

Throughout 2005-2007, Dontai additionally served as counsel to UPS's Air Group Legal Department in Louisville, KY. In that capacity, he focused on all brokerage/customs, flight operations, international operations and real estate/airport property issues relating to UPS Airlines, one of the largest airlines in world.



Earle F. JONES

Senior Director/Federal Government Affairs
Comcast Corporation

J.D., University of California Berkeley;
B.A. American University

Earle Jones is Senior Director, Federal Government Affairs, Comcast Corporation. He is a member of the Comcast Federal Affairs Legislative team that successfully obtained Federal regulatory approval for the Comcast/General Electric acquisition of NBC Universal in January 2011.

With a background as an attorney Mr. Jones has more than twenty five years of experience in the cable telecommunications industry. He began with Tele-Communications, Inc. (“TCI”) in Denver in 1989 where he served as Division Director for Government Affairs for five years. From 1994-1997 Mr. Jones was TCI’s FCC Washington Counsel. He was in this position when the historic 1996 Telecom Act was passed. From 1997-1998 he served as TCI’s Mid-Atlantic Director of Government Affairs, a region covering five states.

From 1998 until 2001 Mr. Jones was the General Manager for Washington D.C.’s District Cablevision and led that system through three ownership changes. Those ownership changes included the acquisition of TCI by AT&T in 1999, the buyout of local partner Bob Johnson by AT&T in 1999 and the acquisition of District Cablevision from AT&T by Comcast in January 2001.

With Comcast Mr. Jones returned to the Washington public policy arena. From 2001 to 2008 he was Vice President Government Affairs for Comcast’s Eastern Division. In January 2009 Mr. Jones joined Comcast Corporation’s Washington Federal Government Affairs office. In 2014 he was recognized by Lawyers of Color as one the Nation’s 50 Top Lobbyists and Influencers. In 2018 he received the Washington Government Relations Group’s Reginald Gilliam Lifetime Achievement Award.

A native of Washington, D.C. Mr. Jones received his undergraduate degree from The American University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law. He serves on the board of directors of a number of organizations including the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the Greater Washington Urban League and Smart Activities for Fitness and Education (“S.A.F.E.”).

Mr. Jones, his wife Linda, son Steve, daughter in law Heather, grandson Ryan and granddaughter Rachael reside in the Metropolitan Washington DC area.



Fabrice COLES

Vice President- Government Affairs
Bank Policy Institute

LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center;
J.D., Howard University School of Law;
B.A., Wesleyan University

Fabrice Coles, a native of Queens, New York, is a Vice President for Government Affairs for the Bank Policy Institute (BPI).

Prior to joining BPI, Mr. Coles served as the Executive Director of the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) where he advised the Chairman of the Caucus and its 48 other Members and their senior staff. Fabrice has also served in the United States Treasury Department’s Community Development Financial Institutions Fund. He also previously worked for a handful of Members of Congress in both Chambers, including Senators Gary Peters (D-MI) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Reps. Cedric Richmond (D-LA) and Yvette Clarke (D-NY). Throughout his career, Mr. Coles has counseled Members of Congress on economic policy issues including financial services, economic development, and tax policy.



Fred HUMPHRIES

Corporate Vice President, U.S. Government
Affairs
Microsoft

J.D., Temple University,
B.A., Morehouse College, (cum laude)

Fred Humphries is Corporate Vice President of U.S Government Affairs for Microsoft. Under his leadership, U.S. Government Affairs provides expertise in policy, outreach, political engagement, and government affairs that helps advance the company’s advocacy goals.

In 2000, Humphries joined Microsoft as Director of State Governmental Affairs, building a team responsible for outreach to our nation’s governors, mayors and local elected officials in every state capital. He was promoted to Microsoft’s Managing Director of U.S. Government Affairs in 2009 and Corporate Vice President in 2015.

Humphries received a J.D. from Temple University School of Law and a B.A. in Political Science from Morehouse College.

Humphries resides in Washington, D.C. with his wife Kim. They have two adult children.



Gina
ADAMS

Senior Vice President, Government and
Regulatory Affairs
FedEx Corporation

LL.M. Georgetown University Law Center,
J.D. Howard University School of Law;
B.S., American University

Gina Adams is FedEx's top lobbyist. She promotes the business interests of its operating

subsidiaries for all commerce, infrastructure and transportation issues. She also oversees one of the largest US corporate PACs for FedEx, which serves more than 220 countries and territories, with 450,000 employees.

Gina joined FedEx in 1992 and was promoted to her current position in 2001. She is a three-time recipient of the FedEx Five Star Award, the company's highest employee achievement award. She sits on a number of non-profit and corporate boards, including the American University Board of Governors (Vice-Chair), the Howard University School of Law Board of Visitors, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Economic Club of Washington, DC, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Board and the American Funds Board.



Glenn F.
IVEY

Partner
Price Benowitz, LLP

J.D., Harvard Law School;
B.A., Princeton University, (cum laude)

Glenn Ivey is a partner at Price Benowitz LLP in Washington, DC. His practice focuses on white collar criminal defense, Congressional and grand jury investigations, civil litigation, regulatory matters, and internal corporate investigations. He has previously served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney's Office under former Attorney General Eric Holder, an elected State's Attorney for Prince George's County, MD, and a chairman of the Maryland Public Service Commission. He has taught at both Harvard Law School and the University Of Maryland School Of Law. Ivey graduated from Princeton University and Harvard Law School.



Gregory L.
JEFFERSON, SR.

Legislative Representative
AFL-CIO

J.D., Catholic University School of Law,
B.A., University of Virginia

Greg has dedicated much of his free time volunteering on several boards. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the National Consumers League Board of Directors and has held several other board positions including, the Washington D.C. Mayor's Commission on African American Affairs, the Ridley Scholarship Fund at University of Virginia, Humanities DC Board of Directors and the Mayor's Commission on D.C.'s 529 Savings Plan. Prior to his employment at the AFL-CIO, Greg served as the Chief of Staff of the United States Department of Labor Employment Standards Administration (ESA), Counsel on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee On Education and Labor, in various capacities at the U.S State Department and served as a Judicial Law Clerk at the District of Columbia Superior Court. Greg is a resident of the District of Columbia, married with children ages 19, 17 and 15.



Hilary C.
WEST

Vice President for Federal Government
Relations
JPMorgan Chase and Co.

J.D., American University Washington College
of Law; B.A., Connecticut College

Hilary West is Vice President for Federal Government Relations at JPMorgan Chase and Co. where she articulates the Company's position on a broad spectrum of corporate and industry issues to a range of stakeholders including the White House, Congress, regulatory agencies, trade associations and consumer advocacy organizations.

Prior to joining JPMorgan Chase, Hilary worked for the U.S. House of Representatives where she spent four years working on landmark financial services reform legislation as Legislative Counsel to Rep. Melvin Watt (D-NC) and the House Financial Services Committee.

Hilary began her career in private practice as a corporate attorney, working for firms in Connecticut and Washington, DC, of which she is a native. She received her B.A. from Connecticut College and J.D. from the American University Washington College of Law.



Jacqueline C. AYERS

Vice President, Government Relations &
Public Policy
Planned Parenthood Federation of America

J.D., Indiana University School of Law,
B.A., Western Kentucky University

Jacqueline has nearly twenty years of federal and state policy and advocacy experience working on an array of legislative issues, including women's issues, health care access and equity, higher education, voting rights and civil rights. At PPFA she is responsible for leading the strategic direction of the organization's federal policy and legislative priorities on Capitol Hill, implementing effective issue campaigns, guiding coalition efforts and affiliate engagement on a broad range of reproductive health and rights issues. She began her career as the Associate Director for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Indiana and as a legislative Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI) Fellow in the office of Congressman Robert C. Scott of Virginia. In 2016, Jacqueline also completed the first Rockwood Fellowship for Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice. A proud native of Louisville, Kentucky, she is a graduate of Western Kentucky University and the Indiana University School of Law in Indianapolis, Indiana and licensed to practice law in the state of Indiana. She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Jason HILL

Director, Public Policy & Government Relations
Kaiser Permanente

J.D., Washington University in St. Louis;
B.A., University of Missouri-Columbia

Jason Hill is an accomplished advocacy and policy professional with extensive and successful experience advancing the legislative and policy interests of principals and clients with regard to such issues as corporate health benefits, pharmaceutical procurement, and health and wellness initiatives. Over the course of his career, he has built a strong network of professional relationships among key legislative staff and Congressional leadership, as well as with business partners in a variety of industry groups. He has repeatedly shown the ability to develop and execute compelling advocacy strategies and manages a complex portfolio of regulatory and policy issues.



Joe BRIGGS

Counsel
NFLPA

J.D., Florida State University College of Law,
(Pro Bono Distinction Honors), M.A.S.S.,
Florida A&M University, B.B.A., Texas
Christian University

After working in corporate America for a few years, Mr. Briggs transitioned into education as the Special Assistant to the President of Florida A&M University while also pursuing a master's degree at the same institution as a State University System Fellow. Once he completed his master's degree, Mr. Briggs decided to further his education goals once again at the Florida State University College of Law earning his juris doctorate in 2006. During his time in law school, Mr. Briggs was employed as a law clerk by the top tier public finance firm Bryant Miller Olive and was also selected as a United States Senate Legal Extern. Mr. Briggs also completed two years of national leadership on the National Black Law Students Association Executive Board while also serving as a Lieutenant Governor in the ABA Law Student Division, Vice President of the Student Bar Association and as a member of his law school trial team. After the completion of his externship as a US Senate Legal Fellow, Mr. Briggs was hired by the NFL Players Association to manage their Financial Programs Department. Currently, he is the Public Policy Counsel of the NFLPA and first individual to lead the NFLPA Government Relations Department. Mr. Briggs is also a professor at Georgetown University and often speaks on subjects ranging from politics to sports and everything in between.



Joel WIGINTON

Vice President, Global Government Affairs
Cognizant

J.D., University of Chicago Law School;
B.A., Macalester College

Joel Wiginton is a Government relations executive with 20 years of experience in Washington, DC-based public policy, legal, legislative, regulatory, and strategic communications work in the White House, the United States Senate, and the technology and entertainment industries. Joel Wiginton has notable professional experience on tax, consumer issues/safety/products, communications & broadcasting, telecommunications, and trade (domestic & foreign) issues. Joel currently works full-time for Cognizant Technology Solutions and has previously worked for Samsung Electronics America, Inc. and SONY ELECTRONICS INC.



Jonathan
MAYES

Senior Vice President of External Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer
“Albertsons Companies”

J.D., Willamette University College of Law;
B.S., Warner Pacific University

Currently Jonathan serves as Senior Vice President of Public Affairs, Government Relations, Philanthropy & Corporate Social Responsibility for Albertsons Companies, Inc. Jonathan received his Juris Doctorate degree from Willamette University College of Law, where he received the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award. Jonathan has been honored by the Bay Area Minority Bar Coalition and the Charles Houston Bar Association for his exemplary service to the legal community. He also has been honored as Warner Pacific College.



Kevin J.
AVERY

Manager, Federal Government Affairs
ConocoPhillips

J.D., Stanford Law School;
B.A., Harvard College

Kevin J. Avery has been a senior government affairs representative in the oil and gas industry since 2007, beginning with Marathon Oil. He moved to Marathon Petroleum after Marathon Oil spun off its refining operations. He joined ConocoPhillips in 2014, where he leads its federal government affairs efforts.

Prior to joining the industry, he worked in Federal service for 16 years both on Capitol Hill and in the Executive Branch. On the Hill, he served as Legislative Counsel to Senator Mary Landrieu (D-La); Legislative Director to Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC); and Legislative Assistant to Senator Donald Riegle (D-Mi). In the Executive Branch, Kevin was the Director of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Corporation of National Service and held public affairs and congressional relations positions at the Justice Department.



Lauryl Dodson
JACKSON

Director, Federal Affairs
Johnson & Johnson

J.D., Howard University School of Law;
B.A., Spelman College

Lauryl Dodson Jackson is an experienced Director Of Government Affairs with a demonstrated history of working in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. She has a strong record of results in the Executive, Legislative branches. Delivers results for the business priorities for several franchises including, cancer, mental health, HIV and cardiovascular disease space.



Marc
LAMPKIN

Shareholder
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP

J.D., Boston College Law School;
B.A., College of the Holy Cross

Marc is a highly respected advisor and veteran lobbyist. A top Republican House and Senate strategist, he has vast experience working across the aisle to solve problems, build consensus and get results. His unique understanding of policy development, public opinion, communications and the legislative process—and how they influence and impact each other—makes him a powerful advocate for his clients. Marc serves as Brownstein’s Washington, DC office managing partner and co-chair of the firm’s Government Relations Department.

Marc works on matters across the telecommunications and media spectrum, as well as financial services and tax policy matters, education advocacy, competition policy, and corporate mergers and consistently provide innovative solutions to clients. Extensive background in campaign work, public policy and legislative strategy building key relationship with administration officials and staffers on both sides of the aisle, at policy think tanks, trade associations and media officials.



Marie R.
SYLLA-DIXON

Vice President of Federal Government and External Affairs
T-Mobile USA, Inc.

J.D., Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University; B.A., Hampton University

Marie Sylla-Dixon is Vice President of Federal Government and External Affairs for T-Mobile USA. Marie represents the company before Members of the United States Congress and helps to direct the legislative strategy for both the House and Senate on a myriad of issues such as spectrum, competition policy, infrastructure, internet and broadband regulation, privacy and consumer protection. Marie also manages the company's relationships with strategic thirdparty organizations, including those representing various consumer interests with a focus on broadband deployment and adoption issues.

Marie started her wireless industry career as Corporate Counsel with T-Mobile. Her experience includes serving as Vice President for Government Relations for Verizon Communications where she played a leading role on telecommunications and video policy matters.

Prior to her career in the telecommunications industry Marie was Director of Government Relations and Counsel for the Interactive Entertainment Merchants Association (IEMA) where she served as spokesperson for the video gaming industry making appearances on Fox News Channel, NPR and other news outlets.

Marie started her policy career as a legislative assistant to a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. She was recently appointed by Chairman Pai to serve on the Federal Communications Commission Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment. She is a founding board member of the Global Women's Innovation Network. She serves on the National Urban League's Policy Council and was a member of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Advisory Board. She was also formally Chairwoman of the National Trust for the National Mall Corporate Committee. Marie also serves on the board of City Year Washington, DC. Marie has received numerous corporate and external affairs awards including the T-Mobilizer award from the company's CEO and the Peak Award. She also received the 2013 City Year Idealist Award for community service in the District of Columbia. She was also awarded with the Most Influential and Inspiring Leadership Award by Rainbow Push. Recently she was recognized as a top lobbyist by the political publication the Hill.

Marie holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Hampton University and a Juris Doctorate degree from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University. She also studied International Law in Rome, Italy with the Temple University Beasley School of Law.



Matthew
CUTTS

Partner
Squire Patton Boggs

J.D., University of Virginia;
B.A., University of Virginia

With an extensive background in corporate litigation and his knowledge of Capitol Hill and the Executive Branch, Matthew Cutts is known for getting things done for clients where business, law and policy intersect. Though he works across many public policy disciplines, he spends the majority of his time advocating on federal tax policy. In this role, he monitors and advocates on the OECD's Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Plan; counsels clients on so-called tax inversions; seeks to ensure tax parity and fair treatment for his clients; and advocates tax policies intended to spur economic growth and development. Beyond tax advocacy, Matthew has executed projects that have successfully led to obtaining the first-ever Department of energy license to export liquefied natural gas; was appointed Chair of the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission, and served on then President-Elect Obama's transition team.



Michele Lawrence
JAWANDO

Head of US Progressive Engagement and Strategic Partnerships
Google

J.D., University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill,
B.A. Hampton University

Michele Jawando (@MicheleJawando) is an Attorney, Public Policy Expert, Social Justice Advocate, Familypreneur, and Afro-Tech Futurist with a lifelong dedication to public service.

Prior to joining Google, she served as Vice President at the Center for American Progress (CAP), where she also served as co-host of a nationally recognized political news podcast Thinking CAP, a co-host on Sirius/XM and a cable news contributor. Before that, she served as General Counsel and Senior Advisor to United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D- NY).

Michele has been a guest speaker for numerous panels and national conferences, including the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), NAACP, the National Bar Association and many more. She is a past recipient of the (WIN) Young Woman of Achievement Award and was recently recognized as one of "40 Power Young Professionals under 40" in Washington, DC.

A regular commentator for MSNBC, Fox News, and CNN, she is a sought after voice and has been interviewed and quoted numerous times by national print and radio media.

She is the wife of the Honorable Will Jawando, Esq, Montgomery County Councilmember and mother of four: three smart and beautiful girls- Alia, Addison and Ava, and a newborn son, William Isaiah.



Nichole Francis
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Nichole Francis Reynolds is Vice President of Public Policy at Mastercard. Ms. Francis Reynolds is responsible for shaping and promoting the interests of Mastercard in the areas of tax, trade, privacy, cyber and data security, intellectual property and emerging payments. She is also instrumental in the execution of Mastercard’s community relations program.

Ms. Francis Reynolds has a unique combination of legal, legislative and political experience. She spent nearly ten years in Washington D.C. in a variety of roles on Capitol Hill including Chief of Staff to two key Members of Congress, a District Director, and counsel on the Homeland Security Committee.

Before serving on Capitol Hill, Ms. Francis Reynolds practiced law in the Washington, D.C. office of Baker Hostetler and defended clients in matters involving professional malpractice, employment litigation, trade, antitrust claims, and policy issues including health care and federal and state taxation.



Paul
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Chief Strategist
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Paul brings more than a decade of government relations experience to clients in financial services, health care, food and nutrition, transportation and infrastructure, media and telecommunications, and the education and non-profit fields. With his extensive knowledge and high-level relationships, Paul has a proven track record of helping clients work with Members in the House and Senate, on both sides of the aisle.

Paul is a widely known and well-regarded fixture in the halls of Congress, both for his consummate professionalism and his ebullient spirit. He has received numerous awards including the 2014 Washington Government Relations Group “Lobbyist of the Year” award. He was named to The Hill’s “Top Lobbyists: Hired Guns” list for the past three years, and was selected numerous times to Roll Call’s “Fabulous Fifty” staffers on Capitol Hill.



Rodney P.
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Rodney Emery is a Senior Vice President in Mercury’s Washington, D.C. office. A government affairs professional with over 20 years of experience, Emery has advised Members of Congress, a Cabinet Secretary, Agency Administrators, an Under Secretary for International Trade, and executives from Fortune 500 companies.

Prior to joining Mercury, Emery was a consultant with The Madison Group. Before returning to the private sector, he served as Chief of Staff for Congressman Steven Horsford (D-NV) and as a presidential appointee in the Obama administration.

A native of Los Angeles, California, Emery received his Bachelor’s degree from Howard University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Illinois College Of Law. He is a board member for the Washington Government Relations Group and WINNERS LaCrosse.



Ronny
LANCASTER

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Mr. Lancaster, 55, joined the company in 2005 and has served in his current role since that time. In his role he leads Assurant’s government relations group and is responsible for managing Assurant’s public policy strategy at both the state and federal level.

Prior to joining Assurant, Mr. Lancaster was senior vice president and chief operating officer at the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta where he also served as senior vice president for management and budget and vice president for health and social policy. Prior to joining the Morehouse School of Medicine, Mr. Lancaster served the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. He holds a B.A. from the Catholic University of America, an M.B.A. from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a J.D. from Georgetown Law. Mr. Lancaster is a member of the D.C. Bar.



Singleton McALLISTER

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Singleton is an attorney with Husch Blackwell LLP and a leader in government affairs and regulatory law. She has held several leadership positions in the U.S. House of Representatives and was appointed General Counsel to the U.S. Agency for International Development where she was the chief legal advisor to 72 U.S. missions around the world. She represents companies and trade associations throughout a wide range of industries in public and regulatory matters. Ms. McAllister serves on the Board of Directors of Alliant Energy and Anterix. Singleton was voted onto the Proxy Board of Securitas Critical Infrastructure Services, Inc. and also served on the Board of Directors for United Rentals. Directors & Boards Magazine honored her as Director to Watch 2016 and Savoy Magazine, Power 300: The Most Influential Black Corporate Directors. Singleton is a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors Compensation Committee Chair Advisory Council and has been recognized by its Director 100 List for 2019.



Stephanie CHILDS

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Stephanie Childs has significant experience as a government relations executive, including as Vice President, Federal Government Relations for PepsiCo. During her tenure, she helped negotiate legislation creating a national uniform standard for labeling genetically modified foods (GMOs). Stephanie also served as Vice President of Global Government Affairs for Cognizant Technology Solutions and as Vice President of Government Relations, Information Technology Association of America.

She has also held a number of senior posts in government, including as Executive Director of Government Relations at the United States Postal Service and as Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for International Trade at the United States Department of Commerce. Early in her career she served as Nominations Counsel at the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and as a White House writer.



T. Reed STEPHENS

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T. Reed Stephens is a partner in McDermott Will & Emery's Washington, D.C. Office. With the U.S. Department of Justice (1995 to 2003), Reed was lead counsel in fraud matters involving the life sciences industry earning him a Civil Division Special Commendation Award. Subsequently, Reed has been advising and defending life sciences, healthcare organizations, defense contractors, and individuals involved in high stakes U.S. congressional investigations, False Claims Act litigation, FDA regulatory, government contracts, foreign & domestic bribery statutes, and M&A due diligence. Honors include Chambers USA Ranking in Health Care (2008 – 2014); Benchmark Litigation, Local Litigation Star 2017; LMG Life Sciences, Life Sciences Star, (2013 – 2018); Washingtonian Magazine, Washington's Best Lawyers 2013; On Being A Black Lawyer's 2014 Nation's Top Lobbyists And Influencers; Savoy Magazine's Top Black Lawyers of 2015.



Tiffani V. WILLIAMS

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Tiffani V. Williams is a senior vice president and public policy advisor with The Daschle Group, a Public Policy Advisory of Baker Donelson, and of counsel with Baker Donelson.

Tiffani has represented multinational organizations across the health care, biofuel, food, and agriculture industries, to advance clients' business and public policy priorities. She provides clients with a full range of services including, political and thought leadership strategy, regulatory and policy analysis, and advocacy before Congress and executive branch agencies.

Tiffani has authored and contributed to a number of publications on topics related to her practice. In 2014, she was recognized as a Washington DC Rising Star in the Super Lawyers Magazine.

A native Washingtonian of Jamaican descent, Tiffani enjoys traveling overseas to new destinations, mentoring, and watching movies.



Tonya
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Tonya Williams is an innovative public policy professional with more than 15 years of experience advocating on behalf of public and private sector clients and organizations at the state, federal and international levels. Born and raised in Greenville, North Carolina, she is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina School of Law. While in law school, Tonya developed an interest in international affairs and studied International Human Rights and Comparative Law in Rome, Italy. Following graduation, she continued her studies and spent a year traveling around the world before accepting a judicial clerkship with the Honorable Loretta C. Biggs at the North Carolina Court of Appeals. After her clerkship, Tonya served as General Counsel to Senator Marc Basnight, President Pro Tempore of the North Carolina Senate for five years, developing and implementing the caucus's political and legislative agenda before joining the executive management team at GlaxoSmithKline, as Director of IP Policy for North and South America. In 2008, she returned to public service and moved to Washington, DC where she worked as Chief of Staff to Congressman G.K. Butterfield at the U.S. House of Representatives until 2011, when she took a position at the White House, serving as the Director of Legislative Affairs for Vice President Joe Biden. In 2016, Tonya was appointed Vice President for Policy, Communications and Knowledge Analytics at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation where she led efforts to improve advocacy and outreach to state and national policymakers, and more effectively leverage over \$400 million in annual funding and resources. In January of this year, she joined the newly formed Global Government Affairs team at SoftBank, one of the world's largest investors and operators in the technology sector.



Virginia
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Virginia Zigras is the Vice President of Legislative Affairs at Charter Communications having recently joined their team after serving as Vice President of Government Relations for NCTA. Prior to entering the private sector, she spent nearly a decade in government, including serving for 3 CHC Members: Rep. Tony Cardenas' personal office, Rep. Luis Gutierrez's personal office, and Rep. Jose Serrano's Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government. Most recently, she served as Chief of Staff to Rep. Tony Cardenas during which time he became Chairman of CHC BOLD PAC, the political arm of the Hispanic Caucus. Virginia was instrumental in helping Chairman Cardenas grow the PAC to one of the largest and most influential member-led political organizations in the country. She received her LL.M. from American University, Washington College of Law, her J.D. from Western Michigan University Law School, and her B.A. from York University.



William A.
KIRK, JR.

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I am a Partner in the Washington, D.C. office of global law firm K&L Gates LLP and a member of the firm's Public Policy and Law practice. I represent public and private entities--corporations, trade association and governmental entities--before the U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch. I am also a board member of the Congressional Black Caucus Political Education & Leadership Institute and of the CBC Political Action Committee. Prior to private practice I served on the staff of a Member of Congress and on the professional staff of the House Committee on Ways and Means, including serving as the Staff Director of panel's Oversight Committee.



William J.
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Prior to joining American Progress, Roberts was the legislative director and chief counsel for Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD). As the leader of Rep. Raskin's legislative team, he developed policy and legislative strategy and oversaw Rep. Raskin's work on the House Judiciary, Oversight, Administration, and Rules committees. He also worked on a variety of issues related to transportation, education, elections, voting rights, ethics, criminal justice, civil rights, financial services, and appropriations. He was previously the federal legislative director at Every Voice, where he worked to advance small-donor elections systems at the municipal, state, and federal levels. Additionally, he worked as a legislative assistant for former Rep. Donna Edwards (D-MD).

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