CAUCUS ISSUE

TOP CAPITOL HILL

STAFFERS, LOBBYISTS, AND INFLUENCERS

Lawyers Color
Lawyers of Color is honored to release our annual Caucus Issue. Our list of Top Capitol Hill Staffers, Lobbyists and Influencers was announced to coincide with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference.

We were also elated to return to our in person Caucus Prelude Reception, which was hosted by Honoree Ari Fitzgerald at Hogan Lovells LLP.

Our selection committee, composed of our fellows, advisers, and editorial staff, chose distinguished influencers who may not fit the traditional definition of a lobbyist but are on the front lines of consequential national political and policy battles.

Yolanda Young
President & Executive Director
Lawyers of Color
THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LIFE INSURERS
PROUDLY CONGRATULATES

KIMBERLY ROSS
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF FEDERAL RELATIONS

ON BEING NAMED TO LAWYERS OF COLOR’S
TOP LOBBYISTS & INFLUENCERS LIST FOR 2022!

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 celebrate attorneys of color and conduct research and studies regarding the intersection of the legal profession and social justice.
Comcast proudly congratulates **Stacy Burnette** on being named to the Lawyers of Color Top Lobbyists & Influencers list.

We thank her for her passion, loyalty, and extraordinary leadership.

Congratulations, Stacy!
Recognizing
Excellence

Faegre Drinker promotes a culture of diversity and inclusion, which creates an inclusive workplace for our employees that helps address underrepresentation in the legal profession and fosters an environment of creativity, innovation and mutual respect.

Faegre Drinker is honored that associate David Adeleye has been named to the Lawyers of Color Top Lobbyists & Influencers list! His significant experience related to public policy has enabled him to flourish at the firm, and we are excited to continue to watch him grow in the years to come.
We congratulate Global Regulatory partner & Communications, Internet and Media Practice Leader, Ari Fitzgerald, for being named to Lawyers of Color’s Top Lobbyists and Influencers list.
We congratulate Global Regulatory partner & Communications, Internet and Media Practice Leader, Ari Fitzgerald, for being named to Lawyers of Color’s Top Lobbyists and Influencers list.

Delivering on our commitments to diversity, equity & inclusion is one of the five key strategic priorities of the firm, on a par with putting clients at the center of everything we do and enhancing profitability. We are actively creating an inclusive workplace where each of our people can thrive, by mitigating unconscious bias and actively creating opportunities for and supporting our colleagues.

These are the five pillars of our global DEI strategy:

- Accountability
- Processes
- Recruitment & retention
- Culture
- Clients

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/HLDiversity
Comcast NBCUniversal proudly congratulates our own Earle Jones and Carl Jones, Jr. on being named to the Lawyers of Color Top Lobbyists & Influencers list.
Thank you for all that you do, Earle and Carl!

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Comcast NBCUniversal proudly congratulates our own Earle Jones and Carl Jones, Jr. on being named to the Lawyers of Color Top Lobbyists & Influencers list.
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

REP. KWEISI MFUME  
D-MD-07  
Serving since 2020

REP. NIKEMA WILLIAMS  
D-GA-05  
Serving since 2021

REP. CORI BUSH  
D-MO-01  
Serving since 2021

REP. JAMAAL BOWMAN  
D-NY-16  
Serving since 2021

REP. RITCHIE TORRES  
D-NY-15  
Serving since 2021

REP. MARILYN STRICKLAND  
D-WA-10  
Serving since 2021
SENATOR RAPHAEL WARNOCK
State of Georgia
Serving since 2021

REP. MONDAIRE JONES
D-NY-17
Serving since 2021

REP. TROY CARTER
D-LA-02
Serving since 2021

REP. SHONTEL BROWN
D-OH-11
Serving since 2021
Agbeko Petty
Counsel
U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution,
Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties
Cornell Law School

Before joining the House Judiciary Committee, Agbeko was a litigator at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP where she represented Fortune 500 companies in a wide range of complex civil and commercial litigation before federal and state courts, at both the trial and appellate levels. She also defended clients in high-stakes government investigations and regulatory enforcement matters. While at Paul, Weiss, Agbeko maintained an active pro bono practice focused on criminal justice and civil rights. She also served as a Law Fellow at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., where she focused exclusively on issues of police misconduct. Agbeko clerked for the Honorable Petrese B. Tucker of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Andresa Bascumbe
Legislative Counsel to Chairwoman Maxine Waters (CA-43) and the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services (Democratic Staff).
J.D., American University, Washington College of Law, B.A., Florida State University (Cum Laude)

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Bascumbe advises Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA-43) on technology, defense, tax, national security, and intellectual property issues. Prior to his current role, Bascumbe worked Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (VA-11) and Rep. Henry Waxman (CA-33). 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 U.S. Army Reserve.

Andrea D. Martin
Legislative Director & Counsel
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.

Ariel Eckblad
Chief Of Staff
U.S. House of Representatives

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.
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.

Arthur D. Sidney
Chief of Staff and Chief Counsel
Congressman Henry C. Hank Johnson, Jr.
J.D., American University; 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. 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.

Bazyn Baz Selassie
Senior Investigative Counsel
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis
J.D., The George Washington University; B.A., The University of Chicago

Baz leads Senator Klobuchar’s work on the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and advises the senator on matters including technology, telecommunications, multi-modal transportation, manufacturing and supply chains, consumer protection, and congressional appropriations. During his time on the hill, Baz has helped advance a number of the senator’s policy and legislative priorities and was a lead author of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act---signed into law in June 2022---to help prevent anticompetitive conduct by ocean carriers. He’s worked on major legislation including the Inflation Reduction Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the American Rescue Plan. Baz was born and raised in the DC-area and has lived in Chicago, New York City, and Paris. He enjoys long bike rides and spending time with family and friends.

Brandon White
Senior Investigative Counsel
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis
J.D., Duke University School of Law; B.A., Indiana University

Brandon White is partner at Holland & Knight LLP. Previously, he was senior associate for Reed Smith LLP and associate for Locke Lord LLP.
Carl Ezekiel Zeke Ross
Investigative Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics
J.D., William & Mary Law School, B.A., Oral Roberts University

Carl Ezekiel Ross serves as an Investigative Counsel U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ethics. He has been in this position since 2017. Before this he spent 8 years at U.S. Department of Justice as an Assistant United States Attorney. Earlier in his career he worked for Arnold & Porter LLP, as an Associate.

Caren Street
Principal
Squire Patton Boggs
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 hails from Stone Mountain, Georgia, and is a long-suffering Atlanta Falcons fan.

Charles Gayle
Oversight Counsel, Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
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, Esq.
Former Chief of Staff; VP, Government Relations (Current Title)
Rep. Yvette Clarke (former office); National Association of Broadcasters (current employer)
J.D., Florida International University, B.S.B.A and M.P.A., University of Central Florida

Charlyn Stanberry is the NAB Vice President of Government Relations. She joins NAB after serving as chief of staff for Congresswoman Yvette Clarke (NY-09), for whom she previously served as legislative director and counsel. She is also an adjunct professor for Florida International University’s Honors College teaching their Washington, D.C. seminar course. Charlyn has also served as vice president of External Affairs for Net Communications, counsel for the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council and as a professional staff member for the Congressional Black Caucus. She served as a regional voter protection director in Florida for the 2016 Hillary for America Campaign. A member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Charlyn serves in leadership capacities for several philanthropic organizations, including the National Bar Association, Junior League of Washington, and the White Dress Project. In 2022, she received the Hall of Fame award from the Southern Region of the National Black Law Students Association.
Cierra Pettiford
Professional Staff Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee
J.D., University of Florida Levin College of Law, B.A., University of Central Florida

Cierra Pettiford currently serves as Professional Staff Member for Congresswoman Karen Bass, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights. Previously, Cierra served as Legislative Counsel for the Committee on Homeland Security, chaired by Congressman Bennie G. Thompson where she worked for the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery, chaired by Congresswoman Val Demings. Cierra began her Hill career as an intern and then Legislative Assistant in the office of the late Congressman Alcee L. Hastings.

Cierra is a member of the Washington Bar Association, where she has held the leadership position of Legislation and Public Policy Committee Chair. Cierra is also a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Claytrice M. Henderson
Legislative Director
*Chairman Bennie Thompson, U.S. House of Representatives
Florida A&M University College of Law

In her current role she oversees and manages a number of legislative issues in the office, including: Homeland Security, Housing, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, Justice, Military/Defense, Energy, Gaming, Ethics and Agriculture. Her primary duty is to advise the Congressman in all legislative areas and to assist in the development of policy positions and legislative initiatives. Along with those responsibilities, Claytrice works to formulate positions on legislative issues, monitors legislative activity on the House floor, oversees the progression of bills involving the Member as they move from Committee to the floor, recommends strategies and tactics on bill positions and provides the Member with voting recommendations. She also assists the Member in drafting legislation, including bills and resolutions and she also drafts any legislative and constituent correspondence. Before working in Congressman 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.

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Demarquin Johnson

Legislative Director
U.S. House of Representatives

Demarquin is a public servant committed to advancing community-centered and liberation-focused policies rooted in equity. Since first interning on Capitol Hill as an undergraduate student at Howard University, he strives to create space in the legislative process for all people, especially those historically underrepresented. He returned to the House of Representatives in 2020 to cover a wide-ranging legislative portfolio that included public health, criminal justice reform, and elections. Demarquin is the recipient of the Martha H. Mauzy Award for the Advancement of Democratic Governance from Harvard Kennedy School and the Heyman Fellowship from Harvard Law School. Before matriculating at Harvard, he was a Democracy Fellow at FairVote and advocated for structural reforms to ensure a more inclusive and efficient democracy. Demarquin is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated.

Curtis Doster, Jr.

Chief of Staff
U.S. House of Representatives
Michigan State University College of Law

Curtis Doster, Jr. is currently chief of staff at U.S. House of Representatives. Previously, Curtis was policy advisor at U.S. House of Representatives. Curtis has also been legal counsel/negotiator - labor and employment at FCA Fiat Chrysler Automobiles.

Donni Turner

Senior Education Policy Advisor
U.S. Senator Bernie 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.

E. D. Harris

Legislative Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives
J.D., Washington University in St. Louis, School of Law, B.A., Vanderbilt University

E. D. Harris

In addition to primarily handling the judiciary portfolio, Erick focuses on financial services, tax, healthcare, labor, intellectual property and technology issues. Erick formerly served as an aide in the Senate 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.

While studying at Vanderbilt, Erick was a student athlete, served on the Honor Council, and was a member of Phi Kappa Sigma. He is originally from Cape Girardeau, Missouri and is a member of the Capitol Hill Club, the Congressional Golf Association, and the Federalist Society.
Earl Scott Flood
Legislative Director and Counsel
Robin L. Kelly (IL-02)
B.A., Morehouse College (cum laude); J.D., Washington University in St. Louis School of Law

Earl Flood is a detail-oriented individual, who possesses the ability to write well and to communicate complicated issues. Earl developed these skills during his experiences with the Supreme Court of North Carolina and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. These experiences provided him with a unique understanding and appreciation for the judicial system. Immediately following law school, Earl was a Health and Judiciary Policy Aide for Senator McCaskill (D-MO). After working in the Senate, Earl worked for the American Association for Justice (AAJ) where he worked on legislative issues that focused on increasing and strengthening access to the courts. After AAJ, Earl returned to Congress to serve as Counsel for U.S. Representative Cedric Richmond (LA-02) and most recently for U.S. Representative Terri A. Sewell (AL-07).

Ebony Holder
Assistant Counsel at 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.

Earnestine E. Dawson
Digital Director and Advisor
Chairman at U.S. House of Representatives

Earnestine E. Dawson is currently Digital Director and Advisor to the Chairman at U.S. House of Representatives. Previously, Earnestine was founder & digital architect at Magnolia Synectics. Earnestine has also been digital director at The Collective PAC and journalist at The Federal City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc..

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.
 Enumale Agada  

**Committee on House Administration, Oversight Counsel/Senior Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion**  

Committee on House Administration  
J.D., Harvard Law School, Masters in Public Policy, Harvard  
Kennedy School of Government, B.A., Stanford University  

Enumale Agada was born in Nigeria and immigrated to the United States with her family at the age of three. In addition to her professional endeavors, she organizes the Justice Initiative, a collaborative program between Harvard Law School and Howard Law School that seeks to remake legal education and the role lawyers play within society. She is also a writer and a podcaster. Enumale is passionate about social justice, improving the access of students of color and non-traditional students to legal education, and encouraging diversity at all levels in both the public and private sectors.

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**Evan Turnage**  

**Judiciary Counsel**  
Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren  
"Yale Law School  
Juris Doctor (J.D.)"

Evan Turnage is Judiciary Counsel, Office of Senator Elizabeth Warren at United States Senate. Previously, he was associate at Kirkland & Ellis and legal scholar for Goldman Sachs.

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**Eric Bryant**  

**Chief of Staff**  
Congressman Kweisi Mfume  
B.A., Duke University, J.D., University of Maryland  

Eric Bryant comes to Capitol Hill as a business and government leader with 25+ years of experience resolving complex commercial, social, and political issues at the state, local, and federal levels, largely in the government relations space. He is equally comfortable with economic nuances and cultural distinctions in the problem-solving realm; successful at making laws, changing laws, defeating proposed laws, and normalizing preferred interpretations of laws; and his work intersects every branch of government, including the court of public opinion. Cases of first impression have been a constant throughout his career with his prior work experience largely related to profitability of a company/client. Other successes include regularly electing and advising public officials.

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**Gabrielle Miller**  

**Director of Member Services & Outreach**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
"The George Washington University Law School  
Juris Doctor (J.D.), Law"

Gabrielle Miller is Director of Member Services Outreach at U.S. House of Representatives. Previously, she was legal intern, health services section for North Carolina Department of Justice and legal intern, legal counsel for the Elderly Schedule H Project for AARP.
George Kingsley Acquah
Mr
Congressional Black Caucus
LL.M., George Washington University Law School

BIO - George Kingsley Acquah. George is a dynamic legal professional with exceptional experience in corporate transactions, banking and finance, energy, environment and natural resources. He is dedicated to the driving of adoption of best practices and standards at the local, regional and international levels, promoting the implementation of policies and regulations based on clear understanding of emerging issues and in-depth knowledge of legal concerns. His on-the-job experience has afforded him a well-rounded skill set, including first-rate critical thinking and interpersonal skills. This has ensured his success serving governmental and private entities for over a decade.

Some experiences include:
Intern: Congressional Black Caucus.
Intern: American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative
Legal Clerk: Environmental Defense Fund.
Legal Manager: Standard Chartered Bank

Halimah Najieb Locke
Counsel
House Armed Services Committee
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.

Gidget Benitez
Health Policy Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives
University of Central Florida; American University Washington College of Law

Gidget Benitez handles all health policy issues, appropriations, and committee work related to Medicare, Medicaid, FDA/pharmaceutical and medical device pricing and regulations, disabilities and reproductive rights. She also serves as the Congresswoman’s staff liaison to the House Democratic Task Force on Aging and Families and the Congressional Pro-Choice Caucus.

Gidget has a deep interest in the intersection of health, reducing racial disparities, aging, and breaking generational cycles of poverty. She is a licensed member of the state bar of Maryland and a diehard Marvel fan.
Ivanley Noisette  
Foreign Affairs Legislative Assistant & Policy Advisor  
US House of Representatives  
J.D., Georgetown University Law Center; Ed.M., Harvard University; LLM, University of Ulster; B.A., Villanova University

Ivanley Noisette works on a legislative portfolio that includes Foreign Affairs, Trade, Defense, Veterans Affairs, Human Rights, and Education. He has worked closely with the Committee on Ways & Means Trade Subcommittee to advance legislative efforts aimed at creating greater wealth and prosperity for American workers while raising labor standards, upholding human rights, and addressing the climate emergency.

Noisette completed the Wilson Center Foreign Policy Fellowship for congressional staff policy advisors, and the Georgetown Institute for International Economic Law.

While studying at Harvard University, Noisette was a Zuckerman Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government’s Center for Public Leadership. He was a 2012 Mitchell Scholar, focusing on international human rights law. He currently serves as the Board Chair for Anseye Pou Ayiti.

Hope E. Goins is the Staff Director of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security. She 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. Ms. Goins is responsible for advancing and coordinating all Committee policy and legislation with the leadership of the House of Representatives. 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. With a decade of Capitol Hill experience, Ms. Goins has supervised the negotiation of key homeland security legislation, including the authorization of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office at the Department of Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Administration Opportunities to Pursue Expanded Networks for Business Act.

Hope Goins  
Staff Director  
House Committee on Homeland Security  
J.D., University of Arkansas; B.A., Tougaloo College

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.

James Gee  
Chief of Staff  
J.D., Seton Hall University School of Law; M.P.A., University of Pennsylvania; B.A., Fordham University

Jamie Jackson  
Senior Counsel  
House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer

Jamie Jackson is currently senior counsel to the house majority leader Steny Hoyer at U.S. House of Representatives. Previously, Jamie was counsel at The White House. Jamie has also been deputy general counsel at House Committee on Armed Services and associate director of legislative affairs, executive office of mayor Muriel Bowser at DC Government.

Jamie Jackson  
Senior Counsel  
J.D., University of Arkansas, B.A., Tougaloo College
Janelle McClure
Associate Director of Government Affairs
Best Buy
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 C. Bass
Counsel
Committee on Appropriations at U.S. House of Representatives
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 Committee on the Budget
J.D., Quinnipiac University (cum laude), B.A., Spelman College (magna cum laude)

Jocelyn Harris has served on Capitol Hill since 2009. She began her Capitol Hill career in Congressman Hank Johnson’s office. Ms. Harris currently serves on the U.S. House Committee on the Budget. She is knowledgeable about the legislative process, the application of House rules, and parliamentary procedure. Prior to serving on Capitol Hill, Ms. Harris worked in the private sector where she practiced complex commercial litigation and labor and employment law. 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. Ms. Harris attributes her success in balancing family and career to her late mother, Jocelyn Griffin, who passed on August 23, 2022.

John Christie
Legislative Director
U.S. House of Representatives
J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, B.A., Hampton University (magna cum laude)

John Christie III is a 31 year-old native of the Washington, DC area, becoming fascinated by politics and the law at an early age. He majored in Political Science, with a minor in Economics, while at Hampton, and maintained a focus in Constitutional Law while attending the Georgetown University Law Center. John is now entering his sixth year as a staffer on Capitol Hill, working for both Members of the Congressional Black and Hispanic Caucuses.
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.

Katrina Hall is currently assistant counsel at U.S. House of Representatives. Previously, Katrina was research assistant for Prof. Mary Kaye Polacheck at Penn State Dickinson School of Law. Katrina has also been law intern at Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates and research assistant for Prof. Victor Romero.

John Heinemann
Counsel
"U.S. House of Representatives, Financial Services Committee, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee "
J.D., University of Texas at Austin, B.A., College of Idaho

Heinemann came to Capitol Hill after working as a management consultant for Grant Thornton and Promontory Financial Group. As a consultant, Heinemann conducted investigations to determine whether large financial institutions were meeting their regulatory compliance goals. He served as Chair of Grant Thornton’s FinTech Working Group. In 2019, he represented the Financial Service Committee at Stanford University’s Cyber and AI Bootcamp. Heinemann is a native of the Mountain West. He enjoys writing, gardening, and getting into nature whenever he can.

Jonay Foster Holkins
Counsel
Congressman David N. Cicilline at U.S. House of Representatives
J.D., University of Arizona, B.A., Johns Hopkins University

Kadeem Cooper
Legislative Director
Representative Katie Porter
J.D., New York University, B.A., University of Virginia (with honors)

Kadeem Cooper is a Brooklyn native who has worked on Capitol Hill and in public policy for over four years. Kadeem served as Counsel to the late Chairman of the House Oversight Committee, Representative Elijah Cummings, and has also served as Policy Counsel for the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights.

Katrina Hall
Assistant Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives
"Penn State Law
J.D., Law"

Katrina Hall is currently assistant counsel at U.S. House of Representatives. Previously, Katrina was research assistant for Prof. Mary Kaye Polacheck at Penn State Dickinson School of Law. Katrina has also been law intern at Saenz-Rodriguez & Associates and research assistant for Prof. Victor Romero.
Kulani Jalata
Elections Counsel
Committee on House Administration
J.D., Harvard University, B.A., Princeton University (magna cum laude)

Kulani Jalata is passionate about democratization, institution building and reform, and the protection of voting rights. As Elections Counsel for the Committee on House Administration, she works on federal election reform, voting rights and election administration issues, and ethics reforms in Congress. Prior to serving as Elections Counsel, she was a capital markets attorney at White & Case LLP in New York City. She is a member of the DC bar.

Kulani also serves as the chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Oromo Studies Association, an academic association dedicated to promoting Oromo Studies.

Kellie Adesina
Director, Global Government Affairs
The Kraft Heinz Company
J.D., The Ohio State University, B.A., Bethune-Cookman College (summa cum laude)

Kellie currently works at Bayer where she is responsible for crop science issues like gene editing, biotech regulation and approvals, biostimulants, vegetables, and food security. Before joining Bayer, she was Chief Counsel on the House Agriculture Committee where she drafted provisions included in the 2018 Farm Bill. Prior to the Committee, Kellie was Senior Counselor in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where she served as chief of staff to the General Counsel. Additionally, Kellie served as Legislative Director to Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge and counseled her through the 2014 Farm Bill Conference Committee negotiations. She also worked for Congresswoman Judy Chu and Senator Robert Menendez. In her spare time, she mentors and volunteers through her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Kim Williams
Senior Associate Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives

Kim Williams is currently senior associate counsel at U.S. House of Representatives.

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.

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, J.D., 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
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
House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
J.D., LLM, American University Washington College of Law, B.A., University of Maryland College Park

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 served on the board of the Women’s Congressional Staff Association (WCSA) for four years. While working on Capitol Hill, Lauren has completed multiple professional programs including: the Hoover Institution Stuart Family Congressional Fellowship; the Project on Government Oversight Congressional Oversight Boot Camp; and the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars Congressional Fellowship. In her free time, Lauren is a member of the Junior League of Washington.

Lauren Scott

Sr. Compliance Manager, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act
DC Government
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 ground-breaking 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

Finance MBA, Emerging Energy
Phillips 66
J.D., Howard University School of Law, B.S., 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.
Marcus Childress
Investigative Counsel
House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the U.S. Capitol
J.D., American University, B.S., George Mason University

Marcus Childress serves as an Investigative Counsel for the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the U.S. Capitol. Previously, he was a prosecutor in the U.S. Air Force JAG Corps, and a Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia. Marcus was also a senior associate at Miller & Chevalier Chartered, where his practice focused on white collar investigations and complex litigation. Marcus is a native of Chester, Virginia, and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Monalisa Dugué
Deputy Chief Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives
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!

Meagan Sunn
Technology Counsel
House Committee on Small Business and Chairwoman Nydia Velázquez
J.D., The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, B.A., Full Sail University

Meagan serves as Senior Director and Counsel of Public Policy and Government Relations. In this role, Meagan leads strategic advocacy for technology, media, telecom, and labor clients. Ms. Sunn’s background includes work in both the public and private sector advocating for access to affordable broadband, broadband infrastructure deployment, privacy, effective spectrum policy, and meaningful inclusion in innovation. Applying her technical expertise and variety of experiences in public policy, Ms. Sunn develops creative, results-focused strategies to achieve our clients’ political objectives. Savvy and collaborative, she leverages her relationships to build coalitions on common causes. Ms. Sunn is currently Co-Chair of the Women in Government Relations’ Tech, Telecom, IP Taskforce, and serves the boards of the Catholic University of America, Law and Technology Institute Alumni Association and Creative + Development, a Florida non-profit dedicated to equipping underserved communities for careers in technology and digital media.

Monica Cloud
Deputy Chief Of Staff
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
Senate, Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation
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 (D-NC)

Nicole Julius-Phillips has served in the U.S. House of Representatives for nearly five years as a communications and policy professional in Congressional Member offices and as a policy fellow with the Congressional Black Caucus. She has also served in an adjunct faculty position at Loyola University Chicago School of Law supporting the department of Experiential Learning. A lover of world travel, global learning, and cultural immersion, she studied International and European Law in Rome, Italy, studied Spanish language and culture in Valencia, Spain, taught English as a second language in South Korea and has traveled to over 15 countries. She graduated with a B.A. from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama studying Spanish and English and earned her J.D. from Loyola University Chicago School of Law with a concentration in International Law.

Quincy Henderson
Legislative Assistant
U.S. House Committee
Southern University Law Center

Quincy Henderson is legislative assistant for U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security. Previously, he was law clerk for Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and summer associate for Irwin Fritchie Urquhart & Moore LLC.

Rachel Rossi
Legislative Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives, Judiciary Committee
“Pepperdine Law
Doctor of Law - JD, 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 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 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 serves as Chief Counsel to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer. Before joining the Office of Leader Schumer in March 2017, Reginald spent three years in the Office of Rep. Cedric L. Richmond (D-LA), serving as Legislative Director and Counsel. Prior to joining Rep. Richmond’s Office, Reginald served as Associate Counsel to the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Federal Contracting and Oversight. Reginald received a B.A. in political science from Louisiana State University in 2010 and a J.D. from The George Washington University School of Law in 2013.

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 (9th District of Texas)
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 intern 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, an Oprah Winfrey Angel Network Scholarship Recipient, president of the Morehouse Sociological Association, and a two-time study abroad participant.

Sanders Adu

Staff Director & Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives
“University of California, Berkeley - School of Law
J.D. Law”

Sanders Adu is the Director of Federal Government Relations at Wells Fargo. In this position he acts as an advocate on behalf of Wells Fargo before Congress and the Executive Branch. Before this, he served as a Counsel at U.S. House of Representatives. Earlier in his career he spent eight years at Sidley Austin LLP, as an Associate and eight years at Heller Ehrman LLP, in the same position.”

Shallum Atkinson

Senior Policy Advisor
Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney
J.D., George Washington University (Expected 2024), M.Ed., American University, A.B. A.B.J, University of Georgia


Atkinson currently serves on the Alumni Board of Directors for the School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Georgia, as a Board Member at-Large for the Georgia State Society of Washington, D.C., and as a volunteer coach for the First Tee of Greater Washington, DC. He is also an NCAA Basketball Official and a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Temidayo Aganga-Williams

Senior Investigative Counsel
Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol
J.D., Cornell Law School, B.A., Furman University (cum laude)

Prior to joining the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the U.S. Capitol, Temidayo was an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York, where he was in Business and Securities Fraud section, after serving in the International Narcotics and Money Laundering section and the General Crimes section. Temidayo also previously worked as a litigation associate in the New York office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. Temidayo also clerked for the Honorable Dora L. Irizarry of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.
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.

Tiffany P. Smith
Chief Tax Counsel
Senate Finance Committee, Majority Staff
LL.M in Tax, Georgetown, J.D., University of IL, B.A., University of IL

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.

Tonya Sloans
Senior Counsel (Financial Disclosure)
U.S. House of Representatives
LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., University of Wisconsin, B.S. Xavier University of Louisiana (summa cum laude)

Timothy Graham 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.

Timothy Graham
Associate
Squire Patton Boggs
J.D., Wake Forest University School of Law, B.A., The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Tremayne Bunaugh is general counsel to the secretary of the senate for United States Senate. Previously, he was adjunct professor for Trinity Washington University and attorney for U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Tremayne Bunaugh
General Counsel
Secretary of the Senate
“The George Washington University Law School
Doctor of Law (J.D.), Law”
Trevor Blake
Senior Associate Counsel at Office of House Employment Counsel
U.S. House of Representatives
J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, B.A., Harvard University

Trevor Blake is a 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
Senior Vice President - Government, Public, & Regulatory Affairs | Head of U.S. Engagement
Moody’s Corporation
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.

Virdina Gibbs
Legislative Counsel
“Senator Chris Van Hollen, U.S. Senate”
J.D., Howard University School of Law, B.A., Duke University

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

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

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.

Yana Miles
Senior Counsel
“House Financial Services Committee
U.S. House of Representatives”
J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, B.A., Georgetown University (cum laude)

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.

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

Yannick Gill is a human rights lawyer based in Washington, DC. He has researched and promoted human rights issues across Latin America and the Caribbean. Yannick’s advocacy, which focuses on the intersection of migration, race, and international law, has been presented before the American Society for International Law and the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration. In addition, Yannick serves as the Co-Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion of the Foreign Policy for America’s NextGen Initiative and is the Co-Chair, Policy and Advocacy Committee within Black Professionals in International Affairs. Yannick has been honored for his leadership and volunteerism by receiving the 30-under-30 Caribbean American Emerging Leaders Award.

Yannick Gill
Legislative Counsel
Rep. Madeleine Dean
J.D., Howard University School of Law, B.A., Valdosta State University (cum laude)
Yelberton “Yebbie” Watkins
Chief of Staff
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.

Yvette Badu-Nimako
Vice President, Policy/Civil Right
National Urban League
J.D Law Georgetown University Law Center

Yvette Badu-Nimako is an attorney with extensive experience working to advance civil & human rights, justice & equity, democracy, and economic empowerment in both the public and private sectors through Legal Analysis, Policy Strategy, Oversight and Investigations, and Program Implementation. She currently serves as a Vice President at the National Urban League.

Yvesner Zamar
Director at The Williams Group
The Williams Group DC
“University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law (UDC Law), Juris Doctor, Law”

Yvesner Zamar is director for The Williams Group. Previously, he was florida deputy political director for Team Bloomberg and senior legislative assistant for U.S House of Representatives.

Zephranie Buetow
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
J.D., Loyola University Chicago School of Law, M.A., Loyola University of Chicago, B.A., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Zephranie 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, Zephranie is creative, industrious, and possesses the remarkable ability to lead as part of a team. Zephranie 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. Zephranie 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.
Adeyinka O. Ogunlegan
Senior Director, Government Affairs & Policy
Chevron

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

Adeyinka is a government affairs leader who leverages her legal and advocacy skills to influence policy decisions at the local, state, and federal levels. Adeyinka serves on the board of directors of The Arc Prince George’s County. In recognition of her leadership, professional accomplishments, and community service, Adeyinka was honored as one of the Maryland Daily Record’s Leading Women, and a Prince George’s County Forty Under 40 honoree.”

Albert Al Williams
Vice President Corporate Affairs
Chevron

“A Mississippi State University, Bachelor of Engineering - BE, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Tulane University, Master of Business Administration - MBA

Albert Al Williams is vice president corporate affairs for Chevron. He has been working at Chevron for past 31 years.

Albert E. Dotson, Jr
Managing Partner
Bilzin Sumberg
A.B., Dartmouth College, J.D., Vanderbilt University

Albert E. Dotson, Jr. handles federal and local government procurement contracts and compliance for Bilzin Sumberg’s clients, in addition to securing land use, zoning and other government approvals and permits for them for large-scale real estate developments. Al has been involved in a diverse array of causes and initiatives advancing positive change through education, economic development, and community service. In 2014, Al was appointed by President Barack Obama to the President’s Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans, to advise the President and the Secretary of Education on ways to advance federal programs that improve educational opportunities for African Americans. He sits on the boards of 100 Black Men of America, Miami-Dade Beacon Council, and The Orange Bowl Committee, and is a Trustee of United Way of Miami-Dade.

Albert R. Wynn
Senior Director
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, B.A. University of Pittsburgh

Maryland State Delegate and later State Senator, Member U.S. House of Representatives, Member, Financial Services Committee, Foreign Affairs Committee, and Energy and Commerce Committee, Chair, Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials, Chair CPC PAC, Democratic Regional Whip, SBA Administrative Leadership Award for Leadership and Commitment to Minority Small Business.
Albert Sanders

Director of Government Affairs & Public Policy

Google

J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law School, B.A., Morehouse College

Albert Sanders is the director of government affairs & public policy at Google. Previously, he 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

Vice President, Federal Government Relations

Walgreen Co.

J.D., Syracuse University College of Law, B.A., University at Albany

Alethia Jackson heads Federal Affairs and Political Outreach for Walgreens. 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.

Andre J. Barnett

Global Tax Policy Director

Accenture

J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law School, B.A., University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law (UDC Law) J.D., Law

Andre J. Barnett is head of global tax policy for Accenture. Previously, he was senior tax counsel, senate finance committee for United States Senate and adjunct professor, tax policy seminar for University of Baltimore School of Law.

Anita R. Estell

President & CEO

Estell Group, LLC

J.D., University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, B.A., University of Missouri-Columbia

With more than 25 years of experience working in Washington, DC, Anita’s achievements at the national level are unparalleled. As a pioneering principal of the top independent lobbying firm in Washington, DC and equity owner of the fastest growing law firm in the US, and now President & CEO of the Estell Group, Anita is considered a master operative and continues to indelibly demonstrate her bona fides as a tested and successful attorney and federal relations and policy executive. A published author, her comprehensive knowledge of the federal process and commitment to civic engagement are evidenced in her book, The Power of Us: The Art and Science of Enlightened Citizen Engagement and Collective Action (How the US Government “Really” Works and How to Get it to Work for You). Customized training materials and workshops have been developed to accompany the book and to assist communities, companies, organizations and others seeking to take their advocacy efforts to a new level.
Antoinette C. Bush

Executive Vice President and Global Head of Government Affairs

Nucor

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

Antoinette (Toni) Bush is Executive Vice President and Global Head of Government Affairs for Nucor, 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.

April Jones

Senior Government Affairs and Policy Counsel

Apple

"The George Washington University Law School
Juris Doctor (J.D.)"

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.

Ari Q. 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.

Ashleigh R. Wilson

Federal Government Affairs Manager and Counsel

Nucor

"Wake Forest University School of Law
Juris Doctor, Law"

Ashleigh R. Wilson is manager and counsel for Nucor Corporation. Previously, she was the legislative director and counsel to Majority Whip James E. Clyburn where she managed legislative outreach and strategy development to advance the Whip’s legislative priorities pertaining to transportation and infrastructure, manufacturing, appropriations, judiciary, and natural resources policy. She also developed and maintained key strategic relationships with Federal and State government officials and private and public sector stakeholders. Wilson has also served on the South Carolina State Ethics Commission and worked as an associate for Bowman and Brooke.
Bakari Middleton is the director of global public policy at Epic Games. Previously, he was director, U.S. federal policy at Netflix and served 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 worked 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 is Senior Policy Counsel for Data, Decision Making and Artificial Intelligence at the Future of Privacy Forum, where he provides legal and policy analysis related to AI and automated decision system issues and applicable regulatory considerations. Previously Bertram was Counsel for Media and Tech at the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights where he worked to advance the interests of marginalized communities in technology and media policy. His portfolio included broadband access, media diversity, facial recognition, law enforcement surveillance technologies, Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, algorithmic bias, artificial intelligence, content moderation, and platform accountability. Previously, Bertram worked as Policy Counsel at Public Knowledge and served as Policy Counsel at the U.S House Committee for Education and Labor under Chairman Robert C. Scott.

Brandon 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. 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.

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Brandon Hicks
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Bakari Middleton

Bertram Lee Jr.

Bradley Knox

Brandon Hicks
Broderick Johnson

Broderick D. Johnson is the executive vice president, public policy & executive vice president, digital equity at Comcast. Previously, he was partner at Bryan Cave and was an Assistant to the President and the former White House Cabinet Secretary for President Barack Obama. He also serves as the Chair of the My Brother’s Keeper Task Force. Johnson was among the twenty-two highest paid White House staffers in 2014. In the private sector, Johnson was previously a vice president at AT&T and Bell South corporations. Johnson has practiced law with Bryan Cave and co-founded a strategic consulting business. Johnson was also a lecturer on public policy and government relations at his alma mater, the University of Michigan Law School. Johnson is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife, Michele Norris, and their three children. He has served as a board director of many groups, including Concerned Black Men, Project Northstar, and the Center for American Progress Action Fund.

Camille Donald-Simpson

Camille Donald-Simpson is head of government relations and industry affairs for American Equity. Previously, she was Regional Vice President State Government Relations for American Council of Life Insurers and Assistant Vice President & Counsel Federal Government Relations for Mass Mutual.

Carl Jones Jr.

Carl Jones Jr. is the Vice President of External and Government Affairs for Comcast’s Greater Chicago Region. He leads the region’s community investment activities, including the company’s extensive digital equity initiatives, and its Government Relations team, which is responsible for all franchising activity, compliance and government and third-party relations. Carl previously served as the Executive Director of Policy and Strategic Priorities for Impact & Inclusion at Comcast. Prior to that role, Carl co-led the management and engagement of Comcast in Philadelphia as Senior Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs. Co-leading the management and engagement of Comcast in Philadelphia. Before joining Comcast, Jones led the Office of Environmental Justice within the State of Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection. And before that, he was in private practice and served as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

Cecelia Thomas

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 was a senior advisor in the 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.
Christopher (Cris) Turner is global head of knowledge & information products, government affairs & public policy for Google. Previously, he was vp & head of global government & public Affairs for Micron Technology and was in board of directors for Mathcounts Foundation.

Chanelle Hardy the head of civil rights at Google. Previously, she was chief of staff & legal advisor to Commissioner Clyburn at Federal Communications Commission.

Chris Randle is the director, U.S Policy at Meta Inc. Previously, he was legislative director and counsel at U.S House of Representatives.

Christopher (Cris) Turner
Vice President, Knowledge & Information Products–Government Affairs & Public Policy
Google

Chanell Autrey
Director of Government Affairs
Target Corporation
B.A., Pennsylvania State University (with distinction); J.D., George Washington University

Prior to joining Target, Chanell served as Senior Manager of Government and Community Affairs at Starbucks. She has also served as Senior Director of Government and Community Affairs for Monumental Sports and Entertainment, leading the government relations strategy for the Washington Wizards, Mystics, and Capitals. A dedicated public policy lawyer, Chanell spent five years at the Council of the District of Columbia, serving in various roles, including as Committee Director for the Committee on Business & Economic Development. Chanell is an active member of the Maryland Bar Association and serves as Vice Chair of DC Justice Lab, a team of law and policy experts advocating for changes to the District’s criminal legal system. Chanell has been named to the National Black Lawyers Top 40 under 40 and the National Bar Association’s Top 40 Under 40.

Chanelle Hardy
Head of Civil Rights
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She 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
Director, US Policy
Meta
J.D. Howard University (cum laude), B.A. Howard University (magna cum laude)

Chris Randle is the director, U.S Policy at Meta Inc. Previously, he was legislative director and counsel at U.S House of Representatives.

Chris began his career in DC politics as an aide to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid where he helped the Leader organize Nevada’s first At-large Caucuses for the 2008 presidential election. After his time on Team Reid, Chris went to Howard Law School and then returned to the Senate as intellectual property and technology policy staffer for the Judiciary Committee. From there, he advised Representative Karen Bass on tech policy and then led Representative Hakeem Jeffries’s legislative team. In 2018, Chris joined Meta’s Washington DC office where he serves as Director of US Policy. Chris lives in Maryland with his wife/Howard sweetheart and two daughters.

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Clayton Harris III

Director, Public Policy and Government Affairs

Lyft

“Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago
Masters degree, Public Policy”

Clayton Harris III is Director, Public Policy and Government Affairs for Lyft. Previously, he was executive director for Illinois International Port District and midwest director, united states government affairs for CH2M

Crystal Ashby

Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer

Independence Blue Cross

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

Crystal Ashby is the executive vice president and chief people officer at Independence Blue Cross. Previously, she was interim president and CEO of The Executive Leadership Council (ELC), the preeminent membership organization for black CEOs, board directors, and the most senior black executives at Fortune 1000, Global 500 and equivalent companies. She is the first woman president and CEO of the organization and traces her association with The ELC to her participation in the first class of The ELC’s Strengthening the Pipeline leadership development program. Ms. Ashby is an accomplished senior executive, board member and lawyer with more than 34 years of leadership success, significantly in the energy sector. Her corporate leadership experience was gained over a twenty-two-year career with BP where her roles spanned government and external affairs, law, compliance and ethics, university relations and retail. Effective January 2020 Ms. Ashby is an Independent Director on the Board of Texas Reliability Entity, Inc. (Texas RE).

Cynthia Pullom

Government Affairs Officer, Financial Services Policy

Investment Company Institute

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

Cynthia Pullom is the government affairs officer, financial services policy at Investment Company Institute (ICI). Previously, she was 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

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Danielle McBeth is the director of government relations at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Previously, she was a partner at Alcalde & Fay. 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.
Daron Watts practices at the crossroads of law and public policy, providing strategic counsel to clients facing complex challenges involving government regulation, public policy and politics. He represents a broad range of clients in the life sciences, technology and other regulated industries as well as disruptive innovators and non-profit organizations facing complex challenges on multiple fronts. His work often involves regulatory and legislative policy or crisis management regarding new or changing markets or regulatory frameworks. This work frequently requires coordination of positions in different arenas, including various branches of government and jurisdictions. Before founding The Watts Group (TWG), Daron was a partner at Sidley Austin, a leading global law firm where he practiced for more than 23 years in the global life sciences practice and co-led the firm’s Government Strategies practice.

David Adeleye brings insider experience from previous positions in the White House, U.S. Senate and Department of Homeland Security to his role as an advocate. David works with Faegre Drinker’s energy transactions team to structure agreements for clients pursuing opportunities in sectors that are reshaping energy markets.

He worked at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, where he advised on the Office’s strategies to further the President’s National Drug Control Strategy. David also worked on Senator Richard J. Durbin’s U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee staff, first as a law clerk and later as special counsel when Senator Durbin became the Chair of the Committee. He also served as Midwest director of FWD.us and was a key player in immigration policy announcement strategies for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. David comments on politics and has appeared on local television affiliates and MSNBC.

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 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, Global Public Policy and Government Relations,
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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
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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.

Dion M. Spencer
Director, Corporate Affairs and Government Relations
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Dion M. Spencer is director, corporate affairs and government relations for Intuit. Previously, he was liaison, congressional affairs for Federal Housing Finance Agency and director, legislative affairs for Mortgage Bankers Association.

Donald Cravins, Jr.
Vice President, Policy & External Affairs
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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.
Earle F. Jones
Associate Vice President/Federal Government Affairs
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Earle F. Jones, Earle Jones is Associate Vice President, 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 thirty 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.

Dontai Smalls
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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.

Dwayne Andrews
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Patrick B. Jenkins & Associates
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Dwayne M. Andrews is the senior vice president & general counsel at Patrick B. Jenkins & Associates. Previously, he was a member at Cozen O’Connor Public Strategies. He has more than twenty years’ experience as a lawyer and government relations professional in New York City, Albany and Washington, DC. Dwayne has been a partner in the government relations practices of Cozen O’Connor and Blank Rome, where he was the Vice-Practice Group leader and chairman of the firm’s Attorneys of Color affinity group.

Dwayne served as an associate general counsel and the vice president for government relations at an educational services provider. He spent five years working on Capitol Hill, serving as press secretary to a Member of Congress and as a professional staff member for the House Committee on Small Business. Dwayne serves as a co-chair of the Public Policy & Advocacy Committee of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association of New York.

Donnica Hawes-Saunders
Senior Manager, Global Strategic Partnerships and Civil Engagement
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Donnica Hawes-Saunders is the senior manager, global strategic partnerships and civil engagement at Philip Morris International. Previously, she was a senior policy advisor at U.S House of Representatives. She is recognized as a mission-driven, collaborative relationship builder who delivers transformational results at the intersection of business imperatives and social impact. In 2022, Donnica was awarded Yahoo Finance EMpower 100 Global Future Leaders & Top 20 Highest Achieving Changemakers for her strategy, execution, and advocacy in global corporate diversity, equity, and inclusion. In 2022, she was also named an Executive Leadership Council Fellow for her work opening channels of opportunity for Black executives to positively impact business and communities. In 2021, Donnica was presented the PRISM International Corporate Diversity Impact Award for creating and institutionalizing Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) programming at Philip Morris International.

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Edward Smith
Chair of Regulatory and Government Affairs
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Edward Smith is chair of regulatory and government affairs for DLA Piper. Previously, he was legal advisor to chairman Tom Wheeler for Federal Communications Commission and special advisor for US Department of Commerce, NTIA.

Elliot Williams
Principal
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J.D., M.A., Columbia University, B.A., University of Pennsylvania

Elliot Williams is a principal in The Raben Group’s Government Affairs Practice Group. With fifteen years of experience across all three branches of government, Elliot has worked with elected and appointed officials at the highest levels, and possesses a deep understanding of the legislative and executive branches of government. Elliot’s efforts earned him recognition in 2015 as one of “D.C.’s Rising Stars” by the National Law Journal. Elliot sits on the board of the Constitutional Accountability Center and is a frequent commentator in the media, with appearances on MSNBC, CNN, SiriusXM, and WNYC Radio, and in HuffPost, Vanity Fair, The Atlantic, Bloomberg, The Hill, NBC News THINK, and CNN.com, among others. He earned a law degree and master’s degree in journalism from Columbia University, and a bachelor’s degree cum laude in art history from the University of Pennsylvania.

Fabrice E. Coles
Senior Manager, Global Public Policy
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LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., Howard University School of Law, B.A., Wesleyan University

Fabrice Coles is the senior manager, global public policy at PayPal. Previously, he was the vice president at Bank Policy Institute.

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
Vice President of U.S. Government Affairs
Microsoft Corporation
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 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
Ivey & Levetown, LLP
J.D., Harvard Law School, A.B., Princeton University (cum laude)

Attorney Ivey is the partner at Ivey & Levetown, LLP. Previously, he was adjunct teacher at Harvard Law School. He represents clients in white collar criminal matters, business litigation, investigations (grand jury and Congressional) and enforcement actions. He served as Democratic Counsel to the Senate Whitewater Committee, Chief Counsel on Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle’s leadership staff and a senior legislative aide to Congressman John Conyers (1987-1989). Mr. Ivey was twice elected State’s Attorney for Prince George’s County (MD), and he has been a candidate for the U.S. Congress. He was an Assistant U.S. Attorney, and a chairman of the Maryland Public Service Commission. He was elected to the DC Bar Board of Governors, was president of the Harvard Law School Alumni’s DC chapter, is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi, and chaired the Maryland Legal Services Commission. Mr. Ivey is also a legal commentator who has been featured on MSNBC, CNN, NPR, and local news broadcasts.

**Gregory L. Jefferson, Sr.**
Legislative Representative
AFL-CIO
University of Virginia, B.A. Catholic University Law School, J.D.

Gregory Jefferson currently serves as Legislative Representative in the AFL-CIO’s Advocacy Department. His areas of interest include the Congressional budget and appropriations, taxes, bankruptcy reform, and workforce development.

Prior to his employment at the AFL-CIO, he served as the Chief of Staff of the United States Department of Labor’s 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.

He is a graduate of The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law and received a B.A. in American Government and Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia. He is married and has three children currently in college.

**Hilary C. West**
Vice President - 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 Ayers**
Senior Vice President, Policy, Campaigns & Advocacy
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
J.D., Indiana University School of Law, B.A., Western Kentucky University (cum laude)

Jacqueline Ayers is PPFA’s Senior Vice President of Government Relations & Public Policy. She is responsible for the strategic direction of the federation’s legislative affairs, global advocacy, and federal and state policy teams, in order to expand laws and policies that increase access to health care for all.

Prior to joining PPFA for the second time in her career in 2013, she served as legislative director for the National Urban League, was a legislative aide in the U.S. House of Representatives covering health, education and judiciary issues. She began her career as the associate legislative director for the ACLU of Indiana. 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. In 2016, Jacqueline also completed the first cohort of the Rockwood Fellowship for Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice.
Joe Briggs

Counsel
NFLPA
J.D., Florida State University, B.B.A., Texas Christian University

A native of Dundee, Florida, Joe Briggs was a scholarship athlete during his undergraduate experience at Texas Christian University where he became a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. Mr. Briggs continued his studies by earning a Masters Degree at Florida A&M University and a law degree from the Florida State University College of Law, graduating with distinction and honors for his service. Mr. Briggs, a veteran sports administrator, and Georgetown Professor, has more than 20 years of experience in public policy, education, and advocacy on the national landscape. He is also an angel investor and small business owner, leveraging capital through TJC Ventures towards interests in the sports tech space. When he is not advocating for your favorite athletes he is likely teaching, speaking and training youth and aspiring change makers on subjects ranging from politics to sports and everything in between.

Jason Hill

Associate Vice President, Government Affairs, Stanford Health Care

Stanford Health Care
J.D., Washington University (St. Louis), B.B.A., University of Missouri

Jason Hill currently serves as Associate Vice President, Government Affairs for Stanford Health Care. He has served in this role since March 2021. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Hill served as Director of Public Policy and Government Relations for the Permanente Federation. Prior to that position, he served for almost 10 years as Director, Federal Government Affairs for Walmart, Inc. in Washington D.C. Mr. Hill spent 20 years in Washington D.C. in a variety of positions including six years as a legislative aide in the United States Senate, working for a medical trade association, a public affairs firm and at the Department of Health and Human Services. He briefly took a leave from Washington D.C. to work on the 2008 Obama-Biden campaign. Mr. Hill resides in Alameda, California with his wife and two daughters.

Jessica Kemp

Director, Government Affairs
BP America Inc.
“The University of Texas School of Law
Juris Doctor, Law”

Jessica Kemp is director, u.s. government affairs at bp. Previously, she was manager of municipal affairs for City of Houston and attorney for Providus.

Joel Wiginton

Principal
The Raben Group

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

Joel Wiginton is the principal at The Raben Group and is fellow 6 supervising attorney at Georgetown University Law Center. Previously, he was vice president, global government affairs at Cognizant and Vice President Government Relations at Samsung.
Justin Gray is the President and CEO of Gray Global Advisors, a full service business advisory firm that specializes in the strategic implementation of government affairs and business consulting services for public and private corporations, foreign governments, educational institutions, trade associations, foundations, and nonprofits. Mr. Gray leads the operations of the firm's numerous practice areas, and is responsible for the management of the Washington, D.C. office. Mr. Gray's previous experience includes executing messaging and outreach strategies for leading media and telecommunication companies on video franchising, network neutrality, must carriage agreements, and artist performance royalties. He has implemented engagement strategies with respect to antitrust and FCC approvals of mergers and other consolidation transactions on behalf of leading satellite radio and cable providers. Mr. Gray has spoken on his public policy and business engagement strategies as a guest lecturer at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government and at George Washington University’s Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration.

Judith Rice is the director of Government Relations at Harris Bank. Rice joined Harris in 2007 with a strong background in public service. Her credentials include serving as Chicago’s City Treasurer as well as the first female commissioner of two of Chicago’s key infrastructure agencies. She led the Department of Water from 1996 until 1999, and the Department of Transportation from 1999 until 2000. In 1989, Rice began her tenure with the City of Chicago as Assistant Corporation Counsel, and served as Director of the Department of Revenue from 1993 until 1995. She earned her law degree from John Marshall Law School in 1988, and graduated cum laude from Loyola University Chicago in 1981 with a bachelor’s degree in communication.

Judy Smith is the founder and President of Smith & Company, a leading strategic advisory firm with offices in Washington D.C., Los Angeles and New York. Over the last 25 years, Ms. Smith has brought her unique combination of communication skills, media savvy, legal and political acumen to clients facing a wide array of issues and challenges throughout the United States and abroad. A former federal prosecutor, Ms. Smith also served in the White House as Deputy Press Secretary to President George H. W. Bush. Prior to her legal career, Ms. Smith worked as a writer and public affairs specialist for several publications and private organizations headquartered in Washington, D.C. Ms. Smith has been featured in numerous national publications including: the Washington Post, National Journal, the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Forbes, Fortune, Fast Company. Smith is an experienced and sought-after commentator as a crisis management expert. She frequently appears on major television networks such as CNN, MSNBC, FOX News, NBC, ABC, and CBS.

John Ray, whose government experience spans nearly three decades, advises private-sector clients on regulatory and public policy matters in the federal and municipal government arenas. His practice focuses on zoning and land use, healthcare, banking and real estate. At the federal level, John served as law clerk to Judge Spottswood W. Robinson, III of the United Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, as counsel to the Senate Antitrust and Monopolies Subcommittee and as an attorney-advisor with the Office of Legal Counsel of the DOJ.

In addition to his government service, he has been an active member of the Democratic Party, including serving as chairman of the District of Columbia delegation to the 1980 Democratic National Convention and as a member of the Democratic National Committee’s Mid-Atlantic Finance Committee.

John L. Ray
Partner
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
J.D., George Washington University Law School, B.A., George Washington University

Judith Rice
Director of Government Relations
Harris Bank
J.D., John Marshall Law School, B.A., Loyola University Chicago

Judy A. Smith
Founder and CEO
Smith & Company
J.D., American University Washington College of Law, B.S., Boston University

Justin Y. Gray
President & CEO
Gray Global Advisors, LLC
J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, B.S., Florida A&M University
Kevin J. Avery leads ConocoPhillips’ federal government affairs advocacy efforts. He started with the company in 2014 and has been a senior government affairs representative in the oil and gas industry since 2007. Before joining the industry, Avery spent 16 years in government service from 1991 to 2007. On Capitol Hill, he served in senior policy advisor roles in the offices of Senator Mary L. Landrieu (D-La.), Senator Donald Riegle (D-Mi.), and Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.). In the executive branch, Avery was the Director of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Corporation of National Service, and held public affairs, speechwriting, and congressional relations positions with U.S. Department of Justice. He also spent time as a senior writer for the Democratic National Committee.

Karen O’Neill Ocasio hails from Puerto Rico and serves as a seasoned regulatory lawyer with expertise in both telecommunications and antitrust law. Karen is laser focused on ushering the transformative benefits of wireless technology into communities across the United States. As part of this effort, Karen works closely with senior leaders on a broad set of issues central to the future of mobile and fixed wireless technology including: FCC spectrum policy and licensing, supply chain, antitrust developments, autonomous vehicles, and the Internet of Things (IoT). Beyond her legal acumen, Karen is known for her integrity, highly collaborative nature, and great judgment when evaluating risk. A native Spanish and English speaker, Karen also speaks French and Portuguese and brings her global and multicultural work experience to bear in her decision-making.

Kanya Bennett is Managing Director for Government Affairs, The Leadership Conference. Previously, she was Senior Policy Counsel & Legislative Coalition Manager for The Bail Project, Legislative Counsel for the ACLU, and Director of Programs for Criminal and Civil JusticeDirector of Programs for Criminal and Civil Justice for American Constitution Society.

Karen O’Neill Ocasio
Senior Corporate Counsel, Government Affairs
T-Mobile USA, Inc.
J.D., Cornell Law School, B.A., Princeton University

Kanya Bennett
Managing Director for Government Affairs
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
J.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; B.S., Journalism, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

Kendra Brown
Vice President, Public Policy
Mastercard

Kevin J. Avery
Vice President, Federal Government Affairs
ConocoPhillips
J.D., Stanford Law School; B.A., Harvard College

In my previous role as Chief of Staff in the U.S. House of Representatives, I learned to prioritize short and long-term tasks simultaneously. In the ever-changing nature of Congress, it is imperative to balance the needs of the constituents with the current legislation and issues of the day. To do that well, you must take time to plan, communicate well, and remain informed. That is a direct correlation to the responsibilities of my current role. I am working with my colleagues on policy and regulatory affairs and social impact through community engagement, financial inclusion efforts and engagement with policy leaders.

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Khaliah Barnes
Senior Manager, Government Affairs and Public Policy
Google

“Georgetown University Law Center
Juris Doctor”

Khaliah Barnes is Senior Manager, Government Affairs and Public Policy at Google. Previously, she was Privacy and Public Policy Manager at Facebook, Attorney Advisor, Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties at U.S. Department of Justice, and Associate Director for Electronic Privacy Information Center.

Lisa Abrams is Vice President of Government Affairs at Hotel Association of Washington. Previously, she was Legislative Counsel for the Council of the District of Columbia and an associate at McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP.

LaKeisha C. Marsh
Chair, Government Affairs and Public Policy Practice Group
Akerman LLP

J.D., Loyola University Chicago School of Law, B.A., Clark Atlanta University, Political Science

As chair of Akerman’s Government Affairs and Public Policy Practice Group, LaKeisha Marsh leads a bipartisan team of professionals providing strategic counsel on policy and regulatory issues in the United States. Advocating on behalf of clients before federal, state, and local governments and agencies, LaKeisha advises on important legislative, public funding, and regulatory issues. With a comprehensive legal background serving the higher education sector, including as an NCAA staff member, LaKeisha also serves as the chair of Akerman’s Higher Education and Collegiate Athletics Practice. She represents colleges, universities, and related institutions on federal and state regulatory compliance, accreditation, state licensure, institutional governance, NIL issues, and other collegiate sports and NCAA compliance-related matters. She has structured and executed a broad range of transactional, and corporate governance matters for educational institutions.

Kimberly Ross, Esquire
Senior Vice President, Federal Relations
American Council of Life Insurers
Notre Dame University of Maryland; University of Maryland Carey Law School

“American University Washington College of Law
Hospitality & Tourism Law Certification”

Lifelong servant leader and advocate. Practiced law as a regulatory attorney for 5 years prior to coming to Hill where she served in several staff leadership roles in personal and committee offices for more than two decades, including Sen Mikulski, late Congressman Cummings, Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and Congresswoman Beatty. Currently serve on Board of Visitors Univ of Maryland Law School; Running Start Influencer; Exchequer Club and Annapolis Opera Board trustee and mentor. Speaker on staffing, Congress, advocacy and DEI.

Lisa Abrams is Vice President of Government Affairs at Hotel Association of Washington. Previously, she was Legislative Counsel for the Council of the District of Columbia and an associate at Associate McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP.
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.
Meaghan Lynch is federal public policy for Airbnb. Previously, she was press secretary for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and deputy communications director (formerly press secretary) - Sen. Kamala D. Harris (D-CA) for United States Senate.

With over 16 years of legal and government affairs experience, Mayealie T. Adams is part of Danaher Corporation’s senior leadership team with responsibility for protecting and promoting the company’s interests at all levels of government. She previously held leadership positions with Philips, North America as Managing Director of Compliance, Political and Government Affairs, PNC Bank as Vice President of Government Affairs, and FedEx Corporation as Manager of Government Affairs. Throughout her career, she has been responsible for developing and managing political programs, engaging with government stakeholders and driving coalition building with external groups. Ms. Adams is a diversity & inclusion champion, especially around health equity, and serves on a number of non-profit boards. She lives in Manassas, VA with her husband, Alexander, and two children, Benjamin and Maya.

Meagan is of counsel at Ice Miller LLP. Previously, she was a counsel at U.S Senate and a senior director and counsel of public policy and government relations at The Goodfriend Group.

Applying her technical expertise and variety of experiences in public policy, Ms. Sunn develops creative, results-focused strategies to achieve our clients’ political objectives. Savvy and collaborative, she leverages her relationships to build coalitions on common causes.

Midyar Network is a social change venture that works to bring about structural changes that will fundamentally shift the systems that govern our lives. As Omidyar Network’s first Senior Vice President of Programs, Jawando oversees the global mission of the program teams of its three Impact Themes: Responsible Technology, Reimagining Capitalism, and Pluralism as Omidyar Network attempts to tackle the biggest, most intractable challenges facing the planet in the decades ahead. Before joining Omidyar Network, Michele Jawando was the Head of US Strategic Engagement and Public Policy Partnerships at Google. She has also served as Vice President at the Center for American Progress, as General Counsel and Senior Advisor to United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Foreign Relations Chair, Congressman Gregory Meeks. She is the wife of Honorable William Jawando, Esq. of Maryland and the mother of four young children.

Meaghan Lynch

Vice President, Government Affairs
Airbnb

“Howard University School of Law
Doctor of Law - JD”

Meagan Lynch is federal public policy for Airbnb. Previously, she was press secretary for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and deputy communications director (formerly press secretary) - Sen. Kamala D. Harris (D-CA) for United States Senate.

Michele Lawrence Jawando

Senior Vice President and Head of Programs
Omidyar Network

J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law and a B.A. from Hampton University

Omidyar Network is a social change venture that works to bring about structural changes that will fundamentally shift the systems that govern our lives. As Omidyar Network’s first Senior Vice President of Programs, Jawando oversees the global mission of the program teams of its three Impact Themes: Responsible Technology, Reimagining Capitalism, and Pluralism as Omidyar Network attempts to tackle the biggest, most intractable challenges facing the planet in the decades ahead. Before joining Omidyar Network, Michele Jawando was the Head of US Strategic Engagement and Public Policy Partnerships at Google. She has also served as Vice President at the Center for American Progress, as General Counsel and Senior Advisor to United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Foreign Relations Chair, Congressman Gregory Meeks. She is the wife of Honorable William Jawando, Esq. of Maryland and the mother of four young children.

Mayealie Adams

Vice President, Government Affairs
Danaher Corporation

J.D., University of Akron, M.B.A., George Mason University, B.A., George Mason University

With over 16 years of legal and government affairs experience, Mayealie T. Adams is part of Danaher Corporation’s senior leadership team with responsibility for protecting and promoting the company’s interests at all levels of government. She previously held leadership positions with Philips, North America as Managing Director of Compliance, Political and Government Affairs, PNC Bank as Vice President of Government Affairs, and FedEx Corporation as Manager of Government Affairs. Throughout her career, she has been responsible for developing and managing political programs, engaging with government stakeholders and driving coalition building with external groups. Ms. Adams is a diversity & inclusion champion, especially around health equity, and serves on a number of non-profit boards. She lives in Manassas, VA with her husband, Alexander, and two children, Benjamin and Maya.

Meagan Sunn

Of Counsel
Ice Miller LLP

J.D., The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, B.A., Full Sail University

Meagan is of counsel at Ice Miller LLP. Previously, she was a counsel at U.S Senate and a senior director and counsel of public policy and government relations at The Goodfriend Group.

Applying her technical expertise and variety of experiences in public policy, Ms. Sunn develops creative, results-focused strategies to achieve our clients’ political objectives. Savvy and collaborative, she leverages her relationships to build coalitions on common causes.
Pat Collier IV
Deputy Chief of Staff for Federal Affairs
Office of the Governor- Illinois
J.D., Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, B.A., University of Virginia

Pat Collier serves as Deputy Chief of Staff for Federal Affairs in the Office of the Governor. Collier previously served as policy director on Governor Pritzker’s campaign. Prior to the campaign, he was the director of government affairs for the Center for American Progress, a progressive Washington think tank. Collier also spent several years as policy counsel to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer on the U.S. Senate Democratic Policy Committee. He also served as a regional political director for Obama for America in 2008. He received his Juris Doctor from the Washington University in St. Louis School of Law and his Bachelor of Arts in government from the University of Virginia.

Nichole Francis Reynolds
Vice President and Global Head of Government Relations
ServiceNow, Inc.
J.D., The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, B.S., Eastern Michigan University (cum laude, honors)

Nichole Francis Reynolds is the Vice President of Global Government Relations at ServiceNow. She leads the company’s government affairs, public policy, and advocacy agenda domestically and internationally. As a lawyer and the company’s top lobbyist, she works with Administration officials, members of Congress, State and local public officials, the diplomatic community and industry associations on domestic and international technology issues. Prior to joining ServiceNow, she served as Vice President of Government and Public Affairs for the Interstate Natural Gas Association. Prior to that, she served for five years as Vice President of Public Policy & Community Relations at Mastercard where she was 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. Ms. Francis Reynolds is a Member of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Postsecondary Values Commission and serves on the boards of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation’s Corporate Advisory Council.

Morgan Kennedy
Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager
Google
“Harvard Law School J.D.”

Morgan Kennedy is currently manager, government affairs and public policy at Google. Previously, Morgan was attorney advisor, office of chairman Joseph Simons at Federal Trade Commission. Morgan has also been communications & media and privacy & data security associate at Covington & Burling LLP and law clerk at United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Nichole Francis Reynolds
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J.D., The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, B.S., Eastern Michigan University (cum laude, honors)

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Patrice Willoughby
Vice President of Policy and Legislative Affairs
NAACP
J.D., University of Wisconsin (law review), M.A., University of Cincinnati, B.A., Case Western Reserve University

Patrice Willoughby is the vice president of policy and legislative affairs at NAACP. Previously, she was a Mentor at C5 Accelerate and managing director and head of diversity, equity, and inclusion at Signal Group DC. Over twenty years in the House, Executive Branch, and the private sector, Patrice Willoughby has solved problems in financial services, technology, and health with a lens on social equity. Patrice served as Chief of Staff and Counsel to the late Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones, the first Black woman on House Ways & Means. In the first two years of the Obama Administration, Patrice served as Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus, providing strategy on the Recovery Act, Dodd-Frank, the Child Nutrition Bill, Pigford Settlement, and the Affordable Care Act. Patrice later served the Obama Administration at GSA. She is a board member of the Women’s Institute for a Secure Retirement, N Street Village, and Fort Dupont Ice Arena. Patrice is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Pelicia, who was honored in 2017 as a Legal Trailblazer in Metro Jackson, was Mississippi’s first female Commissioner of Corrections having been appointed by then Gov. Phil Bryant in March 2017. She served MS in that role until January 2020 before returning to work in the private sector.

Hall served in numerous government positions including Chief of Staff at the MS Department of Corrections two years prior to her appointment as Commissioner, Lead Counsel for the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, and Special Assistant Attorney General. Hall began her government career after six years of practice in the private sector with the civil defense firm of Page, Kruger & Holland in Jackson, MS where she litigated cases involving personal injury, employment discrimination, contract disputes, product liability, premises liability, and insurance coverage.

Paula Boyd
Senior Director/Federal Government Affairs
Government and Regulatory
“Harvard Law School JD”

Paula Boyd is senior director, government and regulatory affairs for Microsoft Corporation. Previously, she was senior counsel for U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, Subcommittee on Communications and attorney advisor for Federal Communications Commission.

Philippa Scarlett
Head of Global Government Affairs
REXL
“Columbia Law School
Doctor of Law (JD)”

Philippa Scarlett is Head of global government affairs for RELX. Previously, she was principal counsel for Apple and deputy intellectual property enforcement coordinator and senior counselor for Executive Office of the President, The White House.
Ralph D. Reid is Vice President, Corporate Responsibility for Sprint, a company that served more than 54 million customers at the end of the third quarter of 2013. Also, Sprint is widely recognized for developing, engineering and deploying innovative technologies, including the first wireless 4G service from a national carrier in the United States. In this role, Reid has responsibility for leading Sprint’s Community Affairs, Corporate Diversity and Inclusion, and Corporate Sustainability efforts. He also directs Sprint’s philanthropic activities as President of the Sprint Foundation. Reid serves on the Boards of Trustees/Directors of Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kansas City, Kansas City Repertory Theater, Heart of America United Way, Greater KC Chamber of Commerce, Oakwood University, University of Missouri – Kansas City, and is Vice President of the Kansas City United Community Action Agency.

Rayna Smith Jordan
Associate Director of Government Affairs
Johns Hopkins University and Health System
J.D., Howard University School of Law, B.A., Temple University (magna cum laude)

Prior to her current role, Rayna served as the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services for the District of Columbia where she was responsible for supporting the mayor in coordinating a comprehensive system of benefits, goods, and services across multiple agencies to ensure residents can lead healthy, meaningful, and productive lives. Major agencies under her purview included the Department of Health, the Department of Health Care Finance, and the Department of Behavioral Health. Prior to that position, Rayna served as the Director of the Committee of Health for the Council of the District of Columbia where she was responsible for developing legislation and policies that impacted the city’s health sector. Rayna currently lives in Washington D.C. with her husband and son.

Preston Mitchum
Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs
The Trevor Project
J.D., University of Missouri School of Law, B.A., Oakwood University

Preston Mitchum (he/him) is a Black queer attorney, advocate, and activist with a focus on the power of Black people, young people, and queer, trans, and nonbinary people. In his decade of legal and policy experience, Preston has served in multiple roles to center the voices of historically oppressed communities. He has served as the Director of Policy at URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity and in roles at Advocates for Youth, the Center for Health and Gender Equity, Center for American Progress, and the National Coalition for LGBTQ Health. In addition, Preston has been an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center teaching LGBTQ Health Law & Policy and at American University Washington College of Law teaching Sexuality, Gender Identity, & the Law. Preston deeply believes in policy and community organizing. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for SPARK Reproductive Justice Now!

Portia Boone
Director, Government Affairs
Amtrak
“Georgetown University Law Center J.D.”

Portia Boone is director, government affairs at Amtrak, Previously, she was senior advisor, office of congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton for U.S. House of Representatives and legislative correspondent, office of senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) for United States Senate.
Rodney Slater is a partner with Squire Patton Boggs, co-leading the law firm’s transportation, shipping and logistics practice. A former U.S. secretary of transportation, Slater helps clients integrate their interests in the overall vision for the transportation system of the 21st Century, an extension of his work for the federal government promoting a safer, more efficient, environmentally sound and sustainable worldwide transportation infrastructure. As secretary under President Bill Clinton, Slater passed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century and the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment Reform Act for the 21st Century, among other initiatives. Slater previously served as administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, where he oversaw development of an innovative financing program resulting in hundreds of transportation projects completed ahead of schedule and with greater cost efficiencies. He earned a bachelor’s degree at Eastern Michigan University and his J.D. at the University of Arkansas.

Reginald Brown is the chairman of the firm’s Financial Institutions Group and also leads the firm’s congressional investigations practice as vice chair of the firm’s Crisis Management and Strategic Response Group. Mr. Brown has one of Washington DC’s most vibrant and diverse governmental investigations practices, and regularly counsels financial institutions and other industry-leading clients facing complex and high stakes regulatory, enforcement and reputational matters. Prior to his government service, Mr. Brown served as assistant to the CEO and vice president of corporate strategy at Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company, and as the deputy general counsel to former Florida Governor Jeb Bush. Mr. Brown also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Federated States of Micronesia early in his professional career. While working as an associate at WilmerHale in the 1990s, Mr. Brown served as co-counsel to victims of the Oklahoma City Bombing in connection with sentencing proceedings for Terry Nichols and Michael Fortier.

Robert Harris is currently senior government affairs representative & policy counsel at Apple. Previously, Robert was vice president government affairs at The Glover Park Group. Robert has also been in board of directors, Washington DC at Boys Town and executive washington representative at BlueCross BlueShield Association.

Rodney Emery is principal at Squire Patton Boggs. Previously, he was senior vice president at Mercury. 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.

Emery has also served as the Vice President of Public Policy and Research for the Council on Foundations, where he was the lead policy advisor for the trade association representing the collective interests of the nation’s largest foundations before Congress. During his tenure, donor advised funds were successfully removed from the IRS’s Dirty Dozen List, the first ever Rural Philanthropy Conference was convened and the Congressional Philanthropy Caucus was established.
Ronny B. Lancaster
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs and Government Relations
Assurant, Inc.
J.D., Georgetown University School of Law, M.B.A., Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, B.A., Catholic University of America

Mr. Lancaster, 55, joined the company in 2005 and has served in his current role since that time. In his new role, he leads Assurant’s government relations group and will be 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.

Sam Roberts
Sr. Counsel Corporate Affairs and Government Relations
Walmart
“Temple University – James E. Beasley School of Law
Doctor of Law (J.D.), Law”

Sam Roberts is senior counsel for corporate affairs and government relations at Walmart where he has held other positions. Previously, he was senior counsel for Ricoh Americas Corporation and an associate for Kaufman Dolowich Voluck & Gonzo LLP.

Sanders Adu
Senior Vice President, Federal Government Relations
Wells Fargo
J.D., University of California, Berkeley - School of Law, B.A., Catholic University of America

Sanders Adu is the Director of Federal Government Relations at Wells Fargo. In this position he acts as an advocate on behalf of Wells Fargo before Congress and the Executive Branch. Before this, he served as a Counsel at U.S. House of Representatives. Earlier in his career he spent eight years at Sidley Austin LLP, as an Associate and eight years at Heller Ehrman LLP, in the same position.

Shantrel A. Brown
Partner
Alcalde & Fay
J.D., Florida State University College of Law, B.A., University of Florida

Shantrel A. Brown, Partner, represents numerous clients with particular interests in the environment, infrastructure, economic development, transportation, education and health. Prior to joining Alcalde & Fay, Ms. Brown owned a law firm, which focused on government relations. As principal of the firm, she combined extensive legal experience with firsthand political knowledge to offer clients a unique set of professional talents and abilities. Ms. Brown was a political appointee in the Clinton Administration for over five years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances. As a communications special assistant, she provided media relations, speechwriting services and coordinated public appearances for senior agency officials. A native Floridian, she received a bachelor’s degree in Agriculture from the University of Florida and a juris doctorate from the Florida State University College of Law.

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Singleton McAllister
Partner
Husch Blackwell
J.D., Howard University School of Law and Public Administration

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. Ms. McAllister serves on the Board of Directors of Alliant Energy, Anterix, Vice Chair of the National Women’s History Museum, and Chart Industries. 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 a 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 Directors 100 List for 2019.

Shaylah Nunn-Jones
Government & Public Affairs Lead
Novo Nordisk
University of Georgia School of Law
J.D., Law

Shaylah Nunn Jones is currently Government & Public Affairs Lead at Novo Nordisk. Previously, Shaylah was senior federal policy analyst at Virginia Liaison Office, Office of Governor Timothy M. Kaine. Shaylah has also been legal secretary at Jason & Bradley, LLC and legislative assistant to the chairman at Georgia General Assembly House Of Representatives.

Simone Hall Wood
Privacy and Public Policy Manager
Meta
Georgetown University Law Center
Doctor of Law - J.D.

Simone Hall Wood is currently privacy and public policy manager at Meta. Previously, Simone was associate at Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP. Simone has also been professional staff member, senate committee on commerce, science and transportation at United States Senate and legislative assistant at Kountoupes Denham Carr and Reid.

Stacy Richardson Burnette
Senior Director, Government & Regulatory Affairs
Comcast
J.D. Howard University School of Law, B.B.A, Howard University

Stacy Burnette is an accomplished government affairs leader and technology contracts attorney with significant international business experience. In her current role at Comcast, Ms. Burnette is responsible for developing and implementing legislative strategies, managing relationships with government officials and influencers, building diverse coalitions, negotiating cable franchise agreements, ensuring contract compliance and managing a community investment budget. Ms. Burnette has been recognized for her career and community service accomplishments by her alma mater, Howard University, her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated, Xi Omega Chapter, her prior employers, the DC Government and the City of Los Angeles, the Greater Washington Urban League and the Washington Informer Newspaper. Ms. Burnette is honored to be among those chosen for this recognition.
Sudafi Henry is a Partner with theGROUP. His work includes developing public policy and political strategies for engaging Washington, D.C. and beyond and advising clients in furthering their business and philanthropic objectives. Prior to joining theGROUP, Henry served as Director of Legislative Affairs for former Vice President Joseph R. Biden, joining at the outset of the Obama Administration in January 2009. As Assistant to the Vice President, Henry was a senior advisor on all policy and political matters before the United States Congress. As the chief White House congressional liaison for the Recovery Act, Henry worked with all 535 House and Senate offices to brief Members and staff and organized implementation workshops. He also managed an array of special projects, including initiatives that improved the responsiveness of federal agencies and interagency teams to Members of Congress on Recovery Act activities.

Stephanie Childs is the executive vice president, corporate relations, North America at Diageo. She 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.

Stephanie has experience in all three branches of the government, academia and litigation. She started her career as a senior law clerk to Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. She was in the Clinton Administration as General Counsel of the US Civil Rights Commission and served in the House of Representatives for over a decade where she handled a wide range of issues including intellectual property, internet governance, competition and e-commerce. She also led Democrats on passing the Voting Rights Act of 2006. Stephanie taught law at the DC School of Law and Howard University Law School. She also lectured at the University of Pennsylvania. As a litigator Stephanie handled a racial justice docket where she represented high profile cases and clients including NY Judge Bruce Wright and then-federal judge, Alcee Hastings.

In 2019, Stephanie became the first Black person to represent Cisco Systems as a lobbyist on Capitol Hill.

Sydney C. Edwards is the member at CHIEF and the vice president of regulatory at Kyruus. Previously, she joined Capstone in 2019 and is Vice President of Healthcare Policy Research where she performs rigorous legal and financial analysis and policy research on a wide range of healthcare policy issues to create actionable investment ideas for institutional investors. Prior to joining Capstone, Sydney worked for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as an Attorney Advisor for the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals. Prior to that, Sydney served as Assistant Counsel for the US Senate Sergeant at Arms, Office of the General Counsel. Sydney has a deep institutional knowledge of Medicare policy (Parts A, B, C, D and Part D-IRMAA), Medicaid, and other government and private payers. She is a Medicare regulatory compliance expert with extensive experience in administrative investigations, healthcare financial management, medical billing, facility and professional fee billing, clinical documentation and reimbursement. She is an active member of the DC Bar, the US Supreme Court Bar, and the American Health Lawyers Association.
Tealanie Baldwin is manager, government affairs for Guardian. Previously, she was senior associate, health policy for Waxman Strategies and public affairs and political intern for SKDKnickerbocker.

Tiffani V. Williams is a Senior Vice President and Public Policy Advisor at The Daschle Group and Of Counsel at Baker Donelson. She has over 15 years of government affairs experience representing multinational companies and organizations across the health care, energy, food and agriculture, and education sectors, advancing clients’ business and public policy priorities at the federal and state levels. 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.

In 2021, the National Institute for Lobbying and Ethics and The Hill named her a Top 2021 Lobbyist. A native Washingtonian of Jamaican descent, Tiffani enjoys traveling to new destinations and mentoring.
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.

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. 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.

Vincent Brown has a real understanding of how the legislative process works. His multiple years of experience touching the federal, state, local, and private sectors allows him to counsel clients in numerous industries, including transportation, infrastructure, trade, energy, and technology.

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Waldo McMillan
VP and Head of Washington Office, Government Affairs
Cisco
J.D., University of Pennsylvania Law School, B.A., Howard University

Waldo McMillan is the vice president and head of Washington office, government affairs at Cisco. Previously, he was vice president, legislative affairs at Charter Communications. Prior to landing this post, McMillan was founder and managing director of federal government relations firm Capstone Counsel Group. He was also counsel in the public policy and government affairs practice group at Bryan Cave LLP. With more than a decade of experience working in and with congressional leadership, Waldo McMillan has broad experience representing Fortune 100 companies, major trade associations, and leading non-profits in complex public policy matters before the United States Congress and the Administration. From 2004 to 2007, McMillan served as Counsel for Business Affairs and Strategic Outreach to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada. He began his career with Senator Reid in 2001 as a Leadership Fellow in the Office of the Senate Majority Whip.
Will Cunningham hails from Vineland, NJ in the southern region of the state. He previously served as Chief Counsel to the House Oversight Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy working for the late Chairman Elijah Cummings. Prior to being an Oversight Counsel, Will served on Senator Cory Booker’s education and healthcare policy team as well as then-Mayor Booker’s first Senate race in 2013. Will worked as a field organizer in Akron, OH during the final months of President Barack Obama’s successful re-election campaign in 2012. Will is also a two-time Democratic congressional candidate for New Jersey’s Second Congressional District, and a Teach for America Alumni Corps Member teaching in Houston, TX. He graduated as the 2012 Permanent Class President from the University of Texas School of Law in Austin.

William A. Kirk, Jr.
Partner
K&L Gates LLP
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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 L. Sutton, Jr.
Principal
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Ph.D., The University of Texas at Dallas, M.B.A., University of Dallas Graduate School of Management, J.D., University of Michigan Law School, B.S., University of Denver - Daniels College of Business

Walter L. Sutton, Jr. served as Associate General Counsel - Legal Administration and External Relations at Walmart Stores, Inc. In this position, Sutton was an internal advocate for the Legal Department’s diversity initiatives. He also collaborated with external stakeholders to promote diversity within the legal profession and the pipeline for future attorneys. Prior to joining Walmart in 2005, Sutton practiced law for 35 years in Detroit; Houston; Washington, D.C.; and Dallas. He is a member of the ABA Standing Committee on Government Affairs; a member of the Board of Directors of the National Judicial College; and a member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Finance Committee of the American Bar Foundation. In addition, he serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Wiley College (“Home of the Great Debaters”), a historically Black college in Marshall, TX.

William Cunningham
Director of Federal Government Affairs
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William Cunningham hails from Vineland, NJ in the southern region of the state. He previously served as Chief Counsel to the House Oversight Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy working for the late Chairman Elijah Cummings. Prior to being an Oversight Counsel, Will served on Senator Cory Booker’s education and healthcare policy team as well as then-Mayor Booker’s first Senate race in 2013. Will worked as a field organizer in Akron, OH during the final months of President Barack Obama’s successful re-election campaign in 2012. Will is also a two-time Democratic congressional candidate for New Jersey’s Second Congressional District, and a Teach for America Alumni Corps Member teaching in Houston, TX. He graduated as the 2012 Permanent Class President from the University of Texas School of Law in Austin.

Yvette Badu-Nimako
Vice President, Policy
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Yvette Badu-Nimako is an attorney and lecturer with extensive experience working to advance civil & human rights, economic empowerment, and equity in both the public and private sectors through Legal Analysis, Policy Strategy, Oversight and Investigations, and Program Implementation. In addition to her role at the National Urban League, where she leads the policy team and provides expertise on civil rights, social justice, federal courts, and constitutional issues on behalf of the organization, she is also a Lecturer for the University of Texas System, where she teaches policymaking and analysis to undergraduate honors and graduate students. Yvette has served as the Head of U.S. Policy at Match Group, an international tech company; as Senior Counsel on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and Legislative Director for the late U.S. Congressman and Oversight Committee Chair Elijah E. Cummings; as a Counsel & Congressional Liaison for the U.S.