

IWG Designee Bios

Gary Locke (DOC) – Co-Chair

Gary Locke was appointed by President Obama as the 36th Secretary of Commerce and sworn into office on March 26, 2009. At the Department of Commerce, Locke is charged with helping implement President Obama's ambitious agenda to turn around the economy and put people back to work. Prior to his appointment, Locke helped U.S. companies break into international markets as a partner in the Seattle office of the international law firm, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP. There, he co-chaired the firm's China practice and was active in its governmental relations practice. As the popular two-term governor of Washington, the nation's most trade-dependent state, Locke broke down trade barriers around the world to advance American products. He helped open doors for Washington State businesses by leading 10 productive trade missions to Asia, Mexico and Europe, significantly expanding the sale of Washington products and services.



Arne Duncan (ED) – Co-Chair

Arne Duncan was nominated to be secretary of education by President-elect Barack Obama and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, 2009. Prior to his appointment as secretary of education, Duncan served as the chief executive officer of the Chicago Public Schools, a position to which he was appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley, from June 2001 through December 2008, becoming the longest-serving big-city education superintendent in the country. As CEO, Duncan's mandate was to raise education standards and performance, improve teacher and principal quality, and increase learning options. In seven and a half years, he united education reformers, teachers, principals and business stakeholders behind an aggressive education reform agenda that included opening over 100 new schools, expanding after-school and summer learning programs, closing down underperforming schools, increasing early childhood and college access, dramatically boosting the caliber of teachers, and building public-private partnerships around a variety of education initiatives.



Christopher Lu (WH-EOP)

Chris Lu is Assistant to the President and Cabinet Secretary for United States President Barack Obama's executive office. Lu has worked for President Obama in a number of roles over the past four years. He was legislative director and acting chief of staff in Obama's Senate office, as well as a policy adviser during the presidential campaign and executive director of the transition. From 1997 to 2005, he was deputy chief counsel to Rep. Henry A. Waxman on the Democratic staff of the House Government Reform Committee (now the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee).



Tina Tchen (WH-EOP)

Tina Tchen is the Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement. Tchen was previously a partner in corporate litigation at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. In that capacity, Tchen represented public agencies in state and federal class actions, including the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the Illinois Department of Public Aid, and the Chicago Housing Authority. Tchen is the recipient of many awards, including the Leadership Award from the Women's Bar Association of Illinois (1999); "Women of Achievement" award from the Anti-Defamation League (1996); and Chicago Lawyer "Person of the Year" (1994).



Ginger Lew (WH-National Economic Council)

Ms. Lew is Senior Advisor to the White House National Economic Council and the SBA Administrator. She provides economic policy advice on a broad range of matters that impact small businesses. In addition, she co-chairs the White House Interagency Group on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Prior to joining the Obama Administration, Ms. Lew was the managing partner of a communications venture capital fund, and a venture advisor to a Web 2.0 venture fund.



Preeta Bansal (OMB)

Preeta D. Bansal is the General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor at the Office of Management and Budget in the Executive Office of the President. Before joining the Obama Administration, she was a partner and chair of the appellate litigation practice at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in New York City. She is the former Solicitor General of the State of New York; a previous Special Counsel in the White House and Justice Department (1993-1996); and a former law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court John Paul Stevens. Her other government experience includes serving as a commissioner and past chair of the bipartisan U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, a human rights commission of the federal government; a member of New York City's nonpartisan five-member Campaign Finance Board; and a commissioner on Mayor Bloomberg's bipartisan Election Modernization Task Force.



Kei Koizumi (WH- OSTP)

Kei Koizumi is Assistant Director for Federal Research and Development at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Koizumi joined OSTP in mid-February after having served on the Obama transition team as part of the Technology, Innovation & Government Reform Policy Working Group. Before joining OSTP, Koizumi served as the longtime Director of the R&D Budget and Policy Program at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). While at AAAS, he became known as a leading authority on federal science and technology funding and budget issues and was a frequent speaker to public groups and to the press. He was the principal budget analyst, editor, and writer for AAAS reports on federal R&D.



Photo Credit: AAAS

Sonal Shah (WH- Office of Social Innovation)

Sonal Shah heads the White House Domestic Policy Council's Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation (SICP). She also served on President Obama's Transition Board overseeing the Technology, Innovation, Government Reform working group. Prior to joining the White House, Shah led Google.org's global development efforts, focusing on transparency, openness, civic participation, and entrepreneurship development, especially financial access. Before joining Google, she was Vice President at Goldman Sachs, Inc, where she developed and implemented the firm's environmental strategy.



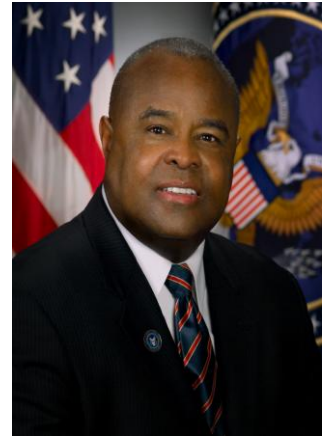
Nick Rathod (WH-Office of Intergovernmental Affairs)

Nicholas Rathod is the Associate Director for Intergovernmental Affairs at the White House. Rathod served as the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Obama-Biden Transition Project. Rathod has also worked as the Political Director for Governor Eliot Spitzer (NY) and Senior Manager of State and Regional Affairs for the Center for American Progress. In addition, Rathod was a community organizer – organizing DC’s immigrant communities around language access issues and a civil rights attorney – representing minority communities who were discriminated against in lending, including a one billion dollar settlement on behalf of African American farmers. Rathod is also active in the South Asian community co-founding South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) as well as South Asians for Obama (SAFO).



John Robinson (STATE)

John M. Robinson was sworn in on Monday, March 3, 2008, as Director of the Office of Civil Rights and Chief Diversity Officer. Robinson serves as the primary advisor to the Secretary of State and the Department’s senior leadership on equal opportunity, diversity, affirmative employment and related issues. Robinson is coming to State from the staff of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). Prior to joining ODNI, he served as Chief of EEO and Diversity for the Internal Revenue Service. He was Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary of the Department of Energy (DOE) from 1999 to 2001. His federal service began in 1994 as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).



Sumit Agarwal (DOD)

Sumit Agarwal was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs) for Outreach and Social Media on Jan 19, 2010. He serves as staff advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (ASD(PA)) on how best to create two-way dialogues with American citizens and the global community utilizing traditional outreach methods, as well as new/social media tools (e.g., blogs, social networks, instant messaging, photo sharing, Web 2.0 technologies).



Neal Katyal (DOJ)

Neal Katyal is the Acting Solicitor General of the United States, having succeeded Elena Kagan, who has been nominated by President Barack Obama to replace the retiring Associate U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens. Katyal previously served as National Security Adviser in the U.S. Justice Department and was commissioned by President Clinton to write a report on the need for more legal pro bono work. He also served as Vice President Al Gore's co-counsel in the Supreme Court election dispute of 2000. A Professor at Georgetown University Law School, Katyal recently won *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* in the United States Supreme Court, a case that challenged the policy of military trials at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba.



Tony Babauta (DOI)

Prior to being confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Babauta served as Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's senior advisor. Tony Babauta previously worked on the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee, as its Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans, and Wildlife. He advised the full committee on US policy towards U.S. territories and other U.S. affiliated island nations. Tony was instrumental in advancing the renegotiated compact with the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, the Guam war claims, and the political advancement of Puerto Rico.



Kathleen Merrigan (USDA)

Kathleen A. Merrigan is the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Working alongside Secretary Tom Vilsack, Merrigan oversees the day-to-day operation of USDA's many programs and spearheads the \$149 billion USDA budget process. She serves on the President's Management Council, working with other Cabinet Deputies to improve accountability and performance across the federal government. Merrigan brings a wealth of knowledge to USDA from a decades-long career in policy, legislation, and research related to the many missions of USDA. Deputy Secretary Merrigan has managed the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food effort to highlight the critical connection between farmers and consumers and support local and regional food systems that increase economic opportunity in Rural America.



Patricia Shiu (DOL)

Prior to being appointed Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs at the Department of Labor by President Obama, Patricia A. Shiu served as the Vice President for Programs at the Legal Aid Society-Employment Law Center in San Francisco. Ms. Shiu joined the Employment Law Center in 1983 as a staff attorney where she focused primarily on employment discrimination, including sex, LGBT, national origin, disability and race-based discrimination and harassment individual and class action cases.



Dr. Howard Koh (HHS)

Dr. Howard Koh was most recently the Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of the Practice of Public Health, Associate Dean for Public Health Practice, and Director of the Division of Public Health Practice at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH). At HSPH, he served as the Principal Investigator of multiple research grants related to community-based participatory research, cancer prevention, health disparities, tobacco control, and emergency preparedness. He also served as Director of the HSPH Center for Public Health Preparedness.



Ron Sims (HUD)

Appointed by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Ron Sims serves as the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Sims served for 12 years as the elected Executive of Martin Luther King, Jr. County in Washington State. Before becoming County Executive, he was an elected member of the county council.



David Kim (DOT)

David S. Kim is Deputy Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Office of the Secretary. He joined the Obama Administration in July 2009. In his current role, he coordinates and advances DOT's legislative agenda on Capitol Hill and serves as chief liaison to the U.S. Senate on behalf of Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood. Prior to DOT, David spent five years with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA) as Deputy Executive Officer, Federal Advocacy and Government Relations. In this capacity, he served as head of the agency's Government Relations Department and managed federal relations on behalf of one of the largest transit providers in the country.



Rufus H. Smith (DOE)

Rufus Smith was named Diversity Programs and Employee Concerns Manager of the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Office (ORO) in December 1983. His responsibilities include acting as principal advisor to the ORO Manager on equal employment opportunity and affirmative action. Additional responsibilities include developing and implementing Equal Employment Opportunity Programs for Federal employees, resolving complaints of discrimination, and establishing linkage between ORO and minority educational institutions.



Tammy Duckworth (VA)

L. Tammy Duckworth was nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs. She was confirmed by the Senate on April 22, 2009 and sworn in by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki, on April 24, 2009. As Assistant Secretary, Duckworth represents and advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on matters relating to media and public affairs. She directs departmental communications and oversees programs relating to intergovernmental relations, homeless Veterans, consumer affairs, and the Department's six national rehabilitative special event programs.



Ivan Fong (DHS)

Ivan K. Fong was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and sworn in as general counsel of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in May 2009. As general counsel, Ivan is the chief legal officer for the Department; is responsible for advising Secretary Napolitano and her senior leadership on all significant legal, policy, and operational issues; and leads over 1,700 lawyers in the Department's headquarters and operating components.



Stuart Ishimaru (EEOC)

Stuart J. Ishimaru has been a member of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission since 2003, nominated by President George W. Bush upon the recommendation of Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle. He currently is serving a second term, upon the recommendation of Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, that expires July 1, 2012. He was designated by President Obama as Acting Chairman of the Commission on January 20, 2009 and served in that capacity until April 7, 2010. During his tenure as Acting Chairman, Mr. Ishimaru worked to rebuild the EEOC, which had become under-funded and under-staffed. Under his leadership, the agency obtained record budgets from the Congress, and embarked on an aggressive hiring initiative to significantly increase its front-line enforcement staff.



Mathy Stanislaus (EPA)

Mathy Stanislaus began work as Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) after being confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 8, 2009. As Assistant Administrator for OSWER, Mr. Stanislaus is responsible for EPA's programs on hazardous and solid waste management; hazardous waste cleanup, including RCRA corrective action; Superfund and federal facilities cleanup and redevelopment; Brownfields; oil spill prevention and response; chemical accident prevention and preparedness; underground storage tanks; and emergency response.



Phoebe Yang (FCC)

Ms. Yang is Senior Advisor to the Chairman on Broadband at the Federal Communications Commission, where served as General Counsel of the Omnibus Broadband Initiative in creating *Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan*. Ms. Yang's prior experience includes executive roles at Discovery Communications, as Vice President of Corporate Strategy and Development, Vice President of Digital Media Operations and Strategy, and Director of International Business Development; and at AOL Time Warner as Vice President of International Strategy and Policy focused on China. She served under President Bill Clinton as Special Coordinator for China Rule of Law. Earlier in her career, Ms. Yang practiced corporate and commercial law at Hogan & Hartson, LLP and was a law clerk to federal judge, The Honorable William Schwarzer (N.D., California).



Christine Griffin (OPM)

Christine M. Griffin was sworn in as the Deputy Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management on January 4, 2010, by OPM Director John Berry. Prior to OPM, Griffin served as a Commissioner of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), assisting in the development of EEO enforcement policies. At OPM, Griffin centers her attention on diversity in the Federal workforce and work-life balance, vital issues to both attract and keep the best of the best. She also focuses on Veterans employment issues -- Griffin herself is a Vietnam-era veteran of the U.S. Army, having served from 1974-1977. Griffin brings with her a wealth of solid and deep-rooted public and private sector experience to assist in tackling pressing Federal workforce issues.



Ana Ma (SBA)

Ana M. Ma is Chief of Staff at the U.S. Small Business Administration. Working alongside the SBA Administrator, she oversees the day-to-day operations, personnel, and decision-making processes at the Agency, which has more than 2,000 employees in all 50 states. Prior to her appointment, she served as Senior Counsel to U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva of Arizona for two terms.



Aviva Sufian (SSA)

Aviva Sufian joined the Social Security Administration (SSA) in October 2009 and currently serves as the Associate Commissioner for External Affairs. Ms. Sufian has worked in the field of aging for the past decade, and, prior to joining SSA, she served as Senior Policy Analyst at the New York City Department for the Aging. Ms. Sufian received a Master's in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government (Harvard University) and a Master's in Public Health from the Mailman School of Public Health (Columbia University).



Charles Scales (NASA)

Charles H. Scales became NASA's Associate Deputy Administrator, effective April 16, 2007. Previously, he was the Associate Administrator for the Office of Institutions and Management. In this position, he managed operational and mission support activities across the agency. He also ensured the agency work force, infrastructure and facility capabilities are working together in support of NASA's long-range needs. Scales also served as deputy director in the Office of Center Operations at the agency's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. Prior to that, he served as director of the Center Operations Directorate at NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio.



Patrick Corvington (CNCS)

Patrick Corvington was sworn in as the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service on February 18, 2010. Patrick Corvington is a recognized expert on nonprofit sector leadership and capacity issues, new and emerging philanthropy, and volunteerism. Prior to joining the Corporation, he served at the Annie E. Casey Foundation as a Senior Associate responsible for guiding the foundation's grantees on issues related to leadership development, next generation leadership, and capacity building. As part of this work, Corvington was engaged directly with some of the top social innovation intermediaries in the nonprofit sector and has co-authored publications such as "Ready to Lead: Next Generation Leaders Speak Out" and "Next Shift: Beyond the Nonprofit Leadership Crisis."

