



2016 Post-Election Briefing: Politics, Policy and Philanthropy November 16-17, 2016

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SPEAKER BIOS



Sandra McAlister Ambrozy, Senior Program Officer, Human Services, The Kresge Foundation

Sandra McAlister Ambrozy is a senior program officer with The Kresge Foundation's Human Services Program. She joined Kresge in 1982 and has served in many roles during her time at the foundation. With more than 30 years of experience in philanthropy, Sandra has developed expertise in human services, arts and culture, green building initiatives and civil legal aid. She helps shape and refine grantmaking for the Human Services Program so Kresge's philanthropic dollars are used effectively to advance innovative, multi-sectoral policy solutions in human services and foster the next generation of human services organizations. In particular, she helps nonprofit leaders structure their organizations, adapt to evolving forces in the field and access resources. Sandra was named as a 2016 Presidio Institute Fellow and is participating in the fellowship program to build cross-sector leadership skills to address complex social challenges. She also serves on the Steering Committee providing guidance and oversight to the Grantmakers Income Security Taskforce (GIST). Her work has been recognized with six Wilmer Shields Rich Awards from the Council on Foundations for creating transparency and accessibility in Kresge's communications. Sandra also coordinated the Partnership to Raise Community Capital, a national initiative for community foundations. From 2008 to 2016, she served on the board of the Funders Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities. A U.S. Green Building Council LEED Accredited professional, Sandra was part of Kresge's Green Building Initiative to encourage nonprofits to design environmentally sustainable facilities. She also served as a reviewer for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Sustainable Communities and Regional Planning Grant Program in 2010 and 2011. Prior to coming to Kresge, she worked at the Boston Children's Museum and the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities in Boston. Sandra is a graduate of Tufts University.



Kathy Bonk, Executive Director, Communications Consortium Media Center
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For the past two decades, Kathy Bonk has worked on a wide range of public policy issues, focusing on families, social services, health care, early education and global population. In 1988, she co-founded CCMC, the Communications Consortium Media Center, a nonprofit center that develops communications strategies for policy change. She is the lead co-author of the *Jossey-Bass Guide to Strategic Communications for Nonprofits*. Kathy has worked on many multi-year initiatives for prominent foundations. Examples include: reforming child welfare, for the Annie E. Casey, W.K. Kellogg and Edna McConnell Clark Foundations; promoting juvenile justice for Ford, Casey and Rockefeller Foundations; the Health Professions Education, Families for Kids and the SPARK Initiatives for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation; recent global campaigns for the Ford Foundation and the African Union to end child marriage. She has also directed grantee workshops and technical assistance activities under grants from dozens of other foundations and currently serves as a consultant to the Casey Family Programs communications office and the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health on their *Forum* and *Voices in Leadership* programs. As CCMC's executive director, she oversees projects including The Census Project, the Fairness Initiative and Employment Pathways. In 1989, Kathy was awarded a Kellogg Foundation National Leadership Fellowship, which enabled her to work extensively with NGOs on social services related issues. Previously, she served as a PIO at the U.S. Department of State (1975 to 1979) and U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division (1973-1975). From 1979 to 1987, she directed the Media Project for the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund. She is on the board of directors of the National Press Club Journalism Institute, Pathfinder International and the Kakenya Center for Excellence in a Masai area of Kenya. She is a 1973 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh in communications.



Shelley Waters Boots, Senior Consultant, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Wellspring Advisors, Ford Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
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Shelley Waters Boots brings more than 20 years of experience as a writer, researcher and policy expert on issues affecting the lives of children and families. Currently she runs a philanthropic consulting business where she blends her expertise on strategy, research, policy and communications to meet the unique needs of her clients. She has held research positions at the Urban Institute, a policy research organization where she examined and wrote on issues concerning children, work and family. She has also published numerous articles and papers on a range of social policy topics, including a recent chapter, "New Ways of Creating Opportunities for Families in Poverty: Perspective on the Emerging Two-Generation Policy Discussion" in First Focus' Big Ideas series, and held a guest editor position for a special poverty edition of *The American Prospect*. Throughout her career, she has developed national grassroots policy and communications campaigns to engaging parents as advocates at Parents' Action for Children. She has crafted new policy ideas and innovative communication strategies as the founding Director of the Early Education Initiative and the Acting Director for the Work and Family Program at the New America Foundation. Prior to those positions, she managed the research and advocacy efforts on early care and education policy for the Children's Defense Fund as their Director of Child Care and Development. Earlier in her career, she spent several years in California working as a Research Director for a statewide children's organization, and began her career in the private sector as a management consultant, where she worked to improve public systems and operations to better serve families. She holds a BA in Political Science from Furman University in South Carolina and a Master in Public Administration (MPA) from the Maxwell School in Syracuse, NY. She lives outside of Washington, DC with her husband and two children.



Eric Deggans, Author, Journalist, and TV Critic, National Public Radio
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Eric Deggans is NPR's first full-time TV critic, crafting stories and commentaries for the network's shows, such as Morning Edition, Here & Now and All Things Considered, along with writing material for NPR.org and the website's blogs such as Code Switch, Monkey See and The Two Way. He came to NPR in September 2013 from the Tampa Bay Times newspaper in Florida, where he served as TV/Media Critic and in other roles for nearly 20 years. A journalist for more than two decades, he is also the author of *Race-Baiter: How the Media Wields Dangerous Words to Divide a Nation*, a look at how prejudice, racism and sexism fuels some elements of modern media, published in October 2012 by Palgrave Macmillan. He guest hosted CNN's media analysis show *Reliable Sources* several times in fall 2013, joining a select group of journalists and media critics filling in for departed host Howard Kurtz. That year, he also earned the Florida Press Club's first-ever Diversity award, honoring his coverage of issues involving race and media. He has received Legacy awards from both the Tampa Bay Association of Black Journalists and the National Association of Black Journalists' A&E Task Force. The NABJ's award was an honor bestowed to "seasoned A&E journalists who are at the top of their careers." Eric also serves on the board of educators, journalists and media experts who select the George Foster Peabody Awards for excellence in electronic media.



David Ellwood, Director, Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
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David T. Ellwood, the Isabelle and Scott Black Professor of Political Economy, served as Dean of the John F. Kennedy School of Government from July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2015. He began his appointment as Director of the Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy on July 1, 2016. Ellwood joined the Kennedy School faculty in 1980 and served two separate terms as the School's Academic Dean. In 1993, he was named Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) where he served as co-chair of President Clinton's Working Group on Welfare Reform, Family Support and Independence. At HHS, Ellwood played a key role in the Administration's development and implementation of critical social policy. Recognized as one of the nation's leading scholars on poverty and welfare, Ellwood's work has been credited with significantly influencing public policy in the United States and abroad. A labor economist who also specializes in family change, low pay and unemployment, his most recent research focuses on the changing structure of American families. Ellwood is the author of numerous books and articles, including *Welfare Realities: From Rhetoric to Reform*, co-authored with Mary Jo Bane. His book, *Poor Support: Poverty in the American Family*, was selected by the *New York Times Book Review* as one of the notable books of 1988 and by the Policy Studies Organization as the outstanding book of the year. Ellwood was recipient of the David N. Kershaw Award, given by the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management to outstanding individuals under the age of 40 who have made a distinguished contribution to the field of public policy. He also received the Morris and Edna Zale Award for Outstanding Distinction in Scholarship and Public Service from Stanford University. Ellwood is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and a Senior Research Affiliate of the National Poverty Center at University of Michigan's Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. He is also a Faculty Affiliate of the Joint Center for Poverty Research at Northwestern University/University of Chicago and serves on the Board of Abt Associates and the Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Foundation. A native of Minnesota, Ellwood graduated summa cum laude from Harvard in 1975 and earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University in 1981. Ellwood has been married for more than 25 years to his wife Marilyn. They love hiking, sea kayaking, and most outdoor activities. They have two daughters, Malinda and Andrea.



Jocelyn Frye, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress

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Jocelyn Frye is a Senior Fellow at American Progress, where her work focuses on a wide range of women's issues, including work-family balance, pay equity, and women's leadership. Prior to joining American Progress, Frye served for four years as deputy assistant to the president and director of policy and special projects for the first lady, where she oversaw the broad issue portfolio of the first lady, with a particular focus on women, families, and engagement with the greater Washington, D.C., community. Her responsibilities included working on the first lady's two signature initiatives, combating childhood obesity and supporting military families, and managing the young women's component of the White House Leadership and Mentoring Initiative, a program connecting selected local high school students with current and former White House staff as mentors, and providing students with a mix of career exploration, college preparation, and educational opportunities. Before joining the Obama administration, Frye served as general counsel at the National Partnership for Women & Families, where she concentrated on employment and gender-discrimination issues, with a particular emphasis on equal-employment-enforcement efforts and employment barriers facing women of color and low-income women. During her 15-year tenure at the National Partnership, she testified before Congress and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on federal enforcement of employment-discrimination laws and analyzed the effectiveness of federal equal-employment-enforcement efforts. Prior to her work at the National Partnership, she worked for four years as an associate at Crowell & Moring, a Washington, D.C., law firm, concentrating in the white-collar crime-practice area. Frye received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan and her law degree from Harvard Law School. She is a proud native of Washington, D.C.



Lisa Hamilton, Vice President, External Affairs, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

As Vice President of External Affairs, Lisa Hamilton manages strategies that take the Foundation's work to scale and build the capacity of the field, so that proven approaches are used to improve outcomes for as many kids and families as possible. Her responsibilities include oversight of grant making portfolios focused on federal and state policy advocacy, the KIDS COUNT initiative, leadership development, race equity and inclusion, strategic communications, capacity building for grantees, and fostering multi-sector partnerships. Through External Affairs, the Foundation shares solutions to help the nation realize the potential of millions of kids who would otherwise be left behind. Before joining the Foundation, Hamilton enjoyed a 14 year career with UPS. From 2009 to 2011, she served as vice president of the corporate public relations group directing global media relations, reputation management, and products and services announcements. Prior to that, she was President of the UPS Foundation, responsible for directing its global philanthropic and volunteerism programs. She began her career at UPS in 1996 as a member of the Corporate Tax Department. In 2003, she was named Program Manager of the UPS Foundation, and later served as a Public Affairs Manager in Washington, D.C., where she focused on tax, financial services, and legal reform issues. Hamilton serves on the Board of Trustees of the Southern Education Foundation (Secretary), Baltimore Community Foundation, and is a member of the Advisory Committee of the Ad Council. She served as a Trustee of the Casey Foundation from 2008 to 2011. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Hamilton earned a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce from the University of Virginia and a Law Degree from the University of Michigan.



Doug Hattaway, President, Hattaway Communications

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Doug Hattaway is president of Hattaway Communications, a strategic communications firm with the mission of helping visionary leaders achieve ambitious goals that benefit people and the planet. His work draws on tools and techniques from psychology, linguistics and literature – as well as marketing and political communications – to create communications that inspire and engage. Doug has 25 years of experience serving as a spokesperson and consultant to high-profile leaders in politics, government, business, advocacy and philanthropy. His firm’s clients include the world’s top foundations and major nonprofit brands.



Lauren Hogan, Senior Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, National Association for the Education of Young Children

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Lauren Hogan is the Senior Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). In this role, she is focused on strengthening the connections between research, policy and practice, while developing and leading NAEYC’s bi-partisan early childhood policy agenda with a keen focus on shared leadership, innovation, diversity and equity. Lauren previously served as Vice President of Program and Policy at the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) in Washington, DC, providing leadership for the organization’s initiatives regarding early childhood education, family engagement and literacy, while working with members and Affiliates to increase their voice and capacity around a robust local, state, national and federal policy agenda. Lauren began her career working with an after-school program in Louisville, Kentucky and later served as the director of an early literacy and family support program in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She also served as a Rappaport Public Policy Fellow in the Department of Social Services in Boston, MA. Lauren earned a bachelor’s degree from Yale University and a Master’s degree in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.



Christina Karas, Communications Officer, The Kresge Foundation

Christina M. Karas is a communications officer at The Kresge Foundation. She provides strategic communications support to the Health and Human Services programs at Kresge. Christina joined the foundation in November 2015. Previously, Christina served as the corporate public relations manager at Caesars Entertainment, where she developed communications strategies to showcase the company’s 50 resort properties globally as well as company-wide hospitality initiatives. Christina has diverse experience in the field of communications, including media relations, social media, brand development, brand journalism and crisis communications. Prior to joining Caesars Entertainment, she served as a media communications specialist at The MetroHealth System in Cleveland, Ohio. A native of Cleveland, she earned a bachelor’s degree in strategic communication from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.



Celinda Lake, President, Lake Research Partners

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Celinda Lake is a prominent pollster and political strategist for progressives. She currently serves as President of Lake Research Partners. Lake's polling and strategic advice has helped candidates such as Jon Tester, Senator Debbie Stabenow, and Governor Bob Wise defeat incumbent Republicans and her expertise guided Senator Mark Begich to victory, making him the first Senate candidate in Alaska to oust the incumbent in 50 years. She has focused on women candidates and women's concerns, having worked for Speaker Pelosi, Governor Janet Napolitano, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Senator Barbara Mikulski, Mayor Carolyn Goodman, Mayor Annise Parker, and over a dozen women to the House and Senate. Celinda worked for the largest independent expenditure to take back the House and has been a key player in campaigns launched by progressive groups such as the AFL-CIO, SEIU, Sierra Club, Planned Parenthood, Vote Vets, HRC, and EMILY's List. Lake co-authored the book *What Women Really Want* with Republican pollster Kellyanne Conway, which examines the way women are changing the political landscape in America, and she also served as pollster for Senator Joe Biden's 2008 presidential bid. She worked with innovative message projects that helped redefine language on the economy, inequality, big money in politics, climate change, public schools, teachers, and criminal justice reform.



Michael Laracy, Director, Policy Reform and Advocacy, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Michael C. Laracy is director of policy reform and advocacy at the Annie E. Casey Foundation, of Baltimore, Maryland, where he fosters and supports the Foundation's efforts to inform, guide, and influence public policy at the federal and state levels. He is also responsible for the Foundation's KIDS COUNT network and State Fiscal Analysis Initiatives and grant-making portfolios in poverty reduction and in budget and fiscal issues. The Casey Foundation is a national philanthropy dedicated to helping build better outcomes for disadvantaged children in the United States. Its primary mission is to build better futures for millions of American kids at risk of poor educational, economic, social, and health outcomes. Laracy is a founding member of the Grantmakers Income Security Task Force and serves on the steering committee. Prior to joining the Foundation in August 1994, Laracy was Assistant Commissioner for Policy, Planning and Program Evaluation in the New Jersey Department of Human Services, where he served for seventeen years. He did his undergraduate and graduate work at Rutgers University, majoring in urban planning and public policy. He is married to Eileen McGinnis and has two teen-age daughters, Sean Colleen and Charlotte Grace. They reside in Pennington, New Jersey.



Joan Lombardi, Senior Advisor, Bernard van Leer Foundation and the Buffett Early Childhood Fund and Director, Early Opportunities LLC

Joan Lombardi Ph.D. is an international expert on child development and social policy. She currently serves as Senior Advisor to the *Bernard van Leer Foundation* on global child development strategies and to the *Buffett Early Childhood Fund* on national initiatives. She also directs *Early Opportunities LLC*, focusing on innovation, policy and philanthropy. In 2016, she is serving as a Senior Fellow at the *Center for American Progress* and a Senior Advisor to the *Center for the Study of Social Policy*. Over the past 40 years, Dr. Lombardi has made significant contributions in the areas of child and family policy as an innovative leader and policy advisor to national and international organizations and foundations and as a public servant. She served in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the first Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development (2009-2011) in the Obama Administration, and as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and External Affairs in Administration for Children and Families and the first Commissioner of the Child Care Bureau among other positions (1993-1998) during the Clinton Administration. Outside of public service, she served as the founding chair of the Birth to Five Policy Alliance (now the Alliance for Early Success) and as the founder of Global Leaders for Young Children. Joan is the author of numerous publications including *Time to Care: Redesigning Child Care to Promote Education, Support Families and Build Communities* and Co-Author of *Beacon of Hope: The Promise of Early Head Start for America's Youngest Children*. She serves as the President of the Board of *1000 Days*, a member of the Board of Trustees of *Save the Children* and as a member of *Investing in Young Children Globally*, a project of the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council.



Mary McClymont, President, Public Welfare Foundation

Since 2011, Ms. McClymont has served as president of the Public Welfare Foundation in Washington, DC, a national private grantmaking foundation working to advance justice and opportunity for people in need. She is also a board member ex-officio. Previously, she served as executive director of Global Rights, an international human rights capacity-building organization; and as president and chief executive officer of InterAction, the largest alliance of U.S.-based international development and humanitarian nongovernmental organizations. She also held various executive positions at the Ford Foundation, including vice president of the Peace and Social Justice Program. Earlier in her career, Ms. McClymont served as the national director for legalization of the Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Catholic Conference; as senior staff counsel for the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union; as a trial attorney for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice; and as assistant director for corrections of the National Street Law Institute at the Georgetown University Law Center. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the District of Columbia bar. Currently, she serves on the board and executive committee of the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers and is a member of the New Perimeter Advisory Board. She is the co-founder of Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees; was the chair of the board of the Migration Policy Institute; and served on the boards of, among others, Physicians for Human Rights, Amnesty International, the Advisory Committee of Elma Philanthropies Services and the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, USAID. Ms. McClymont has an LL.M. in International Legal Studies from American University's Washington College of Law and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.



Christine Owens, Executive Director, National Employment Law Project
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Christine Owens joined NELP as its Executive Director in January 2008. Over her long career as a workers' rights advocate, she has held a variety of public interest and public sector positions advancing employment rights and opportunities for women, people of color and low wage workers. In 1997, she joined the national AFL-CIO as a senior policy analyst specializing in workplace equity issues, and in 2001, was appointed Director of Public Policy. At the AFL-CIO, she worked closely with NELP and numerous national and grassroots economic policy and worker advocacy groups, along with national unions and state labor federations, to promote reforms such as minimum wage and living wage hikes, pay equity for working women, and state UI coverage expansions. Before joining the AFL-CIO, she founded and ran the Workers Options Resource Center, which coordinated the efforts of a broad-based coalition of national and community organizations to win the 1996 federal minimum wage increase.



Nisha Patel, Executive Director, US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty, Urban Institute

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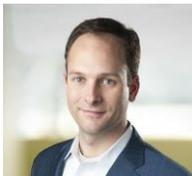
Nisha Patel is executive director of the US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty at the Urban Institute. Supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the partnership is a nonpartisan group of leaders, experts, and practitioners working to identify promising interventions to make real, lasting progress against persistent poverty in America. Patel has nearly two decades of experience leading, developing, and implementing initiatives to increase economic opportunities for low-income families. She served in the Obama administration as director of the Office of Family Assistance within the US Department of Health and Human Services, overseeing a \$17 billion annual portfolio of federal grants, including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. Patel was previously deputy director of Ascend at the Aspen Institute, where she led national efforts to expand two-generation approaches to improve outcomes for children and their parents. Before that, Patel was a program officer in the US Program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she managed a portfolio focused on increasing postsecondary success through community partnerships and policy development, as well as special initiatives. Patel previously held positions as director of programs at Washington Area Women's Foundation and senior policy analyst at the Center for Law and Social Policy. She has also been an adjunct professor at the George Washington University. Patel is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and holds an MSW with a concentration in social and economic development from Washington University in St. Louis.



Nick Rathod, Executive Director, State Innovation Exchange

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Nick Rathod serves as executive director of the State Innovation Exchange (SiX), a national resource and strategy center that supports state legislators who seek to advance and defend progressive policies across the country. Prior to leading SiX, Rathod served as the special assistant to the President and deputy director for intergovernmental affairs at the White House. While there, he was primarily responsible for President Obama's policy and political work in the states and U.S. territories. Rathod also served as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's (CFPB) assistant director of intergovernmental and international affairs, where he helped Elizabeth Warren build the structure of the CFPB. He has previously served as director of state campaigns for Mayor Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety and as senior manager of state and regional affairs at the Center for American Progress, and he has experience as a civil rights attorney and community organizer – with a focus on language access, housing discrimination, and immigrant rights issues.



Ryan Rippel, Strategy Advisor and Lead for U.S. Poverty and Mobility Initiatives, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Ryan Rippel is the Gates Foundation's Strategy Advisor for U.S. poverty and economic mobility initiatives. In this role, he leads the foundation's early-stage investments to improve mobility from poverty in the United States. He sits within the office of the Chief Strategy Officer, a new portfolio created within the foundation to explore cross-foundation learning and strategic initiatives. Prior to his current role, Ryan served in a number of roles at the Gates Foundation, including the senior program officer for CEO initiatives, interim chief of staff to the CEO, program officer and lead for the Global Program for Inclusive Municipal Governance, and chief of staff to the co-chair, William H. Gates, Sr. Ryan is an attorney by training. Outside of the Foundation, he serves as an Adjunct Professor at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri. He leads a course and clinic focused on local government law and approaches to urban revitalization. He also serves on the International Advisory Board of Last Mile Health, which enhances the capacity of frontline health workers to deliver high-quality health care in remote villages in Liberia. He is the secretary of the board of directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Eastern Missouri and a member of the Danforth Leadership Council at the Danforth Plant Science Center in St. Louis, Missouri. Ryan is a graduate of Harvard College, the University of Cambridge, where he was the Governor William Shirley Harvard-Cambridge Scholar, and Harvard Law School.



Justine Sarver, Executive Director, Ballot Initiative Strategy Center
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Justine Sarver started fighting for progressive causes long before the start of her professional career. Before joining BISC, she spent several years working for the election and transition team of President Obama. Then she served as deputy chief of staff in the office of Secretary Kathleen Sebelius at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As the Southwest Regional Director at the Obama for America campaign headquarters, Sarver oversaw campaign activities for many states including Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Maine, Washington and Oregon. Justine was intensely involved with ballot-initiative campaigns in California, beginning in 1996. While director of organizing at the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California – the country’s largest ACLU affiliate – she led her second battle against parental notification in California, defeating Proposition 85 with a broad-based coalition. Sarver served for five years at Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California as vice president and political director. In that role, she led the first successful campaign against parental notification (Proposition 73). Before that, Justine was the political director of the San Diego Labor Council, AFL-CIO. Justine is a proud native of the Detroit area and a graduate of the Ferndale public schools. She received a bachelor’s in history from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Justine assumed the role of Executive Director of Ballot Initiative Strategy Center in April 2010.



Robert Shull, Program Director, Workers’ Rights, Public Welfare Foundation

Since 2008, Mr. Shull has been the Public Welfare Foundation’s Program Director for Workers’ Rights, running a grant-making portfolio aimed at improving working conditions for low-wage workers. An experienced advocate for systemic reform, consumer protection and good government at the national, state, and local levels, Mr. Shull served previously as deputy director for Auto Safety and Regulatory Policy at Public Citizen, the consumer advocacy organization. His portfolio there included auto and truck safety, and fuel economy. Prior to his work at Public Citizen, Mr. Shull served as director of regulatory policy at OMB Watch, where he built and led a coalition of labor, green, consumer, faith-based, and human needs groups in major legislative advocacy campaigns. While at Public Citizen and OMB Watch, Mr. Shull testified on regulatory process and science policy issues before Congressional committees, state and local government hearings, and the National Academies of Sciences. He has also commented on good government and consumer issues in a variety of media outlets, including National Public Radio, CNBC, Congressional Quarterly and Rolling Stone. Currently, Mr. Shull serves as co-chair of the Working Group on Labor and Community Partnerships, a grantmaker network housed at the Neighborhood Funders Group. He is also on the steering committee of the Grantmakers Income Security Task Force (GIST), a funder affinity group focused on poverty and economic opportunity. Mr. Shull received a J.D. from Stanford Law School and a B.A. from the University of Virginia.



Donovan Slack, Reporter, USA TODAY Washington Bureau

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Donovan Slack covered the presidential race on USA TODAY's national political blog and dropped in on key Senate races and other facets of the cycle with more in-depth reporting. In non-campaign season, she covers Congress and the Department of Veterans Affairs for USA TODAY. Her recent investigations have spurred the release of findings showing VA bosses in at least seven states directed staff to falsify veteran wait times for appointments, exposed ongoing manipulation of wait times, and revealed lethal failures in care at VA medical centers in Oklahoma. Slack previously worked as a White House reporter for Politico and spent nine years at The Boston Globe. Her work has been recognized with the Society of Professional Journalists Sunshine Award for contributions to open government, David Lynch Memorial Reporting Award, the Washington Regional Reporting Award and a Casey Medal for meritorious coverage of children and families. She is a graduate of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, where she was valedictorian of the class of 2003.



Diana Williams, Consultant, Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities

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Diana Williams is a former journalist and grant maker who specializes in helping philanthropies promote innovative land use, community development and transportation policies. Diana previously worked as director of public policy for the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities. She helped create and run a sustainable land use grant making program at the James Irvine Foundation in California, and served as executive director of Urban Ecology, a nonprofit community design center in the San Francisco Bay Area. Prior to that, Diana worked as political reporter for the Oakland Tribune, among other papers, covering the City of Oakland and the California State Legislature. She is a graduate of Hamilton College and the Kennedy School of Government and lives on Capitol Hill with her husband and three children.