

Office of the Secretary

Tom Vilsack is the Secretary of Agriculture. He previously served two terms as the governor of Iowa, and worked most recently as a lawyer in Des Moines since ending his brief 2008 presidential bid in 2007. This fall he served as a fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and worked for the Iowa State Biosafety Institute. In nominating Vilsack, Obama indicated his intent “that the policies being shaped at the Departments of Agriculture and Interior are designed to serve not big agribusiness or Washington influence-peddlers, but family farmers and the American people.” During the press briefing, Vilsack mentioned the importance of nutrition and is expected to work with fellow Iowan, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin, on the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act this year. As governor, Vilsack was a strong supporter of conservation programs (and an early champion of the Conservation Stewardship Program) and alternative energy, including ethanol and wind. In recent interviews he has mentioned the need for the enforcement of payment limitations and livestock market reform.

John Norris, the Secretary’s Chief of Staff, has been chairman of the Iowa Utilities Board since 2005 and served as Governor Vilsack’s first chief of staff in 1999. He served as Senator John Kerry’s Iowa Caucus Campaign Manager and as National Field Director for the Kerry-Edwards Campaign. He was the Democratic nominee for Iowa’s Third Congressional District in 2002. Norris is a graduate of Simpson College and the University of Iowa Law School. He also served as state director of the Iowa Farm Unity Coalition in the mid-1980’s. He is married to Jackie Norris, who serves as Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Obama. They have three sons.

Carole Jett, the Secretary’s Deputy Chief of Staff, recently left federal service after 33 years to participate on the Obama Agriculture campaign team in Indiana and served as Co-Lead of the President’s Transition Team USDA Agency Review Group. She served as Farm Bill Coordinator for NRCS prior to her retirement. Previously, she led the NRCS 2002 Farm Bill implementation effort and served on assignment with the U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee.

David Lazarus, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, served as Agriculture Legislative Assistant to Senator Richard J. Durbin (D-IL) and was the Rural Vote Deputy Director for the Obama for America campaign. Immediately after the election, he served on the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team. Lazarus is a native of Illinois and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Grant Leslie, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, was Legislative Director to former Senator Ken Salazar. Leslie also served on the staff of former Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD). While working in the Senate, Grant covered a range of issues, including agriculture, rural development, transportation, trade, and telecommunications. Originally from Georgia, Grant is a graduate of Boston University.

Max Holtzman, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, has been an attorney for more than 14 years. He was a principal of the Holtzman Group in Coral Gables, Florida where he helped provide strategic consulting to multi-national companies doing business in the United States. Holtzman is Founding Chairman of Adopt-A-Classroom, a 10-year-old not-for-profit that supports teachers and students in all 50 states. He began his career with the Florida Department of Agriculture. Holtzman served

as a senior advisor to the Obama campaign in Florida. He graduated in agricultural economics from the University of Florida and received his law degree from The University of Miami School of Law.

Karen Stuck, Confidential Assistant to the Secretary, retired from USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in 2008 with 35 years of federal service in the Executive and Legislative branches. She held a number of staff and management positions in FSIS's Office of Public Affairs and Office of International Affairs (OIA). She served as an Assistant Administrator of the OIA before retiring with 29 years of service to USDA.

Lindsay Daschle, Confidential Assistant to the Secretary, was a Research Assistant for Commissioner Bart Chilton at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. She has also served as Public Policy Director for the National Organization for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and as Development Associate for the Elizabeth Glazer Pediatric AIDS Foundation. A native of Washington, D.C., Daschle is a graduate of Syracuse University and holds a master's degree in sociology from New York University.

Sam Liebert, Staff Assistant to the Secretary, served as Deputy Director of State Operations for President Obama's successful campaign in Florida. He joined Obama's primary campaign in the Iowa Caucuses, and worked through seven other primary states. Liebert was previously the CEO and Founder of Midwest Public Safety LLC, a private security firm based in Janesville, Wisconsin. Liebert has also served on the staffs of Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI), Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Governor Ted Strickland (D-OH). A Wisconsin native, Liebert attended the University of Wisconsin-Rock County and is now completing his B.S. degree in national security from George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.

Vianca Monet Dyer – Staff Assistant, Office of Congressional Relations. Dyer most recently served as the greetings coordinator for the White House Office of Presidential Correspondence. Prior to that, she was a Staff Assistant in U.S. Senator Barack Obama's Washington D.C. office and formerly interned in his Chicago office. A native of San Diego, Calif., Dyer earned her B.S. in Communication Studies with a double major in Political Science from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

Chad Maisel – Staff Assistant, Office of the Deputy Secretary. Prior to joining USDA, Maisel served on the Presidential Inaugural Committee for the National Day of Service. He worked on the 2008 campaign for approximately 18 months as regional field director for the Obama campaign in Ohio and as a staffer for Hillary Clinton's primary bid in several states, beginning in Iowa. While in college, he interned in the Washington offices of Sen. Jon Corzine (NJ) and Sen. Robert Menendez (NJ). Maisel, of Princeton, N.J., is a graduate of Emory University, with majors in Political Science and Spanish.

Stacy Porto - Special Assistant, Civil Rights. After graduating from the University of Denver and the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, Porto returned to her hometown of Kansas City and continued her commitment to public interest law by advocating for the socially and

economically disadvantaged. She joined Legal Aid as a staff attorney, where she helped run a free legal clinic at a low-income hospital and represented clients denied access to healthcare and public benefits. She practiced poverty and civil rights law, volunteered with high-risk urban youth and also served the state of Missouri as a law clerk. Porto joined the Obama for America campaign as part of the National Advance Team Staff, where she assisted with organizing campaign events on a domestic and international scale, including the Democratic National Convention and the Presidential Inauguration.

Rohan Patel, Director of Advance for the Secretary, recently served as Political Director for President Obama's campaign in Indiana. He worked in Iowa, Tennessee, Ohio, Mississippi, North Carolina and at headquarters in Chicago during his two years on the Obama Presidential campaign. After the campaign, Patel worked on the Presidential Inaugural Committee. He has also served on the staffs of Governor Chet Culver (D-IA), the Iowa Senate Democrats, and Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN). Patel is a graduate of Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

Sally Cluthe, Acting Director of Scheduling and Advance in the Secretary's office, most recently consulted for the office of Senator Jeff Merkley (D) of Oregon. She has served as Director of Scheduling for the Obama Campaign for Change in New Hampshire and, earlier, for Senator Amy Klobuchar (D) of Minnesota

Beatina Theopold, Advance Staff for the Secretary, served as a Regional Field Director for President Obama's presidential campaign in Indiana. She joined Obama's primary campaign in Nevada, and worked in four other primary states. Before the campaign, Theopold was an executive assistant for the CEO of Vernier Watches in New York City. A native of Ithaca, New York, she holds a degree in political science and Spanish from New York University.

Malcolm Eve, Advance Lead in the Secretary's office, was most recently a Senior Event Coordinator for the Washington Speakers Bureau in Alexandria, Va. He was Deputy Director of Scheduling and Advance for Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala during the Clinton Administration. Eve also served as lead advance for the presidential campaign of former Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) in 2008 and for the 2004 Kerry/Edwards ticket for the presidency and vice presidency.

Denise Scott, Executive Assistant to the Secretary, served as Special Assistant to Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) and to former Senator Ken Salazar (D-CO). Scott has also held positions with George Washington University and the National Congress of Black Women. She graduated from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Carmen Jones - Special Assistant, Departmental Administration. Jones most recently was the president and founder of the Solutions Marketing Group, a marketing consulting firm that advises Fortune 500 corporations on employment programs for people with disabilities. From 1998 to 2006, Jones worked at the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Under Secretaries Rodney Slater and Norman Mineta. While there she worked on several secretarial initiatives to include

ONE DOT, an organizational change strategy that enhanced the performance of DOT's senior leadership. Jones is a graduate of Hampton University (Virginia) where she studied Marketing.

Quinton Robinson - Director, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization. Robinson brings 13 years of congressional staff experience and 6 years government affairs experience to this position. During his tenure on congressional staff, he served in key legislative positions such as legislative director in the U.S. House of Representatives and as assistant counsel on the House Committee on Agriculture. Robinson holds a B.A. in Political Science from the Albany State University, Albany, Ga.; a M.A. in Political Management from the George Washington University, Washington, D.C.; and a J.D. from Franklin Pierce Law Center.

Steve Silverman - Deputy General Counsel. Silverman most recently served as USDA's Regional Attorney in Denver, Colo., where he oversaw legal issues arising in the mountain states. Prior to that, Silverman was a Senior Attorney at the Environmental Enforcement Section of the U.S. Department of Justice. Silverman received his J.D. with distinction from Stanford Law School and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Princeton University with a major in public policy from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. A native of Des Moines, Iowa, Silverman is married to Kathryn Schmidt, who also is an attorney. They have two children, Sam and Ben.

Suzanne Smith Palmieri - Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary. Palmieri served in the Clinton Administration at Peace Corps, the US Agency for International Development and as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Rural Development at USDA. She has also worked for the Department of State. Ms. Palmieri began her federal service with Senator Patrick Leahy, both in his personal office and on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. Before coming to Washington, she was a staff member of the Governor's Office in her home state of Arkansas. Ms. Palmieri graduated from Vassar College and earned her Masters Degree in Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. Ms. Palmieri is married to Francisco Palmieri, a Foreign Service Officer, currently posted in Washington. They have two children, Ellis and Madeline.

Office of the Deputy Secretary

Kathleen A. Merrigan is USDA Deputy Secretary, the number two position at the agency. Kathleen is a longtime champion of sustainable agriculture. From 1987 to 1992, she was a staff member on the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, working for Chairman Patrick Leahy and drafting the National Organic Program legislation, the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, and Biotechnology Risk Assessment Program, among others. She worked at the Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture from 1994 to 1999 and shared offices with the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. Prior to her appointment as Deputy Secretary, Kathleen was an Assistant Professor and Director of the Agriculture, Food and Environment Program at the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University.

Doug O'Brien is the Chief of Staff for USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan. O'Brien has been Assistant Director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, advisor to Iowa Governor Culver on renewable energy issues, interim co-director at the National Agricultural Law Center, staff attorney at the Drake Agricultural Law Center, counsel for the Senate Agriculture Committee, covering competition and credit issues for Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) during the 2002 Farm Bill debate, and associate counsel with the Organization for Competitive Markets. Doug grew up on a farm in Iowa.

White House

John Berge, White House Liaison to USDA, served as Executive Director of the Western Nebraska Community College Foundation in Scottsbluff, Nebraska and State Director of the Obama for America Campaign in Nebraska. He has worked on the staffs of former Senators Jim Exon (D-NE), Bob Kerrey (D-NE) and current Nebraska Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE). Berge was State Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency in Nebraska during the Clinton Administration. He is from Gering, Nebraska and attended Western Nebraska Community College and Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska.

Office of Communication

Chris Mather, Director of Communications, has spent her career as a communications specialist in the advocacy and political arenas. She was a spokesperson for the Presidential Inaugural Committee and the Press Secretary for Dr. Jill Biden on the Obama for America campaign. She has also worked for candidates for federal office and the Democratic Party.

Bobby Gravitz, Director of Speechwriting and Research, served as the South Florida Press Secretary for President Obama's campaign. He also worked as spokesperson for the campaign in 5 states in the primaries, beginning in Iowa. Before joining the campaign, Gravitz served as Deputy Research Director for Secretary Tom Vilsack's presidential campaign. He also worked as a research associate at a public records research firm in Oakland, California. Gravitz is from Silver Spring, Maryland, and a graduate of Yale University.

Nayyera Haq, Press Secretary, worked on the Presidential Transition Team and as Western Communications Director for the Obama campaign. Haq was Press Secretary for the Children's Defense Fund. She has served also on the staffs of Members of Congress, including Congressman John Salazar (D-CO) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and has managed media outreach programs at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the Democratic National Committee.

David Sandretti – Deputy Director. Sandretti most recently was the Communications Director for the League of Conservation Voters. A seasoned communications professional who has worked on Capitol Hill, in the non-profit issue advocacy arena, and the private sector, he served as communications director for the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee under Senator Jim Jeffords for two years and as communications director and chief spokesperson for Senator Barbara Boxer for 10 years. He also served as press secretary for Senator Russ Feingold for two years. He worked for the firm of Fingerhut Powers and Smith as a senior associate serving a

variety of political and labor clients. Sandretti grew up on his family's dairy farm in southeastern Wisconsin.

Caleb Weaver, Press Secretary, comes to USDA from the Congressional Oversight Panel for TARP, where he was the Communications Director. Last year, he worked on the Obama campaign as the Montana Communications Director during the general election and in Missouri and Rhode Island during the primary. From 2000-2004, he worked for the Missouri Governor, handling a variety of political and policy areas, including agriculture, environment, fish and wildlife, education, and tax policy. He is a graduate of Harvard Law School and a member of the Illinois Bar.

Justin DeJong, Deputy Press Secretary, is a native of Iowa and has served in numerous communications roles in both the public and private sectors. He was Illinois Director of Communications for the Obama campaign and Director of Communications at the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. Previously, DeJong served as a spokesperson for several state agencies in Illinois government including the Departments of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Central Management Services, as well as the Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

Orrin Evans, Special Assistant in the Office of Communications, worked on President Obama's presidential campaign. As one of the first field operatives in Iowa, he spent 2007 organizing and managing several counties to historic caucus victories. Previously he helped manage Denise O'Brien's campaign for Secretary of Agriculture of Iowa in 2006. Originally from Los Angeles, he attended the University of California, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Edward M. Avalos has been nominated USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. Avalos hails from New Mexico, where he worked for 29 years at the NM Department of Agriculture and established the NM Specialty Crops Program, a program that seeks to improve the economic viability of rural economies and market and promote value-added products and specialty crop projects. He has also worked to support the production and marketing of specialty crops and value-added products through the implementation of numerous trade missions and promotions in the US and abroad. He also worked at the Texas Department of Agriculture for five years. Avalos grew up on a specialty crop, cotton, and wheat farm in the Mesilla Valley of Southern New Mexico.

Jim Monahan - Deputy Administrator of Commodity Operations. Monahan most recently served as executive director of the Ag Council on the Environment where he built coalitions with producers, landowners, and groups to initiate, expand and support water quality projects. During the Clinton Administration, Monahan served as the state executive director for the Farm Service Agency in Vermont and the Virgin Islands, and later as a special assistant to the FSA administrator. He served as a legislative assistant to Vermont Senator Leahy after serving for 15 years in USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. He is a disabled Marine from the Vietnam era, who currently serves as a National Board Director for Veterans and Military Families for Progress, a nonprofit organization helping Veterans and their families. Monahan graduated

from Johnson State College with a double major in environmental science and economics and resource management.

Sara Eckhouse – Confidential Assistant. Eckhouse most recently worked as a Field Organizer in the 2008 Obama Campaign. She joined the campaign in May 2008 and organized in both Iowa and Ohio. Prior to the campaign, Eckhouse worked at horse stables in Newmarket, England, and Jonstorp, Sweden. A native of Des Moines, Iowa, Eckhouse graduated from Harvard with a B.A. in biological anthropology.

Ann Wright, Deputy Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. We are enormously happy and proud to report that Ann Wright, former Sustainable Agriculture Coalition advocate, has been named by USDA Secretary Vilsack as Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs (MRP). MRP oversees the Agricultural Marketing Service, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, and Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration.

Until last week, Wright served as senior policy advisor on agriculture for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV). Prior to her work at SAC, Wright was a legislative assistant on agriculture for Senators Paul Simon (D-IL) and Paul Wellstone (D-MN). At SAC, Ann was the primary staff person for the Marketing and Rural Development Committee and led our efforts on such issues as farmers markets, value-added agriculture, and sustainable livestock meat label claim standards. Congratulations Ann!

John Ferrell, Deputy Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, most recently served as a majority staff member on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee under Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA). During his eight years with the Committee, Ferrell oversaw implementation of the 2002 Farm Bill and helped develop the 2008 Farm Bill. His priorities included improving organic research and transition assistance, providing new direct-to-consumer marketing opportunities, and strengthening livestock market competition laws, all of which were key NSAC priorities as well.

Ferrell was raised on a farm in Iowa that produced cattle, hogs, corn, and soybeans. He received his bachelor's degree in agricultural science and horticulture from Northwest Missouri State University and his Master's degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Ferrell and Ann Wright are the two Deputy Under Secretaries for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

Lisa Bertelson, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, was recently a research associate for the Pew Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production, focusing on policy analysis, zoning issues, and government outreach. She has served on the Obama's staff when he was a Senator. Bertelson is a native of Wisconsin, where much of her family still farms, and she holds a degree in political science and German from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Luke Knowles, Confidential Assistant to the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, worked for the Obama-Biden Transition Project and volunteered on the Obama Campaign focusing on energy and environmental policy. He is from Anchorage and Juneau, Alaska, and graduated in May 2008 from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in New Haven, Connecticut.

Livia Marqués, Special Assistant for Horticultural Crops, is a 17-year veteran of USDA. She has served as the State Conservationist of Nevada, as a National Plant Materials Specialist, and as a National Technical Leader for Specialty Crops, all with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. She holds a B.S. in horticultural science from North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Rayne Pegg has been appointed Administrator of Agricultural Marketing Service, and will begin serving in July. Pegg most recently served as the Deputy Secretary of Legislation and Policy for the California Department of Food and Agriculture, where she was the principle advisor to both the Secretary of the Department and the cabinet of the Governor of California on the Department's legislative and policy issues. As an advocate with the California Farm Bureau Federation, Pegg analyzed California agriculture's foreign market opportunities and competition and participated in the World Trade Organization and US-Korea FTA negotiations. She has worked with USDA to resolve phytosanitary barriers that restrict the movement of California products to foreign and domestic markets. Pegg was also a principal in the creation of the California Leafy Green Product Handler Marketing Agreement, which was established in 2006.

J. Dudley Butler, Secretary Vilsack's nominee to serve as Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards (GIPSA) Administrator, is a Mississippi attorney and cattleman who has specialized in representing farmers and ranchers opposing large agricultural corporations in lawsuits, mediations, and arbitrations involving production contracts and other agricultural matters. He also served on a task force whose report led to passage of the Mandatory Price Reporting Act.

Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services

Kevin Concannon is the nominee for USDA Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services. A native of Maine, Concannon has been director of health and human service agencies in Iowa, Maine, and Oregon — Director of Iowa's Department of Human Services (DHS) from 2003 to 2008, Director of Maine's DHS from 1995 to 2003, Director of Oregon's DHS from 1987 to 1995, and Commissioner of the Maine's Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation from 1980 to 1987. He has also served as President of the American Public Welfare Association and President of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors.

Nathan Blake, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, practiced law in Des Moines, Iowa, before working for the Obama campaign as a field organizer and researcher. He is a native Californian who grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, and graduated from Union College in Lincoln. He also holds a law degree from Yale Law School and a master's degree from Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Conn.

Norah Deluhery, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, worked in New York City at the Columbia University Graduate School of Business

before joining the Obama campaign as a field organizer in rural north central Iowa. Raised in Davenport, Iowa, she graduated from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Janey Thornton is Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services. Thornton is a native of Kentucky and has served as School Nutrition Director of the Hardin County school system, of which she is a product, for over 25 years. She also served as national President of the School Nutrition Association during the 2006-7 school year. Thornton expects to be very involved with the reauthorization of school feeding programs, a measure Congress takes up later this year.

Julie Paradis is Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service. Paradis served since January 1995 as deputy counsel of the minority staff of the House Agriculture Committee, where she oversaw legislation concerning such matters as nutrition and domestic feeding programs. From 1991-94 she was the assistant majority counsel for the House Agriculture Committee, where she provided legal support for the reauthorization of the National School Lunch Act and the Mickey Leland Childhood Hunger Relief Act. She served as the staff director for the Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Domestic Marketing, Consumer Relations, and Nutrition from 1989-91. From 1983-89 Paradis worked as a senior attorney in the Legislative Division of the Office of the General Counsel, after having been a staff attorney in OGC's Food and Nutrition Division from 1979-83, where she specialized in FNS's Food Stamp Program. She is a member of the Texas Bar.

Lisa Pino will serve as Deputy Administrator for USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. Pino most recently served as Director of Public Affairs for the International Institute of the Americas College in Phoenix, Ariz. She has also worked with the Florence Immigrant Rights and Refugee Project as well as the Community Legal Services Farmworker Unit in rural Arizona. A New York native, Pino received her B.A., M.A., and J.D. from Arizona State University, and is a member of the Arizona State Bar Association. In 2008, she completed Harvard University's Executive Public Leadership Program as a National Hispana Leadership Institute Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government, and The White House Project program in New York.

Dr. Rajen Anand is Executive Director of the USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, which is tasked with the development of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans - currently being reviewed and revised by its Advisory Committee - and the MyPyramid food guidance system. Anand joined the Center in 1995 as its Deputy Director and became Executive Director in 1997. Prior to his work at USDA and in the interim, he served as professor of physiology for 30 years, including 6 years as department chair at California State University, Long Beach. A graduate of the University of California, Davis, Anand holds a doctorate in human physiology, nutrition and biochemistry and a second doctorate in veterinary medicine.

Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services

Jim Miller is Under Secretary of Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. Miller most recently was Chief of Staff for the National Farmers Union and previously served on the Senate Budget Committee staff, as Chief Economist for the National Farmers Union, and as Vice President for Government Relations for the National Association of Wheat Growers.

Elisabeth Reiter, Confidential Assistant to the Under Secretary of FFAS, was most recently Deputy Director of Advance for the Obama for America campaign. She worked previously on the successful campaigns of Virginia Governor Tim Kaine (D) in 2005 and Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) in 2006. She also worked on Senator John Kerry's (D-MA) 2004 presidential bid. Reiter is a graduate of the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Va.

Brandon Willis, Confidential Assistant to the Under Secretary of FFAS, has been the Agriculture Legislative Assistant for Senator Max Baucus for the past three years. Willis grew up on a third generation sheep ranch in northern Utah and earned his bachelor's degree in crop and soil science from Utah State University, Logan, Utah. He also has a law degree from the University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyo.

Charles Lippstreu - Staff Assistant. Lippstreu served as New Media Director with the Obama for America campaign in Nebraska, and was a member of the Nebraska state liaison team for the Presidential Inaugural Committee's National Day of Service. Previously, he worked for the Arbor Day Foundation in Lincoln, Nebraska and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Washington, D.C. Lippstreu is a native of Lincoln, Neb., and a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Lona Stoll - Chief of Staff, Foreign Agricultural Service. A native of Michigan, Stoll most recently served as special advisor to the Director of Planning at the State Department's Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization. She was deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan in spring 2009. In fall 2008, she served as deputy Integration Team Lead of the U.S. Central Command's Assessment Team. Stoll also served as the planning and assistance coordinator at the U.S. Embassy in Kosovo in 2007. She has previously worked in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Plans, and the State Department's Bureau of Verification and Compliance. She received her B.A. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, a Certificat d'Etudes Politiques from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Aix-en-Provence, France, and a Master of International Affairs from Columbia University.

Miles Patrie – Confidential Assistant, Risk Management Agency, grew up on a raspberry, cattle, and small grains farm near Bowdon, N.D. Patrie worked as a Legislative Assistant for Senator Kent Conrad on the 2008 Farm Bill before joining the Obama campaign as a field organizer in North Dakota and Wisconsin. Previously, he served as a Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellow, in which he conducted a food gap assessment in rural Northern New Mexico and analyzed rural development and anti-hunger policy in Washington, DC. Patrie is a graduate of North Dakota State University with a B.S. in Anthropology.

Bud Philbrook is Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services. Philbrook hails from Minnesota where, for the past 14 years he has been president and CEO of Global Volunteers, an organization that sends American volunteers to over 20 countries. He will concentrate on foreign agriculture, trade and food aid issues at USDA.

Michael T. Scuse is Deputy Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services. His primary responsibility will be for the domestic programs within the FFAS mission area. Scuse was Secretary of Agriculture for Delaware from May 2001 until September 2008, when Governor Ruth Ann Minner (D) named him as her chief of staff. From 1996 to 2001, Scuse served as both chairman of the Kent County (Delaware) Regional Planning Commission and chairman of USDA's FSA State Committee. Before that, he was Kent County Recorder of Deeds. In addition to serving as NASDA vice president, Scuse was also president of the Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture. Scuse is an active member of Ducks Unlimited and the Quality Deer Management Association and shows registered paint horses.

Pat Engel – Senior Advisor, Risk Management Agency (RMA). Formerly with Amplify Public Affairs, LLC, in Washington, D.C., Engel is a specialist in third party relations. She leveraged her expertise in rural and agricultural issues to provide third party stakeholder management to rural and agricultural groups as well as supporting corporate clients. Earlier Engel served with USDA as the External Affairs Director of RMA. Engel was the assistant director of Student Services of Monroe College where she helped design an educationally viable, cost-effective student tutoring center. Engel holds an undergraduate degree from the Herbert H. Lehman College of the City University of New York. Engel and her husband of almost 30 years, Congressman Eliot Engel, have three children.

Jonathan Coppess is Administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). FSA administers and manages farm commodity, credit, conservation, disaster, and loan programs through a network of federal, state and county offices. Coppess most recently served as FSA Deputy Administrator, and previously worked for Senator Ben Nelson as his Legislative Assistant for Agriculture, Energy and Environmental policy. He joined Senator Nelson's staff in February 2006, after practicing law in Chicago for four years. Coppess grew up on his family's corn and soybean farm in west-central Ohio. He holds a bachelor's degree from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and a law degree from The George Washington University Law School.

William J. Murphy, Administrator of USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA), served as RMA Acting Administrator during the transition to the Obama Administration. Before that, he served RMA as the Deputy Administrator for Insurance Services; Director of the Regional Office in Davis, CA, overseeing crop insurance operations in California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii; and Director of the Western Region Compliance Office. He is a native of Pennsylvania and received a B.S. in Agronomy and Farm Management from Pennsylvania State University.

Food Safety

Under Secretary - ??

Jerold R. Mande, M.P.H., is Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety. In this position, Mande will have responsibility for the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the USDA agency responsible for inspecting meat, poultry, and processed egg products. Most recently, Mande served as Associate Director for Public Policy at the Yale Cancer Center at the Yale University

School of Medicine. Prior to this, Mande served on the White House staff as a health policy adviser. He was Deputy Assistant Secretary for Occupational Health at the Department of Labor. He also served as Senior Advisor and Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, where he led design of the Nutrition Facts food label. Mande began his career in Congress, where he was first hired to work on food safety legislation. Mande holds a Masters Degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Bachelor of Science Degree, magna cum laude from the University of Connecticut at Storrs.

Justin Hatmaker, Special Assistant, most recently served as the Field Director for Barack Obama's Campaign for Change in Nebraska and also worked in six states for President Obama's primary campaign. Previously he worked on campaigns for Rep. Ben Chandler, Sen. Tom Daschle, Reform Ohio Now, and the Minnesota Democratic Farmer Labor Party.

Dr. Adela R. Ramos – Senior Advisor. Ramos most recently worked for Senator Tom Harkin on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, where her portfolio included food safety, agricultural research, animal and plant health, and biotechnology issues. From 2004 to 2005, she served on Senator Harkin's agriculture committee staff as a congressional science fellow sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. A native of Florida, Ramos has a doctorate in microbiology from Cornell University, where she studied plant-microbe interactions, and a B.S. in biology from Duke University.

Food Safety Inspection Service Administrator - ??

Research, Education and Economics

Rajiv Shah, USDA Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics and Chief Scientist, has been serving as Director of Agricultural Development Programs at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where he helped to create the foundation's Global Development Program and the International Finance Facility for Immunization. The 36-year old Detroit native joined the Gates Foundation in 2001. Prior to his foundation work, he served as a health care policy advisor for Al Gore's 2000 presidential campaign, co-founded Health Systems Analytics and Project IMPACT for South Asian Americans, and worked at the World Health Organization, among other positions. He holds a medical degree and degree in health economics from the University of Pennsylvania, and is on the board of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa. The Alliance is supported by the Gates and the Rockefeller Foundations. Its plant breeding work is currently focused on conventional breeding methods.

Rachael Goldfarb, counselor to the Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, most recently served as Special Assistant to the President of the Global Health Program at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, Goldfarb served in the Clinton White House, first as Assistant to the Policy Staff at the National Economic Council and then as Assistant to John D. Podesta, the Chief of Staff to President Clinton. Following the end of the Clinton administration, Goldfarb was named Special Assistant to the

Chairperson of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She received her Juris Doctor from Penn State University, where she served as Managing Editor of the Penn State International Law Review.

Maura O’Neill, Senior Advisor for Energy and Climate for Research, Education and Economics, served most recently as chief of staff for Senator Maria Cantwell. She has founded four companies, is on the faculty of UC Berkeley, served on local, state, utility and non-profit policy committees. In 1987 she was one of the North American Representatives to the NATO Advanced Study Institute on Energy Efficiency and Utility Industry. O’Neill has also served on the National Panel on Energy and Employment Policy. O’Neill graduated with a BA from the University of Washington. She received MBAs from both Columbia University and the University of California at Berkeley. She completed her PhD at the University of Washington.

Ann Tutwiler, Senior Advisor for International Affairs for Research, Education and Economics, was previously advisor on International Trade for the Africa Bureau’s Sustainable Development group at USAID. Before joining USAID, she was Managing Director, Agricultural Markets, for the Global Development Program at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, where among other duties she managed a substantial number of grants related to the 2007-8 farm bill campaign. Tutwiler has also served as president and chief executive officer of the International Food & Agriculture Trade Policy Council, and played a major role in the development of the 1996 Farm Bill’s “freedom to farm” commodity title. She was Director of Government Relations for the North American oilseed crushing and corn refining companies of Eridania Beghin-Say. She has served on the board of the International Fertilizer Development Council and the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa. Tutwiler received a degree in political science from Davidson College and a Masters in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Rachael Goldfarb – Counselor to the Under Secretary. Most recently she served as Special Assistant to the President of the Global Health Program at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania with Honors, Goldfarb served in the Clinton White House, first as Assistant to the Policy Staff at the National Economic Council and then as Assistant to John D. Podesta, the Chief of Staff to the President of the United States. Following the end of the administration, Goldfarb was named Special Assistant to the Chairperson of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. She received her Juris Doctor from Penn State University, where she served as Managing Editor of the Penn State International Law Review. She subsequently clerked for the Honorable R. Barclay Surrick of the U.S. Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and the Honorable D. Brooks Smith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. A Philadelphia native, Goldfarb now lives in Washington D.C.

Maura O’Neill – Senior Advisor for Energy and Climate - O’Neill served most recently as chief of staff for U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell. She has spent over 25 years in the public, private, and academic sectors focused on two areas: sustainable energy development and entrepreneurship/innovation. She has founded four companies, is on the faculty of UC Berkeley, served on local, state, utility and non-profit policy committees. In 2008, she built a broad coalition of industry and advocacy groups to forge bipartisan and bicameral support for passage of wide-ranging federal clean energy tax incentives. In 1987 she was one of the North American

Representatives to the NATO Advanced Study Institute on Energy Efficiency and Utility Industry. O'Neill has also served on the National Panel on Energy and Employment Policy. O'Neill graduated with a BA from the University of Washington. She received MBAs from both Columbia University and the University of California at Berkeley and was awarded the Distinguished Student Award. She completed her PhD at the University of Washington.

Ann Tutwiler – Senior Advisor for International Affairs. Previously, she was advisor on International Trade for the Africa Bureau's Sustainable Development group at USAID. Before joining USAID, she was Managing Director, Agricultural Markets, for the Global Development Program at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Before joining the Hewlett Foundation, she served as president and chief executive officer of the International Food & Agriculture Trade Policy Council. She was Director of Government Relations for the North American oilseed crushing and corn refining companies of Eridania Beghin-Say. She has served on the board of the International Fertilizer Development Council, the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa and the Dean Rusk International Studies Program at Davidson College. Tutwiler received a degree in political science from Davidson College and a Masters in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. She also received certificates in agribusiness management from Purdue University and INSEAD. She was recently awarded the John W. Kuykendall Award for Community Service from Davidson College.

Deputy Under Secretary - ??

NIFA Director - ??

Rural Development

Dallas Tonsager, Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, was a board member of the Farm Credit Administration and was previously the Executive Director for the South Dakota Value-Added Agriculture Development Center and was appointed by President Clinton as the South Dakota State Rural Development Director.

Magdey Abdallah, Confidential Assistant, served as an Associate in the Office of White House Counsel. During the 2008 general election, he was a Regional Field Director for the Obama campaign in Grand Rapids, Mich. He joined the campaign in New Hampshire in July 2007 and traveled to South Carolina, Connecticut, Wisconsin, Ohio, and North Carolina as a Field Organizer during the Democratic Primary.

Cheryl Cook, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, is a native of Pennsylvania, and served on the lobbying staff of the National Farmers Union in Washington before returning to Pennsylvania where she worked for Pennsylvania Farmers Union and Keystone Development Center, a coop development non-profit, as well as serving stints as USDA Rural Development Director for the state and as Deputy Secretary for Marketing and Economic Development at the state Department of Agriculture.

Victor Vasquez, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development, served as Deputy Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Transitional Assistance for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Previously, Vasquez worked in Washington as the Director for both economic development and Workfirst programs, and he also served with the Department of Defense as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Military Community and Family Policy Office in the Office of the Secretary. Vasquez also spent more than five years working in rural development, serving as USDA Assistant Administrator in the Office of Community Development with responsibility for launching the Rural Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community program.

Stacey Brayboy, Director of Economic and Community Development, was most recently a member of the transition team for President Obama and Vice President Biden. She worked with the Obama for America campaign for 20 months, serving as State Director in South Carolina and Virginia during the presidential primary and Deputy State Director in Indiana and Virginia during the general election. She served on the staffs of former Senators Sam Nunn (D-GA) and Fritz Hollings (D-SC), former Congressman Robin Tallon (D-SC) and Congressman James Clyburn (D-SC). She holds a bachelor's degree from Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina, and a master's of public administration from Clark Atlanta University in Georgia.

Judith Canales, Administrator for Rural Business and Cooperative Service, most recently served as the Executive Director of the Maverick County Development Corporation in Eagle Pass, Texas, and for the past seven years as an adjunct faculty member for Southwest Texas Junior College.

In 1996, Former President Bill Clinton appointed Canales as Deputy State Director for Texas Rural Development. She worked as the Acting Associate Administrator for Rural Business and Cooperative Service in Washington, D.C. She served as the Legislative Representative for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Canales received a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. She received a Master of Arts degree in Urban Studies from Trinity University in San Antonio, and a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

Shayna Cherry, Confidential Assistant to the Administrator of Rural Business and Cooperative Service, served recently as an associate in White House Personnel. She was a Regional Field Director for South Florida during the general election for the Obama campaign. Cherry joined the Obama campaign in the New Hampshire primary and worked through six other primaries across the country.

Liz Purchia, Confidential Assistant to the Administrator of Rural Business and Cooperative Services, comes to USDA from the Presidential Inaugural Committee where she was an Assistant to the Director in the Office of the President-Elect. She was also a field organizer in Iowa for the Obama campaign, managing the office and field operations for Muscatine County.

Tammye Trevino, Administrator for Housing and Community Facilities, is the CEO of FUTURO, a Texas housing and economic development non-profit. She has been on the receiving end of several USDA loan and grant programs, including the Intermediary Relending Program and Rural Business Enterprise Program. She is a native of Pearsall, Texas.

Tim Gannon, Confidential Assistant to the Administrator of Housing Programs, most recently served as the Deputy Political Director for the Obama-Biden campaign in Iowa. He previously led Iowa efforts for “Ask the Candidates About Darfur,” a national campaign of the Genocide Intervention Network. Gannon, a native of Mingo, Iowa, has also worked for the Iowa House Democrats as Caucus Director. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

Jenny Montoya Tansey – Special Assistant, Rural Housing. Born and raised in Albuquerque, N.M., Tansey received her bachelor's degree from Columbia University and her law degree from Stanford Law School. Upon receiving her J.D., she joined President Obama's primary field campaign in Nevada in July 2007.

Yeshimebet Abebe – Special Assistant, Rural Utilities. An Iowa native, Abebe most recently worked with Rep. Bruce Braley of Iowa. She has practiced law in both the private and non-profit sector. She worked on the Obama Campaign in Indiana during the General Election and volunteered in Iowa. Abebe received her B.S. in Urban Regional Studies from Cornell University, and she earned her Juris Doctor from the University of Miami School of Law, where she served as Articles and Comments Editor of the University of Miami International and Comparative Law Review. She subsequently earned her M.A. degree in International Law and the Settlement of Disputes from the United Nations Mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica and a Certificate in International Humanitarian Law from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

John Padalino – Special Assistant, Rural Utilities. Padalino has extensive experience working in water and wastewater utilities following graduation from the University of Texas. He has certifications from the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission to operate groundwater production plants and wastewater treatment facilities. Padalino earned his law degree from Rutgers where he interned with the Honorable Joseph E. Irenas, United States District Court Judge for the District of New Jersey and served as Lead State Constitutional Law Editor of the Rutgers Law Review. He also received a fellowship in the Marshall-Brennan Fellowship Program teaching constitutional law to high school students in Camden, N.J. He focused his law practice on environmental and administrative law, appellate and commercial litigation and served as general counsel to water districts in Texas. John has been a member of the Law Focused Education Committee for the State Bar of Texas and currently serves as Chair of the committee.

Lisa Zaina – Chief of Staff, Rural Utilities. Most recently Zaina served as assistant vice president-state regulatory affairs at CTIA – The Wireless Association®. She served as the executive director of the Independent Telephone and Telecommunications Alliance. Previously, she served as CEO of the Universal Service Administrative Company. She was vice president for Industry and Regulatory Affairs and corporate secretary for Shenandoah Telecommunications in Edinburg, Va. She has also served as senior counsel and associate bureau chief and the deputy bureau chief for the FCC's former Common Carrier Bureau (now the Wireline Competition Bureau) and as vice president and general counsel for the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies. Zaina is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., and Wake Forest University School of Law in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Curt Wiley – Chief of Staff, Rural Business Service. Wiley, an Iowa native, has extensive experience in state government and public-private partnerships in the Midwest. He served then

Indiana Governor Evan Bayh as Executive Assistant for Commerce and Agriculture. Wiley's previous positions include Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation, Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Commerce, and Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Transportation. Wiley has also worked for Fannie Mae as the Director of the Indiana Community Business Center, and the Urban Land Institute as the Executive Director of its 1,500 member Chicago District Council.

Katie Yocum – Confidential Assistant, Rural Utility Service. Yocum most recently served as confidential assistant and director of outreach under Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein at the Federal Communications Commission. Before that, Yocum worked as the campaign coordinator for the Media and Democracy Coalition, a national coalition of nonprofit organizations committed to amplifying the voices of the public in shaping media and telecommunications policy. She received a degree in Media Studies from the University of Illinois College of Communications where she studied at the Institute for Communications Research.

Jessica Zufolo – Deputy Administrator, Rural Utility Service. Most recently Zufolo served as senior policy director for telecommunications, media and technology research for Medley Global Advisors. She served as Legislative Director for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners where she was responsible for developing and executing national legislative strategy and policy on Capitol Hill involving telecommunications, technology, consumer protection and water. Before joining NARUC, Zufolo worked for the late New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, then-Congressman Charles E. Schumer of New York and Rep. Peter A. Defazio of Oregon.

Natural Resources and Environment

Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment - ??

Meryl Raymar Harrell, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, served as the State Political Outreach Director for the Obama Campaign for Change in Wisconsin. She previously worked as the Public Lands Associate at The Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C. Harrell is a graduate of Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut, where she studied environmental law. She graduated magna cum laude with an A.B. in geosciences and environmental studies from Princeton University.

Jay Jensen has been appointed Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. The major responsibility of this position is oversight of the U.S. Forest Service. Since May 2005, Jensen has been Executive Director of the Council of Western State Foresters/Western Forestry Leadership Coalition. The Coalition is a federal-state governmental partnership. Jensen had served earlier as the Coalition's Government Affairs Director. He has also served as Senior

Forestry Advisor for the Western Governors Association, where he was responsible for the biomass energy program. Before that, as lead forestry advisor for the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture, Jensen helped develop forestry provisions under the 2002 Farm Bill. He has also served as lead policy analyst for the National Association of State Foresters.

Ann Mills, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, most recently worked at American Rivers. As a senior staff person for Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, Mills directed the Senate office and was involved with the senator's work on agricultural and natural resource management issues. Mills also worked for California Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy and then-Congressman Richard Durbin. Mills holds a Masters Degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin, and a BA in Political Science from Tufts University.

Dave White is the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service. White has been serving as Acting Chief since January. He came up through the ranks of the agency, working in several states and eventually headquarters, before becoming the State Conservationist in Montana most recently. White served on Senator Lugar's (R-IN) staff and on Senator Harkin's (D-IA) staff during consideration of the 2002 and 2008 Farm Bills, respectively, making him one of the most farm bill savvy Chiefs in memory and providing him with a up-close view of the making of the Conservation Stewardship Program, the major new conservation initiative of those two farm bills.

Julie Grogan-Brown, Confidential Assistant, worked as a Field Organizer for the Campaign for Change in Pahrump, NV. She also previously taught civics to high school students at Northern High School in Durham, N.C., and conservation practices at Eagle's Nest Camp in Pisgah Forest, N.C., over several summers. Originally from Takoma Park, Md., she is a graduate of Manhattan College, Bronx, N.Y., and Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Joe Barbiero – Confidential Assistant. Barbiero most recently performed research for domestic agencies for the Obama Administration. He joined the Obama Campaign in Des Moines, Iowa in September 2007 and worked in the Field Department throughout 2008 campaigning in Nevada, Colorado, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. Originally from Milford, Conn., Barbiero spent most of the past 6 years in Philadelphia. He is a graduate of Temple University where he studied Political Science.

Jason Weller – Chef of Staff. Prior to USDA, Weller worked for the Agriculture Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee that crafts bills to fund USDA's programs and activities. He also served the House Budget Committee where he helped to construct the annual congressional budget for agriculture, environment, and energy programs. Finally, he worked for five years with the White House's Office of Management and Budget where he assisted with the development and implementation of the budget for USDA's conservation programs. Prior to Washington, DC, Weller worked for several years with the California State Legislature where he provided fiscal and policy recommendations on a variety of natural resource conservation and environmental protection issues. A native of northern California, Weller attended Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., where he earned a degree in international relations. He also earned a graduate degree in public policy from the University of Michigan. He and his wife have two young daughters and live in Maryland.

Michael Martinez – Special Assistant, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Martinez has served at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in a variety of roles, including project and team management, environmental policy, and real estate program administration. Martinez earned a Juris Doctor degree from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minn. He earned a B.S. degree in natural resource recreation planning and management from the University of Illinois, and a M.A. in environmental studies from Northeastern Illinois University

Office of Congressional Relations

Krysta Harden, is Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, has been the director of the National Association of Conservation Districts for the past five years. Prior to that she lobbied for the American Soybean Association on conservation, environment, and energy issues and was an aid on Capitol Hill for a dozen years, including a stint as a House Agriculture Committee staffer and as chief of staff for Representative Charles Hatcher from her native Georgia.

Carol Clifford, Senior Advisor for Labor Affairs, has spent her career as a specialist in labor and employment law and policy. A member of the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team, she most recently served as a consultant and independent contractor specializing on labor and immigration matters. Before that, Clifford practiced law for over 17 years as Assistant General Counsel for the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union and was adjunct faculty at the George Meany Center for Labor Studies, now the National Labor College, in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Erin Hannigan, Staff Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, most recently served as an Associate for the White House Office of Presidential Personnel and as a Volunteer Coordinator for the Presidential Inaugural Committee. Previously she worked on the Obama campaign in Iowa and interned in the Moline, Ill., Senate office for then-Senator Obama.

Jennifer M. Yezak, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, most recently served as a consultant to the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) and previously served as director of legislative and regulatory affairs at NASDA. She has also served as vice president of AgSource, Inc., as a consultant to the United Soybean Board, and in several agencies at USDA. At the state level, she served as administrator for commodity programs for the Texas Department of Agriculture and as a staff member for the Committee on Agriculture and Livestock in the Texas House of Representatives. Yezak is a graduate of Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Agricultural Education and a Master of Agriculture in Agricultural Development.

Oscar Gonzales, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, most recently served as Associate Director of the UFW Foundation in Los Angeles, CA, and as Colorado Latino GOTV Director for the Obama/Biden campaign. He previously served as California Director for the National Hispanic Environmental Council, where he worked on federal legislation to protect California's unprotected wilderness and wild rivers. He has also worked for California Governor Gray Davis and California Assembly Speaker Antonio Villaraigosa. During the Clinton Administration, he served as Program and Training Officer for the federal Corporation for National Service and its AmeriCorps programs.

Office of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

Joe Leonard, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, has a strong academic, legislative and working history in civil rights. He has served with the office of Rep. Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (D-MI), and held executive positions with the Congressional Black Caucus, and the Black Leadership Forum.

Cristina Chiappe, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, most recently served as Latino Vote Director for the Obama for America Campaign in Virginia and was an Obama National Delegate to the National Convention.

Mary McNeil, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, served as the Transition Advisor to the National Congress of American Indians and on the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition. McNeil worked for the Potlatch Fund in Washington State and provided consulting services to tribal and other organizations. During the Clinton Administration, McNeil served as USDA's Director of Native American Programs and as a Search Manager in the White House Office of Presidential Personnel. McNeil worked as a Staff Assistant to Senator Brock Adams (D-WA), and as a Planner for the State of Alaska. She holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Stanford University and a law degree from Stanford Law School. She is an enrolled member of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

Departmental Administration

Daniel Basila - Confidential Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer. Basila was most recently a member of the Investor Relations team at the D.E. Shaw group in New York City. His previous experience includes investigating the development of pediatric brain and other human tumors at the University of California at San Francisco, and examining the molecular effects of complimentary and alternative cancer therapies at California Pacific Medical Center and the University of Chicago. He earned a Sc.B. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Brown University, and holds a MFA from the University of Texas at Austin.

Gregory Diephouse - Confidential Assistant. Diephouse most recently directed the Office of Strategic Planning for the State of Illinois Department of Human Services. In this position, he led strategic planning activities and a portfolio of special projects, including his department's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 efforts and Illinois' major e-government initiative for human services. From 2004-2007, he assisted the assistant secretary for Programs, where he worked to create Illinois' cutting-edge initiative to combat human trafficking. Diephouse also served as Nebraska operations director for President Obama's 2008 general election campaign. A Michigan native, Diephouse obtained his Master of Business Administration with honors and Master of Public Policy from the University of Chicago. Diephouse received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Roberta "Bobbi" Jeanquart - Confidential Assistant. Jeanquart most recently served as executive director of the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils. Jeanquart worked on natural resource conservation and economic development issues; implementation of national board policies; and management of the association's business functions.

Previously, she served for 12 years on the staff of U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur of Ohio while she was Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Appropriations Committee. As staff director for Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and associate staff to the Agriculture Appropriations Committee, Jeanquart worked on funding and policy issues in the areas of agriculture, conservation, child nutrition, food safety and rural development issues. Jeanquart, a Wisconsin native, holds a B.A. degree in political science from Marquette University and has completed graduate studies in comparative politics at the University of Toledo. **Perlie S. Reed**, nominee for Assistant Secretary for Administration, has worked as a consultant in the fields of agriculture, conservation, economic development and management. He had a singular career with NRCS, and its predecessor agency the Soil Conservation Service. He served in four states and headquarters during his career. He was state conservationist in Maryland and California, responsible for leading comprehensive soil, water, and resource conservation and development programs in those states. Reed, who began his career with USDA as a student trainee in 1968, was named Chief of NRCS in 1998 and served in that capacity until 2002. Following that, he was named Regional Conservationist for the Western Region of the United States. He has received numerous honors during his USDA career including the Professional Service Award from the National Association of Conservation Districts and the Presidential Rank Award - the highest award that can be given to a career government official.

Dr. Alma Cobb Hobbs, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, most recently served as the Dean of Agriculture at Virginia State University in Petersburg and as a member of the President's Council under Virginia State University President Moore. A career USDA executive, she previously was Special Assistant for Diversity and Outreach to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. Prior to that, she was Deputy Administrator for Economics and Community Systems with USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES). Hobbs holds a bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina and master's and doctoral degrees from North Carolina State University.

Robin Heard, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, most recently served as the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Civil Rights at USDA. She began her career with the department in 1976 with the Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service). She has served in several capacities across the country, which includes State Conservationist in Pennsylvania, Assistant State Conservationist in Utah, Human Resources Officer, Financial Manager and Resource Conservationist in Georgia. Heard is a native of Louisiana and a graduate of the University of Louisiana in Monroe.

Office of Chief Financial Officer

Evan Segal is Obama's nominee for Chief Financial Officer. He is the former President and Owner of Dormont Manufacturing Company, the leading manufacturer of flexible stainless steel gas appliance connectors. In this position, he led the dramatic growth of the company, increasing sales from \$5 to \$60 million while creating 250 new jobs. Segal has been active in the philanthropic world and currently serves as Chairman of the Evan and Tracy Segal Family Foundation which focuses on healthcare, environmental and human needs. He is a member of the UJF Pittsburgh Management Committee, a board member at the Community Day School and a member of the Board of Directors of Hillel: The Foundation for Campus Life. Segal also serves as

an Executive-In-Residence at the CMU Tepper School of Business and as a mentor to start-up businesses.