



**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
LEADERSHIP NETWORK**

Leadership L.A.

Leadership Southern California

Leadership Southern California Class of 2009

Seminar 9: Land Use, Housing & Transportation

Friday, June 19, 2009; Metro Headquarters, Union Station Room, 3rd Floor

- 7:30 – 8 a.m. Breakfast and Networking in Union Station Room, 3rd Floor**
- 8 – 8:10 a.m. Welcome & Announcements**
Kevin Cottrell, Executive Director, Southern California Leadership Network and Vice President, Leadership Programs, L.A. Area Chamber
- 8:10 – 8:30 a.m. Overview of the Day - Ron Milam**, Consultant (Leadership Southern California '07)
- 8:30 – 9:20 a.m. The Politics of Land Use, Housing & Transportation**
Hon. Ed P. Reyes, Councilmember, City of Los Angeles First Council District and Chairman, City Planning & Land Use Management Committee
- 9:20 – 9:35 a.m. Break**
- 9:35 – 10:25 a.m. Introduction to Case Study: What is Transit-Oriented Development?**
Ron Milam and *Gloria Ohland*, Vice President for Communications, Reconnecting America
- 10:25 – 10:40 a.m. Break and walk to Gold Line**
- 10:40 a.m. – Noon Case Study Excursion - Metro's Gold Line**
Ron Milam and *Beth Steckler*, Housing Consultant
- **Chinatown Station**
 - **Lincoln Heights/Cypress Park Station** – Puerta del Sol with *Sid Paul*, Director of For-Sale Housing, AMCAL Homes
- Noon – 1 p.m. Lunch - Memorial Park Station**, overview from *Meg Dickler-Taylor*, Owner, Large Marge Sustainables
- Transit-oriented Development in Pasadena**
Hon. Bill Bogaard, Mayor, City of Pasadena
- 1 – 1:45 p.m. Continue case study excursion**
- **Del Mar Station** – *Stefanos Polyzoides*, Partner, Moule & Polyzoides
- 1:45 – 2 p.m. Travel back**
- 2 – 2:30 p.m. Debrief on excursion – Ron Milam**
- 2:30 – 2:40 p.m. Break**
- 2:40 – 3:45 p.m. What is the Planning Strategy for Southern California? Moderated by Ron Milam, with:**
- *Hasan Ikhata*, Executive Director, Southern California Association of Governments
 - *Art Leahy*, CEO, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
 - *Katherine Aguilar Perez*, Executive Director, Urban Land Institute Los Angeles
 - *Marnie Primmer*, Executive Director, Mobility 21
- 3:45 – 4:30 p.m. Leader Connections Report Out & Sacramento Seminar De-brief - Kevin**
- Wrap Up and Program Close**
- 4:30 p.m. Happy Hour at Traxx Restaurant – Union Station**



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John Arena
Business Outreach Program Manager
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Los Angeles, CA

John Arena is the business outreach program manager at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the region's major water importer and wholesaler. Arena manages the Regional/Small Business Program and is responsible for reviewing \$500 million annually in contracting activity in an effort to maximize business opportunities for regional and small businesses in the water agency's six-county service area of Southern California. Arena graduated from California State University, Long Beach with a master's in public administration.



Michelle Attebery
Director of Events
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Pasadena, CA

Michelle Attebery manages and produces all signature events for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, including the annual Inaugural Dinner, World Trade Week Kickoff Breakfast, Small Business Awards, Construction Industry Awards, Mobility 21 Summit and all Access events, which regularly draw an average of more than 300 guests. Attebery is responsible for sponsorship solicitation, marketing, registration and production. A Southern California native, she graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a bachelor's of arts degree in history and received a certificate from the Institute of Organizational Management, U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Attebery has been involved with the Junior League of Los Angeles.



Terry Bodwin
Executive Director of Labor Relations
Unified Grocers

Irvine, CA

Terry Bodwin has more than 30 years' experience in the retail food industry. Her career in labor relations began at Ralph's division of Kroger. In 2000, Bodwin joined Unified Grocers, Inc., where she is the executive director of labor relations. At Unified, she is responsible for the corporate oversight and management of the labor relations activities, which include contract administration for 25 collective bargaining agreements, labor negotiations, policy writing, and legal compliance. Bodwin has a bachelor's of arts degree in labor studies with a minor in marketing and a master's degree in behavioral science. She enjoys outside activities and hiking the local Southern California mountains.



Diane Boskovich
Chief Wharfinger
Port of Los Angeles

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Diane Boskovich is the chief wharfinger for the Port of Los Angeles, the nation's busiest containerport and a major west coast steel port. The Wharfinger Division enforces and collects all vessel fees for the Port, including pilotage, wharfage, dockage and miscellaneous cargo rates; and also tracks all vessel movement within the Port; oversees commercial fishing boat dock operations; and issues permits for any filming done on Port property. As chief wharfinger, Boskovich plans, organizes and directs the activities of both wharfinger and administrative staff in the collection of all shipping service fees and assessments. She is also responsible for the compilation and distribution of the Port's monthly container throughput statistics, ranking the Port of Los Angeles first in the nation and eighth in the world. She provides direct customer service and serves as a primary contact for all of the Port's container and breakbulk operations.



Jerry Caligiuri
Field Representative
City of Long Beach, Office of Councilmember Val Lerch

Long Beach, CA

Jerry Caligiuri was born and raised in Long Beach and graduated from Long Beach City College and California State University, Long Beach. He has volunteered in many community organizations including the Greater Long Beach YMCA; Leadership Long Beach; Honorary Firefighters; Long Beach Uptown Lions Club; The Kiwanis of Bixby Knolls/ North Long Beach; and The Long Beach Uptown Y's Men Service Club. Prior to joining the Office of Vice Mayor Val Lerch, Caligiuri worked in the office of the 8th District Council in the City of Long Beach as a member of staff and as a community liaison in the public affairs office at Long Beach Airport.



Abraham Carons

Los Angeles, CA

Abraham Carons was most recently a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch out of the Beverly Hills branch. He is an accounting graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a past recipient of the Martin Luther King scholarship award and the SBC-Ameritech scholar award for his commitment to academic excellence and community service while serving disadvantaged and at-risk youths in Chicago. Carons has lived and studied in Africa, and enjoys art, culture and traveling.



Spencer Carter
District Sales Manager, Los Angeles
General Motors Corp.

Los Angeles, CA

After graduating from Whittier College in 1999 with a bachelor's of arts degree in business management and minor in marketing, Spencer Carter went to work for General Motors in its marketing department in Thousand Oaks. Years later he was transferred to San Francisco as financial manager for General Motors Acceptance Corporation (GMAC). Carter has now returned to Southern California as the district sales manager for General Motors Premium Divisions in Los Angeles.



Christina Clark
Vice President
Wixen Real Estate Services

Santa Monica, CA

Prior to joining Wixen Real Estate Services, Christina Clark was responsible for business development and client relations at RTKL Associates, Inc., an international architecture and design firm. Previously, Clark was with Gensler, Asia Global Crossing, and an intern to Sen. Dianne Feinstein. Clark is active in numerous organizations including CoreNet Global, Urban Land Institute, and Commercial Real Estate Women. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix and currently lives in Santa Monica with her husband Max.



Julia Cooksey
Director of Government & External Affairs
Verizon

Los Angeles, CA

Julia Cooksey's geographic responsibilities for Verizon include Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley, where she serves as the primary contact for government municipalities, community organizations, and philanthropic requests. Prior to working at Verizon, Cooksey was the public affairs assistant manager for State Farm Insurance Companies in the northeast region of the country. She is an alumna member of the Los Angeles African American Women's Public Policy Institute. In addition, Cooksey is an active community volunteer who has worked with many different organizations across the country including: BizFed, Providence Holy Cross Hospital, Junior Achievement, and Neighborhood Housing Services, to name a few. She holds a bachelor's of science degree in business management from the University of Phoenix. Cooksey was born and raised in California and currently resides in Los Angeles.



Mary Beth East, M.P.H.
Director of Health Services
WellPoint, Inc.

Santa Paula, CA

Mary Beth East began her employment with WellPoint, Inc. in 1991 working primarily in the area of state-sponsored programs. Her work in managed care has focused on the development of health education and disease management programs; policy development and program management serving approximately 1 million Medi-Cal and Healthy Families members in California. Her responsibilities currently extend to an additional 500,000 Medicaid members in seven states. East has worked with the Medicaid population for more than 25 years in Connecticut and California; beginning as a social worker with older adults in long-term care settings. She completed her undergraduate degree from the University of Connecticut and earned a master's in public health with a concentration in health education from California State University, Northridge.



Dolores Estrada
Grants Administrator
The California Endowment

Los Angeles, CA

Dolores Estrada is a grants administrator at The California Endowment, where her work involves centralizing administrative functions of grants from entry throughout the life of a grant, including document management and legal compliance review. She began her career in philanthropy in 1999 as a program assistant at The California Endowment. Estrada has been an active member of various philanthropic groups such as the Los Angeles chapter of Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy, Grant Managers Network and Hispanics in Philanthropy. She received her undergraduate degree in history from California State University, Northridge, and her master's in liberal studies from Georgetown University.



Jorge Flores
Senior Associate
Marathon Communications, Inc.

Los Angeles, CA

Jorge Flores joined the Marathon Communications team in 2005, significantly strengthening the company's capabilities in message development, issue advocacy, and crisis management. Prior to joining Marathon, Flores was an independent consultant developing successful outreach and communications strategies for energy companies, developers, nonprofits, public agencies, and educational institutions. As a political consultant, Flores has played key roles in political campaigns in L.A. and has lectured on election and outreach strategies to various organizations, including the American Jewish Committee's seminar on campaigns and elections, UC Berkeley's Center for Campaign Leadership and Wellstone Action!. Flores began his professional career in Spanish language advertising and is a graduate of Vassar College. He is president of the Board Directors of the L.A. Leadership Academy, an L.A.-based charter school.



Paul Giovannetti
Vice President, Principle in Charge
BOVIS Lend Lease

Torrance, CA

Paul Giovannetti has more than 16 years of experience in the construction industry. Since joining Bovis Lend Lease in 1995, he has held the positions of project engineer, assistant project manager, project manager, senior project manager, project executive and now principal-in-charge of the Los Angeles office. Giovannetti has the overall responsibility for the firm's Los Angeles office operations. His responsibilities include leadership, business development, financial reporting strategic planning and overall organizational development.



Colleen Haggerty
Senior Vice President
Bank of America

Pasadena, CA

Colleen Haggerty is senior vice president of Bank of America, managing media relations for the west coast. Prior to joining Bank of America in 2007, she was the communications director at Fannie Mae for the western U.S. for seven years. Haggerty also served as press secretary for U.S. Congresswoman Jane Harman's 1998 gubernatorial campaign, and press deputy for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein in Washington, D.C. from 1993-1998. Haggerty is a third-generation Angeleno, went to California State University, Long Beach, and currently lives in Pasadena with her husband, Sean, with whom she co-owns a family business.



Aaron Hake
Government Relations Manager
Riverside County Transportation Commission

Corona, CA

Aaron Hake is the government relations manager for the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), where he is responsible for leading Riverside County's advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. and Sacramento for better transportation investment and policy, as well as coordinating lobbying activities with transportation agencies throughout Southern California. Hake holds bachelor's degrees from American University in Washington, D.C., in political science and philosophy, and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California. He got his start under the mentorship of Riverside County Supervisor John Tavaglione, and went on to work for Senator Dianne Feinstein and Governors Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger. Hake is a member of the Corona Rotary Club; lead advisor for the Corona-Norco Family YMCA's Youth & Government program; and serves on the board of the Corona Historic Preservation Society and The Pick Group, a new service and professional development organization for young professionals within the City of Riverside. He will soon celebrate the third anniversary of his marriage to his wife, Lauralynn. They reside in Corona.



Larry Hygh, Ed.D.
Director of Communications
California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church

Pasadena, CA

Larry Hygh, Jr., Ed.D., has been the director of communications for the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church since 2002. The conference includes 390 local United Methodist Churches in Southern California, Hawaii, Guam, and Saipan, with a combined membership of 85,000. Hygh is also a reporter/anchor for the Crown City News, a weekly television show seen on two cable stations five times per week in the San Gabriel Valley. In 2007, Hygh earned a doctor of education from Pepperdine University in organizational leadership. He resides in Pasadena, and is a member of Scott United Methodist Church; a lifetime member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; the secretary/treasurer of the Zeta Tau Foundation; and a member of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association and the Black Journalists Association of Southern California.



Christopher Hubbard
Grants Coordinator
California Community Foundation

Oxnard, CA

Chris Hubbard works with the grants management team at the California Community Foundation to conduct general fund management for all donors, administer donor-recommended grants and ensure each grant complies with current IRS charitable giving guidelines. This department sent 5,000 grants totaling more than \$200 million last year. Hubbard previously worked for seven years in the private sector in corporate communications and real estate, both for a lender and for homeowners as a foreclosure avoidance specialist. Aside from philanthropy, his passion is SCUBA diving and he has presented at multiple conferences on preservation of the underwater archaeological sites around the world. He has also worked internationally, exploring cultural resources in Greece and Sri Lanka via geographic information systems (GIS) and ground excavations with ground-penetrating radar. A graduate of California State University, Northridge, Hubbard holds a bachelor's of science degree in finance and real estate. Hubbard also completed a thesis on the viability and financial/social returns on investment for the microfinance industry, focusing on how poor people around the world save and spend their money, to obtain a master's of arts in anthropology.



Adam Kevorkian
Public Affairs Senior Communications Specialist
Kaiser Permanente

Granada Hills, CA

Adam Kevorkian has been instrumental in researching and writing a range of health-related topics and issues for Kaiser Permanente. At the Los Angeles Medical Center, his responsibilities include internal and external strategic communications, media relations and strategy, technical writing, and complex issues management. He is also involved in community relations and special events. Kevorkian's experience includes international development, freelance writing, and teaching English. He lives in Granada Hills with his wife, Melissa, and their two sons.



Gloria Koo
Investment Consultant
KOTRA/Invest Korea

San Pedro, CA

Gloria Koo is a consultant at Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency/Invest Korea's Los Angeles office. In this capacity, she assists U.S. corporations and investors in finding partners, obtaining government incentives and expanding their operations in Korea. Actively involved in her church community, Koo serves with the music team by singing and playing the keyboard and pipe organ. She was born in Seoul, Korea, grew up in Seal Beach and now resides in San Pedro. She holds bachelor's of arts degree in economics and international relations from Stanford University. Koo is fluent in Korean and freelances translation and interpretation.



Steve Lieberman
Assistant Chief
Los Angeles County Police

Santa Clara, CA

Steve Lieberman is a 22-year veteran of the Los Angeles County Police. He currently holds the title of assistant chief. The Los Angeles County Police provide law enforcement services to the patrons, employees, and properties of County departments that contract for such services, and provides a safe environment for those who use these facilities. Assistant Chief Lieberman holds a degree in criminal justice administration and has successfully completed the West Point Leadership Program, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy and Deputy Leadership Institute Continuum. He resides in the North Los Angeles County area with his wife, Maria, and their three children.



Sandi Linares-Plimpton
Events and Outreach Officer
Central Basin Municipal Water District

Hacienda Heights, CA

Sandi Linares-Plimpton is the events and outreach specialist for Central Basin Municipal Water District, a water wholesaler that serves 24 cities in Southeast Los Angeles County, as well as unincorporated county areas. Linares-Plimpton has been with Central Basin for the past nine years managing hundreds of special events and outreach programs for the agency, and organizing events for numerous state, federal and international dignitaries. She recently designed the bilingual outreach campaign "Shut Your Tap!" also known as "¡Cierre Su Llave!" addressing the state's water shortage and teaching residents and businesses the importance of water conservation. Linares-Plimpton graduated from California State University, Long Beach, where she majored in speech communications (interpersonal and organizational) and received a scholarship from the Latino Healthcare Professionals Project to earn a certificate in healthcare administration. As a first generation American and the first to graduate from a four-year university, Linares-Plimpton is dedicated to community outreach and currently serves as a director on the Board of the American Red Cross, Rio Hondo Chapter, located in Whittier.



Richard A. Lombardo
General Manager, Hispanic Products
Unified Grocers

Commerce, CA

Richard "Rick" Lombardo is a native of Los Angeles. He began his career with Certified Grocers Independent in 1972 and has worked in the industry since then. Lombardo graduated from California State University, Long Beach and the University of Southern California Food Industry Management Program. In his current role at Unified Grocers, Lombardo is responsible for the sales of Hispanic products for all areas that Unified sells. He has had a diverse career at both Certified Grocers and Unified Grocers, specialty foods divisions as well as the general merchandise/health and beauty care divisions. In his spare time, Lombardo helps raise money for a number of charitable organizations. He has been married to his wife, Martha, for 30 years and has one son.



Rich Macias
Director of Regional and Comprehensive Planning
Southern California Association of Governments

Rancho Cucamonga, CA

Rich Macias is the director of regional and comprehensive planning for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) in Los Angeles, the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization. Macias has worked as a professional planner for 30 years. During this time he has worked for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District; the City of Los Angeles Redevelopment Agency; and for the past 10 years at SCAG. Over the course of his career, Macias has developed his expertise in planning for large-scale infrastructure projects. For the past 15 years his main area of focus has been on transportation infrastructure development, including aviation, goods movement and logistics, and transportation policy development. Macias is a proud alumnus of the University of Southern California.



Jessica Meaney
Assistant Regional Planner
Southern California Association of Governments

Los Angeles, CA

Jessica Meaney is a regional transportation planner at the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), the regional planning agency for six counties: Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura and Imperial. She received her master's of arts degree in urban sociology from California State University, Los Angeles and her undergraduate degree in American social and political studies from Prescott College. Meaney has lived car-free in Los Angeles for more than 10 years, which has deepened her commitment to planning for those who rely on transit, and it has convinced her that intelligent planning can persuade even people who can afford a car to go car-free, ride their bike, and/or reduce trips taken in the car. Meaney works to contribute to improving communities and urban environments, from perspectives rooted in community, public health, environmental conservation, sustainability and transportation.



Sam Morrissey, P.E.
Associate in Charge
Wilbur Smith Associates, Inc.

Pasadena, CA

Sam Morrissey, P.E., is the associate in charge of Wilbur Smith Associates' Los Angeles Office, with more than eight years of experience in the design, planning, forecasting, and operational analysis of transportation facilities. A majority of Morrissey's experience has been in planning and traffic engineering projects throughout California, with additional planning and engineering experience in Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Hawaii and Washington. In recent years, he has served both public and private sector clients in the analysis of multi-modal transportation system operations. In addition to his planning and design experience, Morrissey has extensive experience working with a variety of local, county, and state personnel to coordinate project delivery. He lives in Pasadena with his wife Ellie, a school psychologist.



Joseph Mosca
Public Affairs Manager
Southern California Gas Company

Sierra Madre, CA

Joe Mosca was born and raised in Providence, Rhode Island and graduated from Rhode Island College in 1995 with a bachelor's of arts degree in political science. He received a juris doctorate from Quinnipiac University School of Law in Connecticut in 1999, and became a member of the California Bar Association that year. Mosca practiced consumer and corporate bankruptcy law from 1999 to 2008 and is now employed by Southern California Gas Company, Sempra Energy Utilities. Additionally, Mosca was elected to Sierra Madre City Council in 2006, and he serves on several boards and committees representing his community and region. Mosca has a 16-month-old son and he enjoys hiking and traveling in his spare time.



April Powers
Managing Director
Manifest Executive Search

Beverly Hills, CA

Prior to starting her own firm, April Frerichs was the manager of diversity and recruiting for Nestlé USA. A Los Angeles native, Frerichs received her bachelor's degree in Spanish language and literature from the University of California, Berkeley, where she also had a focused area of study in African American studies. She began her recruiting career with Ryan, Miller & Associates, after which she launched her own executive search firm that focused on middle market and Fortune 500 companies. In addition to her role in diversity, Frerichs is very involved in giving back to the community. She has tutored at-risk youth since college and has volunteered with organizations such as School on Wheels, Junior Achievement, Nestlé "Adopt-a-School," "Reading Is Fundamental" and "Nestlé Pen Friends" programs. Frerichs currently serves on the West Coast Advisory Board for the Jackie Robinson Foundation as well as the Southern California chapter of the California Diversity Council.



Aaron Rios
Senior Manager of Public Affairs
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Loma Linda, CA

Aaron Rios has been with Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. since 1993, where he has focused on operations, merchandising, public affairs, civic outreach and philanthropic causes. Prior to joining Wal-Mart's Public Affairs in 2007 he was a market manager in the Inland Empire with responsibility for up to 12 stores, 4,000 associates and more than \$800 million in annual sales. Rios is an advisory board member for the Social Action Community Health System Clinics (SACHS) associated with Loma Linda Medical Center, and an advisor to the executive department of the California YMCA Youth & Government program, which teaches high school teens how government works at the state level in all three branches. He looks for outreach opportunities that benefit youth, children and underprivileged individuals. Rios recently joined the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.



Tanya Shelburne
Senior Manager of Dispute Consulting
Deloitte

Los Angeles, CA

Tanya Shelburne is a senior manager and investigator within Forensic & Dispute Services at Deloitte. She has provided international investigative services to corporate clients, law firms, financial institutions, nonprofits and governments for more than 18 years. During her career, Shelburne has worked on and/or managed several high profile assignments to include tracking the assets of Saddam Hussein internationally as well as those of the Holocaust survivors through the Swiss banking system, foreign corrupt practices act investigations and the implementation of money laundering prevention programs for banking institutions in various Latin American countries. Shelburne grew up in Southern California and currently lives in Los Feliz with her husband and two daughters.



Susan Sifuentes-Trigueros
Regional Public Affairs Manager
The Gas Company, a Sempra Energy utility

Walnut, CA

Susan Sifuentes-Trigueros is a highly skilled public relations professional with more than 17 years' experience in corporate governmental, community, and media relations. Her specific expertise is in ethnic and utility public relations. She joined the Southern California Gas Company in 1982, where she has held several positions in the company's accounting and human resources departments in addition to public affairs. In her capacity as regional public affairs manager, she is responsible for the strategic direction in the greater Los Angeles area.

Sifuentes-Trigueros attended the University of Southern California where she received a bachelor's of science degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting. She serves a number of community organizations, including the League of Cities Partners Steering Committee; Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE); USC-Mexican American Alumni Association; Valley Industry and Commerce Association and San Fernando Valley Economic Alliance. In 2002, Sifuentes-Trigueros was honored by Women's eNews as one of the "21 Leaders for the 21st Century" for her work in civic participation and in 2007 received the Corporate Award for Girls Today Women Tomorrow mentoring program. Sifuentes-Trigueros resides in Walnut with her husband Mario and their three children, Vanessa, Brittany, and Elena.



Tanya Silvio
M.B.A. Candidate
University of California, Los Angeles

Playa Vista, CA

Tanya Silvio is currently attending the Anderson School of Management at the University of California, Los Angeles, to receive her master's in business administration with an emphasis in finance and the global economy. She recently completed six and a half years in the United States Air Force, where she served in South Korea, Germany, Africa, and Los Angeles. Originally from Chicago, she graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical

University's Arizona campus with a bachelor's of science degree in aerospace engineering and minors in physics and military studies. With an insatiable desire for education and aspiration to continue to serve, Silvio holds a leadership role with the Junior League of Los Angeles, a women's training and volunteer organization in Southern California.



Brissa Sotelo, M.P.P.
Public and Government Affairs Representative
Tesoro Corporation Los Angeles Refinery

Montebello, CA

Brissa Sotelo believes in the power of community policy: where and how communities can help shape policy as stakeholders. She is especially interested in the ways in which communities influence the operations of private industry, an interest that plays a large role in her job at Tesoro Corporation Los Angeles Refinery. As manager of external affairs for Tesoro, Sotelo is concerned with managing and coordinating the full range of communication and stakeholder management activities for the company's Los Angeles refinery. She handles everything from

community relations to media relations to crisis communications. According to Sotelo, who also manages the refinery's social investment activities, empowering the community to work with private industry to achieve mutually beneficial results is not easy. She believes finding common ground where the community does not have to compromise its needs, and the company does not have to violate its value system, is something that requires a lot of time and strategizing to reach agreements. Previously, Sotelo worked for Los Angeles Community Development, where she prepared reports to the mayor, city council, and the Workforce Investment Board. She has also worked for Los Angeles City Councilmember Nick Pacheco and Congressman Xavier Becerra.



Minna Taylor
Senior Vice President of Legal Affairs
Fox Broadcasting Company

Los Angeles, CA

Minna Taylor is the head of the entertainment legal department for Fox Broadcasting Company. Her practice focuses on transactional entertainment law, including contracts, negotiation, intellectual property issues, and promotion and marketing issues. Prior to joining Fox, she worked in business and legal affairs at Wilshire Court Productions, Inc., and in labor relations at Paramount Pictures. She received her bachelor's of arts degree, cum laude, from the State University of New York at Stony Brook and her juris doctorate degree from the University

of Southern California. At USC, she served on Law Review, was Order of the Coif, and externed for the California Supreme Court. Taylor has been an active member of Junior League of Los Angeles (JLLA) for 5 years, serving in a variety of leadership roles, including secretary to the Board, chair of the Project Research and Development Committee, and chair of the Aviva Incubated Project Committee. She has also worked on JLLA community projects and development activities.



Shahram Vahdat, P.E.
Vice President & Office Manager
URS Corporation

Los Angeles, CA

Shahram Vahdat, P.E., is vice president and office manager of the URS Los Angeles office. He has more than 28 years of experience as a civil engineer, with special expertise in project management, highway planning and design, roadway and interchange design, arterial access, and interagency review and coordination. He enjoys strong working relationships with key city and county of Los Angeles agencies. He also has extensive experience in site development for commercial and industrial projects, and capital improvement projects. Vahdat is an active member of America Society of Civil Engineers, American Council of Engineering Companies, Construction Management Association of America, and the Project Management Institute.



Jodi Wakefield
Captain III, Central Area
Los Angeles Police Department

Stevenson Ranch, CA

Captain III Jodi Wakefield joined the Los Angeles Police Department in 1983 and has worked a variety of assignments throughout her career, beginning as a probationary officer in Devonshire Division patrol. In 2007, she was promoted as the area commanding officer for Central Division. Captain III Wakefield was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley and graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles. She also graduated from the West Point leadership course provided by the LAPD. Captain III Wakefield is a member of the Los Angeles Women's Police Officers Association and the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives. She is the mother of two teenage children, Katlin and James, and a stepdaughter, Heather.



Rachelle Reyes Wenger
Director of Public Policy and Community Advocacy
Catholic Healthcare West

Los Angeles, CA

Rachelle Reyes Wenger is the director of public policy and community advocacy for Catholic Healthcare West (CHW), the 8th largest hospital system in the nation and the largest not-for-profit hospital provider in California with 41 acute care facilities in California, Arizona, and Nevada. Wenger manages, among other issues, key social and eco-justice policy issues, such as access to quality, affordable care, community and environmental health. Wenger coordinates systemwide efforts to mobilize CHW's hospital-based policy advocacy liaisons to work with elected officials in support of CHW's policy positions. She has developed strong collaborations and partnerships at the local, state, national, and global arenas to seek and build common ground. Wenger holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Northridge. She enjoys being a mother of two children and writing poetry, and has taken a great leap of faith to sky dive.



Amy Willard
Management Analyst
Los Angeles World Airports

Los Angeles, CA

A native of Los Angeles, Amy Willard began her professional career as a management assistant with the City of Los Angeles Community Development Department. She transferred to Los Angeles World Airports in 2000 and has worked with various divisions including LAX public relations, human resources and the office of customer experience, marketing and public relations. In her current role, Willard supports three executives within the organization in charge of internal and external communications, operations, maintenance and security. In addition to her career with the City of Los Angeles, Willard is also a part-time professor at Loyola Marymount University in the Department of Communication & Fine Arts. She is a member of Rotary International, Inglewood Chapter. Willard graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a bachelor's of arts degree in both English and communication studies. She received her master's of arts degree in communications from California State University, Northridge. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Ryan, and daughter, Leilani.



Brian Williams
Director of Government Affairs
Southern California Association of Governments

Pasadena, CA

Brian K. Williams serves as the director of government and public affairs for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). In this capacity, Williams' primary responsibility is to maintain and expand governmental, community and private sector participation in the regional planning work of SCAG. He also directs SCAG's regional offices and leads the communication section. Prior to this role, Williams served as the assistant city manager for the City of Pasadena; the deputy mayor for transportation, environment, and infrastructure for the City of Los Angeles and worked in the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney. He holds memberships on the United Way Board of Directors, Ward A.M.E. Church Board of Trustees, Tournament of Roses Association, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, The Boule', State Bar of California, Los Angeles County Bar Association, and Langston Bar Association. Williams earned a bachelor's of arts degree in political science at the University of California, Los Angeles and received a juris doctor degree from the UCLA School of Law. A native of Southern California, Williams is married with two children.



Denise Williams
Operations Manager
Dickerson Employee Benefits Insurance Services Inc.

Winnetka, CA

Denise Williams is the operations manager for Dickerson Employee Benefits, a risk management and insurance firm based in Los Angeles. Her immediate responsibilities include business development, strategic planning, project management, customer service strategy development and business process improvement initiatives. Williams earned a bachelor's of arts degree in sociology from the University of California, Los Angeles and her master's in business administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Her professional background has included insurance and sales; human resources; counseling and training; and change management. Williams' affiliations include the Los Angeles Urban League, Los Angeles Urban League of Young Professionals and the UCLA Black Alumni Association. She is working diligently to grow The Chila Group, a human resources consulting firm.



Phillip Wolfe
Health System Director
Cedars-Sinai Health System

Beverly Hills, CA

Phillip Wolfe is currently the health system director at Cedars-Sinai responsible for the daily operations of the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute, IBD Institute, Gastroenterology Services, ENT Services, Plastic Surgery, Urology, Infectious Diseases, Ophthalmology, Thoracic Surgical Services as well as several of the Institution's Centers of Excellence. Wolfe is also responsible for the strategic, financial and quality goals for each of these services. He relocated to Los Angeles from New York City in 2006, where he was the director of operations for the Westchester Division and Payne Whitney Psychiatric hospitals for New York Presbyterian, Columbia/Cornell. Wolfe is a graduate of Indiana University, New York University and Columbia University. He holds master's degrees in health care management and policy and public health.



Laurie Wright
Staff Vice President
WellPoint, Inc.

San Diego, CA

The majority of Laurie Wright's work history is in the workers' compensation managed care industry for 20+ years, running a \$50 million west region. She is currently a staff vice president of the employee assistance programs (EAP) for WellPoint/Anthem Blue Cross nationally. Wright has led revenue and profitability growth, managed direct sales and account management, networks, operations and RFP teams in her tenure. She has her master's degree in counseling and a juris doctorate of law.

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The mission of the Southern California Leadership Network is to develop a productive network of exemplary and diverse leaders in the business, government and community sectors who are capable of addressing the critical challenges facing the Southern California region.