



INSURANCE DIVERSITY TASK FORCE 2015-2016 BIOS

*Insurance Diversity Task Force Members were appointed by Commissioner Jones in March 2015
Members of the Task Force include:*

Linda Akutagawa is President and CEO of Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc. (LEAP) where she is responsible for LEAP's strategic direction, sustainability, relationships and collaborations. A beneficiary of LEAP's leadership programming and a passionate social entrepreneur for over 20 years, she has dedicated herself to continuing the cycle of leadership development and inspiring Asian and Pacific Islanders to aspire to leadership roles in all sectors of society. Akutagawa is Vice Chair of Boat People SOS-Orange County, a member of the Board Directors of the Asian Women Leadership Network and a Board member of Japanese American Community Services (JACS), a community grant-making organization.

Danielle Beavers advocates for a financial sector that looks more like America by leading Greenlining's work with the federal Offices of Minority and Women Inclusion. She also leads Greenlining's diversity work in the insurance and technology fields. Beavers believes that increasing the representation of people of color in the banking world is essential to economic recovery and prosperity for the entire nation. She received her BA from Stanford University in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity with Honors.

Robin M. Billups joined Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) in 2013, to lead WBENC's business development efforts in the West. Billups creates business development strategies towards retention and engaging existing corporate members while attracting new corporate member prospects. Collaborating with the WBENC Team, corporate partners and critical stakeholders, she assists in achieving corporate supply chain diversity and inclusion goals. Formerly, Robin served as the V.P./Corporate Procurement/National Supplier Diversity Manager with U.S. Bank. Robin developed and implemented Supplier Diversity strategies to diversify the suppliers associated with the bank's operations.

Janice P. Brown is the owner and founder of Brown Law Group, a leading Southern California litigation law firm specializing in all aspects of employment and business litigation, including intellectual property, fraud, contract, and class action litigation. Ms. Brown is known for her professional distinctions as well as her commitment to the legal community with over 25 years as a trial lawyer with significant trial, arbitration, and appellate experience. The firm's lawyers are known for their commitment to excellence, client-focused service and community service. In part, Brown Law Group serves the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association; I Love A Clean San Diego; the National Association of Minority and Women Owned Law Firms; and the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, to name a few.

Pat Fong Kushida is the President and CEO of the Sacramento Asian-Pacific Chamber of Commerce (SACC) serving in this capacity since 1998, and President and CEO of the California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce formed in 2010. This combined entity represents the largest ethnic chamber in California today. Through her work, the chamber has a 3- year contract establishing the chamber as the Small Business Transportation Resource Center serving California, Arizona, Nevada and Hawaii. She created a separate Foundation to house each chamber's economic and workforce development, leadership, and education programs. Through this effort, the chamber won a significant contract with Covered California to sign up over 50,000 API businesses in California. Fong Kushida currently serves on the boards of Goodwill Industries, Sutter Health, and Golden Pacific Bank, and joined a national effort successfully forming a national chamber of commerce in 2013, the Asian Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce and Entrepreneurship.

Melinda Guzman is CEO of the Melinda Guzman Professional Corporation, a certified Woman and Hispanic owned law firm. She serves as Director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco where she is Chair of the bank's Governance Committee. She is also a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors, General Counsel to the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, Trustee Emeritus of the California State University Board of Trustees, and former General Counsel of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Guzman has over 25 years of experience representing insurance companies and insureds in coverage, defense and bad faith matters.

Craig Holden is a Senior Partner and Chairman of the National Commercial Litigation Department for the law firm of Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith, one of the largest law firms in California and the nation with nearly a thousand lawyers and over 30 offices. He is a skilled business trial lawyer and his clients range from publicly traded companies to entrepreneurs. Among his awards, he has been named a "Super Lawyer" by Thompson Reuters, "Advocate of the Year" by Public Counsel, "Minority Power Broker," by Law360 and "Most Influential Black Lawyer" by Savoy Magazine. In addition to his law practice, he has served on numerous boards, including most recently as President of the State Bar of California, as one of 50 distinct leaders selected by the RAND Corporation to focus on better business regulation and civic justice, and the Board of Directors for the California Minority Counsel Program.

Ramon Jones is the Regional Vice President of Nationwide Insurance—the first and only insurer to have a representative on the inaugural Insurance Diversity Task Force—where he manages premium and distribution goals for the Nationwide brand in 10 western states, including California. Ramon Jones has remained an active participant with the Insurance Diversity Initiative and has served as a speaker for many Initiative events.

Michael G. Keeley is the President and CEO of MGK Risk and Insurance Services specializing in commercial insurance broker and risk financing expertise. He possesses over 30 years of experience working in commercial insurance litigation management, claims resolution and as an independent broker representing municipalities, school districts, private employers and non-profit organizations. Keeley has served on various philanthropic and non-profit advisory boards of directors including the first Insurance Diversity Task Force, SMUD Community Advisory Partners, CA Governor's Small Business Task Force and the Greater Sacramento Urban League. He is also the current president of Sigma Pi Phi fraternity in Sacramento, CA.

Mark Morales is the Vice President of the SBA Division of HomeStreet Bank. With 18 years in business banking experience, Mark's specialties include SBA financing and loan programs: SBA Contract Loans (CAPLines), SBA Export financing, SBA 7(a) Business Loans, SBA 7(a) Real Estate Loans, SBA 504 1st Trust Deed Real Estate Loans and Real Estate Bridge Loans. Morales speaks to CPA's, Business Groups, Chambers of Commerce and the Beauty Industry Market Access (BIMA) group on access to capital and SBA Loan Programs. He is a Board Member and Treasurer of the LAGLCC and is on the membership training committee that runs programming to help business owners handle the business side of their businesses. He works with the NGLCC to help with Minority Business Certifications for the LGBT community. He co-owns a certified LGBT Business Enterprise "Charles Jacobsen, Inc." an importer of Asian Antiques and Accessories in Culver City.

Salvador Peinado, Jr. has been with CSAA Insurance Exchange since January 2013. He is responsible for developing and implementing CSAA Insurance Exchange's Supplier Sourcing programs which include Supplier Diversity, Innovation, Environmental Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility. Prior to CSAA, he was employed at California Water Service Company where he was responsible for Procurement, Fleet, Facilities and Supplier Diversity. Peinado has a B.A in Economics from UC Berkeley and a M.A. in Economics from San Jose State University. He also taught courses in Economics and Investments at San Jose State University.

Cathy Schwamberger is an Associate General Counsel for State Farm in Sacramento, California. Ms. Schwamberger serves as lead attorney for State Farm's legislative and regulatory activities in 10 western states, including California. Schwamberger joined State Farm in 1984, as an auto claims representative in Chicago, IL. She progressed through several auto claims management positions in Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul; served as the public affairs manager for Minnesota and Wisconsin; and as the company's learning and development manager for Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana. In early 2004, Schwamberger moved into State Farm's law department in Sacramento where she worked on California legislative issues from 2004 to 2006. She assumed her current position in 2006. A native of Illinois, Schwamberger graduated magna cum laude from Illinois Wesleyan University and graduated cum laude from Loyola University of Chicago's evening law program. Schwamberger holds the Certificate in General Insurance and the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter designation.

Melanie Shelby is an award winning professional with a nearly 20-year track record of exceeding business objectives for top tier organizations such as AEG, Allstate, California Department of Insurance, Comcast NBC Universal, Farmers, Personal Insurance Federation of California, PG&E, State Farm, Southern Gas Company and others. Melanie resides on the dynamic leadership team at Gray, Greer, Shelby & Vaughn LLC, a minority and woman owned public affairs firm. Melanie also serves on the oversight committee for a \$22 million violence prevention parcel tax, the Corporate Roundtable for National Black Caucus of State Legislators, Lincoln Child Center, Oakland African American Chamber of Commerce and The Utility Reform Network boards. Most recently, she was recognized as an Ella Hill Hutch State Honoree and the recipient of the Madam CJ Walker Entrepreneur Award.

Randy Sinnott is the founding partner of Sinnott, Puebla, Campagne & Curet, a law firm with offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Sinnott's firm specializes in representing insurance companies in insurance coverage and bad faith litigation. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, and his law degree from the University of Southern California Law School. Randy served in the United States Marine Corps, both active duty and Reserve, and retired after 30 years as a Colonel. He served combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and was wounded in action and decorated for valor. Randy's law firm is a Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise, and is believed to be the largest DVBE law firm in California. Randy has served, and continues to serve, on the boards of directors of several non-profit organizations, and has been active in the DVBE community.

Scott Syphax is the President and CEO of The Nehemiah Companies - a Sacramento based national social enterprise and real estate development corporation. As CEO of Nehemiah, he manages the Nehemiah Community Reinvestment Fund, which has leveraged over \$880 million in projects to spur development in low-income and underserved communities. Syphax leads the development team of Township 9 - a 2300 unit master-planned, smart-growth community in downtown Sacramento. In addition to the Task Force, he serves on the boards of Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, Norcal Mutual Insurance Company, Medicus Insurance Company, Valley Vision, and American Leadership Forum. Syphax is also the Emmy Award winning Host and Executive Producer of PBS affiliate KVIE's weekly public affairs program *Studio Sacramento*.