



Leadership VA

Leadership VA (LVA) 2016 Fellows

Aghen, Kirsten	VHA	Evans, Lianna D.	VHA	O'Neill, Sami	OIG
Alphonso, Thomas	VBA	Fase, Brian R.	VHA	Parker, Lateefah S.	VACO
Aragon, David Z.	VHA	Forgan, Jason	VACO	Parrinello, Brandon	OIG
Arnold, Eric W.	NCA	Franklin, Barrett J.	VHA	Pierce, Jessica L.	VBA
Askey, Jennifer	VHA	Fredrickson, Lisa	VHA	Pommer, Stacy	VHA
Bann, David V.	VHA	Fudge, George D.	VACO	Quinones-Romero, Edda	VHA
Barnes, Harold	VHA	Gannan, John W.	VACO	Rampertab, Deo	VHA
Beebe, Alyssa M.	VHA	Ganne, Srivalli	VHA	Reed, Brian	VACO
Bennett, John	VHA	Gilley, Angela	VHA	Rhodes, Suzanne	VBA
Bennett, Lorelee	OIG	Glascoe, Kelvin	VACO	Robinson, Harry M.	VHA
Berry, Amanda	VBA	Gransberry, Christopher	VBA	Rodriguez, Lynn	VBA
Biagioli, Debbie	VBA	Gresser, Susan K.	VHA	Roth, Michael T.	NCA
Blaivas, Allen	VHA	Hacker, Hope S.	VHA	Sauvage, Dennise	VHA
Boggs, Steven D.	VHA	Hamilton, Christine	VBA	Sheppard, Kip	VACO
Brandt, Marc A.	VHA	Hamilton, Lisa M.	VHA	Snead, Chip	VACO
Brown, Erin	VBA	Hammond, Amy A.	VBA	Spector, Amanda	VACO
Burns, Millette	VBA	Harper, Samuel	VACO	Starr, Leigh	VHA
Cave, Jason	VHA	Heinle, Daniel	VACO	Subramanian, Usha	VHA
Chao, Sergio S.	VBA	Heller, Andrew	VHA	Tann, Nina	VBA
Clark, Lisa Marie	VACO	Hennings, Bradley	VACO	Tharp, David	VHA
Clark, Ricky L.	VACO	Hirtle, Ronald W.	VHA	Theres, James W.	NCA
Corbus, Kevin	VHA	Holloway, Justin	VBA	Torres-Toro, Mario	VACO
Coughenour, Derek	VHA	Huebert, Shannon M.	VHA	VanMeter, David J.	VHA
Cupples, Sandra	VHA	Jagadeesan, Rajasekar	VHA	Varra, Alethea	VHA
Curry, Casey	VBA	Johnson, Cynthia L.	VHA	Warguez, Christopher	VBA
Dannenberg, Walt C.	VHA	Knapp, John G.	NCA	Warren, Julio A.	VHA
Deaner, Stephanie	VHA	Kollar, Ellen	VACO	Williams, Christopher S.	VHA
Dent-Lockett, Dionne	VBA	Koonce, Dustin	VACO	Wright, Birch	VHA
Donoghue, Joseph	VACO	LeDeaux, Pamela	VHA	Yee, Lisa	VACO
Dottor, Wende	VHA	Lester, James	VBA	Yi, Song	NCA
Eiselen, Grant K.	VHA	Lipton, James	VHA	Zadora, Kristy	VBA
Ekwuabu, Ogochukwu	VACO	McLeod-Poole, Kenyatta	VACO	Zeitz, Brian	VACO
Emery, Kelli	VACO	Morin, Gregg	VBA		
Emmet, Bronwyn	VACO	Northstar, Jan	VACO		

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Kirsten Aghen

Montrose, NY

Veterans Health Administration



Kirsten Aghen is a Health System Specialist (HSS) for the VHA Support Service Center (VSSC), in the Office of Organizational Excellence (10E). Kirsten transitioned from a Facility to National role in 2013 when she joined the VSSC Team. Currently, she serves as a key advisor to VHA Central Office, VISNs, and Facilities in the areas of the facility VA Site Tracking (VAST) project, site classifications, bed/occupancy rates and workload capture, and VACAA Choice list. Kirsten is pivotal in translating complex data into operational information.

Kirsten began her VA career at the VA Hudson Valley HCS, in former VISN 3. There, she served in many roles, including as a Nurse in Quality Management, the Patient Advocate, the Chief of Lean/System Redesign, and as a dual role as Chief of Public Affairs/Assistant to the Director.

Prior to joining the Department of Veterans Affairs, Kirsten worked in Washington, D.C. in the Secretary's Office of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health. She is a former Labor and Delivery Nurse, and enjoyed her time as a Health Care Operations and Financial Management Consultant for KPMG, LLC, before entering the public sector. Kirsten was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Morocco from '96-'98.

Kirsten earned a Master's in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, in 2000. She is a native of Connecticut but has made the New York City area her home, with her husband and three kids, for many years. She enjoys hiking, coaching soccer, and traveling.

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Thomas Alphonso

Washington, DC

Veterans Benefits Administration



Thomas Alphonso is the Team Leader of the Policy and Regulations Development Team, VBA Education Service. He started his VA career as a Presidential Management Fellow with Compensation Service in September 2009, serving as a Legal Consultant on their Regulations Staff. He then transitioned to his current position in August of 2013.

Prior to joining VA, he served as an Army officer for six years in both the Infantry and Finance Corps. During that time, he was stationed at Fort Benning, GA; Fort Jackson, SC; and Yongsan Army Garrison, Republic of Korea.

He holds a B.S. in Philosophy and Literature from the United States Military Academy, an M.A. in Finance from Webster University, and a J.D. from Boston College Law School. He is a member of both the New York and Massachusetts Bars.

He is a native of Saint Bernard, LA, a suburb of New Orleans, and resides in Rockville, MD, with his wife, Meghan, who is a staff attorney with VA's Office of the General Counsel, and his two daughters, Siobhan and Niamh.

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David Aragon

Las Vegas, NV

Veterans Health Administration



David Aragon, SMSgt(R), USAF, MBA/HRM, SHRM-SCP, FASPR, is one of 22 VA National Healthcare Recruitment Consultants with the Workforce Management and Consulting (WMC) Office's National Recruitment Program (NRP), assigned to support the VA's Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN) and Facility Stakeholders, Healthcare Systems and Clinics, by delivering professional level healthcare recruitment services and industry best practices in support of critical and difficulty-to-hire healthcare providers (Physicians, Nurses and Allied Health), Senior Executive Service and other Leadership, Administrative and Management staffing needs. Since joining the VA in July 2011, Dave has been assigned to VISN 22, Desert Pacific Healthcare Network in Long Beach CA, in support of five VA Healthcare Systems and 34 Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Southern Nevada and Southern California, and stationed in Las Vegas NV.

Dave earned his Master's in Business Administration (MBA) with Emphasis in Human Resources Management (HRM) from Webster University, and also holds National Certifications as a Senior Certified Profession (SCP) with the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) and Fellowship credentials with the Association of Staff Physician Recruiters (ASPR). Prior to joining the VA, he served on active duty with the U.S. Air Force as a Career Recruiter, Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, Recruitment Manager and Leader, culminating in 28 years of honorable service.

David serves on the boards of his local Home Owner's Association and on the Board of the Southern Nevada Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SNVSHRM) and is the Chair for SNVSHRM's Workforce Readiness Committee. He also serves as a Volunteer and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) of Clark County Nevada Court, Las Vegas NV, advocating on behalf of the needs of children in the care of the Court and Foster Care system in Clark County Nevada. He is a native of New Mexico and resides with his spouse Digna and their two children in Las Vegas, NV.

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Eric Arnold

Washington, DC

National Cemetery Administration



Eric Arnold is the Chief Business Architect for the National Cemetery Administration, Deputy Undersecretary for Management, Information Technology (IT). He joined NCA in 2015 and has served as NCA's representative on the execution of VA wide enterprise initiatives, the development and evaluation of the transformation of NCA operations and architecture.

He is a graduate of Syracuse University with a dual major in Economics and International Relations. Prior to joining NCA, he served as Business Architect for the Transportation Security Administration and has led large programs for VA, VBA, DHS, HHS and DOI over the last 12 years

He is active in supporting the National Museum of the American Indian, and the Museum of the Cherokee Indian. He is a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI). He is a native of Beverly Hills, California and resides with his wife in Alexandria, VA.

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Jennifer Askey

Philadelphia, PA

Veterans Health Administration



Jennifer Askey is the Communications Director at the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center in Philadelphia, PA. She joined the medical center in 2012, serving as the Supervisor for Public Affairs, Media, Command Information, Community Relations, Congressional Liaison, and Medical Media. In addition, she is currently serving as the interim Executive Assistant to the Medical Center Director.

Prior to joining the Philadelphia team, Jennifer served as the Public Affairs Officer and Congressional Liaison at the Hampton VA Medical Center, Hampton, VA. She began her federal service with the U.S. Army as a civilian Public Affairs Officer, serving for more than 14 years, overseeing media, community relations, command information and marketing in Stuttgart, Germany, as well as serving as the Operations Public Affairs officer for the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command. She began her career as a reporter for a civilian newspaper in Leesville, Louisiana, and editor for the 101st Fort Campbell Courier, Fort Campbell, KY.

Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Science in Communications and a Masters of Arts in Transformative Theories and Practices. She is a native of Pennsylvania, and resides with her husband, a retired U.S. Army Veteran, in Drexel Hill, PA.

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David Bann

Augusta, ME

Veterans Health Administration



David Bann is the Associate Chief of the MH Service of the VA Maine Health Care System. He has been in that role since joining VA Maine in 2011. He is responsible for overseeing MH operations on the main campus as well as in several community based outpatient clinics. He has lead a project to redesign the MH system resulting in improved services, timely access, collaboration with other clinical services throughout the Maine system and with community partners.

He has completed a VISN 1 Transformational Leadership Development Program and has conducted site surveys in conjunction with the Office of Mental Health Operations. David completed his residency at Dartmouth followed by a Geriatric Psychiatry fellowship at Duke University. He then worked extensively in community mental health as a Medical Director of inpatient units and as both Medical Director and Executive Director of a large community mental health center.

He has worked in the manufacturing industry prior to medical training and volunteered for a non-profit community organization serving adolescents and families. David is part of the leadership team in his church. He is a native of Boston and resides with his family in Brunswick, ME.

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Harold (Hal) Barnes

Marietta, GA

Veterans Health Administration



Hal Barnes, PE is the new Chief of Strategic Planning and Analysis for the Atlanta VA Health Care System. He began his federal career when he joined the VA in 2010 as a Project Engineer and has served in the Engineering Service Line as Associate Chief Engineer up through early 2016, responsible for the management of the Planning, Design, Construction and Maintenance programs.

He is a 1985 graduate from the School of Engineering at Georgia Southern University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. Prior to joining the Atlanta VA Health Care System, he worked for 25 years in the private sector as a consulting engineering providing planning, design and analysis services for a wide variety of complex healthcare projects throughout the Southeast.

He is a registered Professional Engineer (PE) licensed to practice in multiple states. He is also holds certification as a LEED AP, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional. Hal has been an active professional member in ASHE, American Society for Healthcare Engineering for 20+ years. Since joining the VA he has completed training and earned certifications for Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt, FAC-COR and FAC-P/PM.

Hal is a native of Atlanta GA and now resides with his wife Elizabeth in East Cobb, Marietta GA. They have two children Harry age 23 and Elise age 20, both currently in college. He proudly serves as the Chartered Organization Representative for Boy Scouts of America at his church overseeing the operations of three robust and active Scouting units – Cub Pack, Boy Scout Troop and Venturing Crew. When time allows Hal enjoys his outdoor hobbies including hunting, fishing, boating and mostly backpacking. He is an avid section hiker on the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine with a goal of through hiking the entire AT in the future.

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Alyssa Beebe

Saginaw, MI

Veterans Health Administration



Alyssa Beebe is the Assistant Associate Chief of Staff (ACOS), for Primary Care at the Aleda E. Lutz VAMC, Michigan. She joined the medical center in 2007. She served in Primary Care, initially as a staff provider, becoming the Assistant ACOS in 2012. As Assistant ACOS, she's responsible for assisting in the oversight of primary care services at Saginaw, and 9 CBOCs, which included supervision of staff providers, staffing and recruitment, staff mentoring, training and development, as well as coaching and leading teams. In 2016, she was asked to serve temporarily in a leadership role, developing the Group Practice Management (GPM) position, and structuring GPM program for the facility.

Major projects include serving on the team to develop and deploy the Patient Aligned Care Teams (PACT) model within the facility. She served as co-lead for the Pain Committee, implementing several projects, organizing pain grand rounds (chronic pain educational sessions) for PACT teams, as well as the development of a multidisciplinary Pain Resource Team, in response to the Opioid Safety Initiative. The combination of these efforts resulted in a 20% reduction in overall opiate prescribing. The facility also received national recognition for achieving >90% completion of Opioid Consent rates. She was also recognized as one of 40 finalists in Dr. Shulkin's Promising Practices Consortium, for Same Day Access.

Prior to working for the VA, she practiced for two years in a civilian ENT clinic, in Bay City, Michigan. Here she assisted with oversight of the ENT and immunotherapy clinic, and satellite clinics. She created an immunotherapy dose adjustment guide for the nursing staff, and a standard operating procedure for urgent/emergent procedures in the event of a clinic emergency, such as a severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis.

NP Beebe received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Saginaw Valley State University in Saginaw, Michigan. She later completed her Master's Degree in Nursing from University of Michigan - Flint.

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John Bennett

Berea, KY

Veterans Health Administration



John M. Bennett, MD, MPH, is the Lead Rural provider for the Lexington VAMC Primary Care with a community clinic in Berea, Kentucky. He joined the medical center in 2008.

He is a 2011 graduate of the MidSouth Healthcare Network Leadership Institute and has earned a medical degree from the University of Arkansas and a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Kentucky. Prior to joining the Lexington VAMC, he taught at the University of Kentucky in the Department of Family and Community Medicine.

He served with distinction in the United States Army as a member of the Army Medical Corps. Dr. Bennett is active in his community as a leader in public health serving on local and regional boards of health. He is currently serving as Chair of the Kentucky Colon Cancer Screening Advisory Committee to reduce the burden of this disease in the state of Kentucky. He is an avid runner and conservationist. He is a native of Oklahoma and was raised in Arkansas. He currently resides in Berea, Kentucky.

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Loralee Bennett

Denver, CO

Veterans Administration Central Office



Loralee Bennett is the Audit Manager at the Denver, CO division of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Inspector General (OIG). In this role, she is responsible to manage and direct the performance of audits, evaluations, and other reviews of the various programs, operations, and functions within VA. Loralee joined VA/OIG in May 2015, transferring from the Department of the Interior (DOI) OIG where she had worked for 9 years in a number of positions including Senior Auditor, Field Office Supervisor, Deputy Regional Manager, and Chief of Quality Assurance. Prior to DOI/OIG, Loralee worked for the Department of Agriculture (USDA) OIG as a Senior Auditor for 5 years and the Air Force Audit Agency as an Audit Manager for 9 years.

Loralee has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Utica College of Syracuse University; a Master's Degree in General Administration from Central Michigan University; and, a Master's Degree in Policy Management from Georgetown University.

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Amanda Berry

Louisville, KY

Veterans Benefits Administration



Ms. Amanda Berry became the Assistant Fiduciary Hub Manager for the Louisville Fiduciary Hub, VBA Louisville Regional Office, in October 2014. Prior to this appointment, Amanda served as the Supervisory Management Analyst for the Southern Area Office in Nashville, TN. In this role, she provided operational assistance to the Southern Area Director in developing and promulgating technical administrative guidance to Directors, VA Regional Offices, and integrated programs of Veterans Benefits and Services across all five business lines.

Amanda began her career at the Louisville Regional Office in 2007 as a Veterans Service Representative. She held many other positions while at Louisville to include Director's Office Management Analyst, Assistant Coach in the Veterans Service Center, and as Supervisor in the Fiduciary Hub. In 2010, Amanda participated in the National Fiduciary Hub Implementation team as well as served as a member of the local Louisville Fiduciary Hub from its inception until her appointment as a Management Analyst in Southern Area in 2012.

In addition to her various roles, Amanda served as the Acting Management Analyst for the Office of Field Operations on several different details in 2010, 2011, and 2013. Most recently, Amanda was detailed to Washington DC as the Lead Analyst for the 2014 Surge Initiative. During the five-week initiative, VA employees processed more than 154,000 claims and reduced the backlog by 43 percent since its peak a year prior.

Amanda obtained a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Louisville in 2007 and a Master's Degree in Conflict Management from Sullivan University in 2009.

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Debbie Biagioli

New Orleans, LA

Veterans Benefits Administration



Debbie J. Biagioli was appointed Assistant Director of the New Orleans Regional Office on December 20, 2009. As Assistant Director, she is responsible and accountable for assisting in the administration of Compensation and Pension and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment programs to more than 305,000 veterans in 64 parishes in Louisiana. These benefits are administered by staff of 185 employees in the Regional Office and three out based locations throughout Louisiana. She manages an operating budget of 17 million.

Ms. Biagioli began her VA career in 1987, as a contract worker in the Loan Guaranty Division at the VA Regional Office in Houston, Texas. On August 3, 1988, she converted to a temporary employee and the following month accepted a permanent fiscal accounts clerk position in the Finance Division. In 1993, she was promoted to Administrative Assistant in the Adjudication Division. She progressed to positions of increasing responsibility including; Administrative Officer, Management Analyst, Assistant Supervisor, and Supervisor within the Veterans Service Center in Houston.

She accepted the position of Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager at the VARO in San Diego, California, in May 2008, where she was instrumental in the development and implementation of Quick Start Consolidated Processing. In addition to Quick Start, during her tenure in San Diego she was responsible for standing up two Disability Evaluation System (DES) pilot sites and establishing an extensive military outreach program that placed employees at nine military installations in Southern California.

Ms. Biagioli was the first VBA employee to be selected for the VISN 16 Leadership Development Institute (LDP) Program in 2000. She participated in the Introduction to Leadership (ITL) program in 2003, Division Leadership Management Training program (DLMT) in 2009 and is in the Leadership VA class for 2013. She has served as a mentor to numerous leadership programs.

Ms. Biagioli and her husband Ray have five grown sons, one granddaughter, and seven grandsons. They enjoy traveling, spending time with friends and family, and various outdoor sports. Ms. Biagioli is a native of Texas and currently resides in Metairie, LA.

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Allen Blaivas

East Orange, NJ

Veterans Health Administration



Dr. Allen J. Blaivas is a Class of '99 graduate of the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in Old Westbury, NY and is quadruple board-certified in pulmonary, critical care, and sleep medicine, as well as internal medicine.

After having been born and raised in New York and graduating CUNY Brooklyn, he made the difficult decision to relocate to New Jersey just for residency. Or so he thought. A three year residency at New Jersey Medical School turned into a fellowship at NJMS. Now 16 years later he still can't get used to the idea.

Upon finishing fellowship he was asked to remain on as an attending in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine at the VA New Jersey Health Care System, one of the NJMS clinical affiliate sites. Soon after joining the VA, he was thrust into the position of Medical Director of Sleep Services, having to rebuild the moribund sleep program in New Jersey, which also served as the testing center for much of VISN 3. He also took on the challenge of becoming Chair of the CPR Committee just as some new VACO requirements were initiated. He has also recently joined the medical advisory panel of the VA Pharmacy and Benefits Management Program.

He continues to have an active clinical practice in his specialty areas and enjoys working with and teaching fellows, residents and medical students from NJMS. He is proud graduate of the inaugural VISN 3 Leadership Development Program that began in March 2015.

Dr. Blaivas loves to travel, is an avid runner, and relishes playing tennis on the rare occasions that time and his family allow. Most of all, he enjoys spending time with his lovely wife of 20 years and his six beautiful children.

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Steven Boggs

Bronx, NY

Veterans Health Administration



Growing up in Albuquerque, NM, Dr. Boggs graduated summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis in Biology and Electrical Engineering. He received his medical degree from The Pritzker School of Medicine at The University of Chicago, followed by a year of Internal Medicine in the same institution. He completed his residency in anesthesiology at The University of Pennsylvania.

Joining the United States Air Force, he became assistant professor of anesthesiology at The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (UHS) in Bethesda, MD. There, he held staff appointments at what were then Bethesda Naval and Walter Reed Army medical centers and Malcolm Grow USAF MC. His primary research while in the USAF was in malignant hyperthermia (MH), a metabolic condition that can be lethal when it occurs during anesthesia.

Upon separation from the USAF as a Major, Dr. Boggs served as Chairman of Anesthesia at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System and President of Foothills Anesthesia. That practice included anesthesia for robotic cardiac procedures, high risk obstetrics, Level I trauma and all other cases except transplant. He practiced in SC for 18 years.

Currently, he is Associate Professor of Anesthesiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Adjunct Associate Professor of Medicine at the Baylor School of Medicine. He has been teaching graduate-level bioengineering at Rice University, Houston, for 4 years. His workgroup has patented novel airway training devices for both the teaching and quality assessment of bag/valve/mask ventilation. He has also been teaching (with colleagues at the Mailman School of Public Health) the graduate consulting workshop for Master of Public Health Students at Columbia University for the past three years. The focus of the most recent workshops has been the provision of care in low-and-middle income countries, particularly Africa.

For the past four years Dr. Boggs has been the chief of the anesthesiology service and the director of the operating room at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center in the Bronx, NY. He has restarted the anesthesia residency rotations from Mount Sinai in this period and worked to improve operating room performance. He is president and founding member of iCORMET [international Consortium in OR Management, Education and Training] with two colleagues from Harvard and Vermont. He lectures on OR management, computers in anesthesia and non-OR anesthesia (NORA).

Dr. Boggs is board certified and has an MBA from the University of Phoenix. He is also a Certified Physician Executive. Currently, he is taking the VA-sponsored AMIA 10 x 10 course in Medical Informatics. Dr. Boggs resides in Bronxville, NY with his wife, Paula. They have just celebrated their 32 anniversary. He has two daughters, Carter, who is married and lives in Paris and Cecily, who works for the Federal Reserve and lives in Manhattan.

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Marc Brandt

Westchester, IL

Veterans Health Administration



Marc Brandt is the Executive Assistant to the Network Director in VISN 12. He joined the Veterans Health Administration in 2011 as the Business Manager for the six departments of the Facilities Support Directorate at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago, IL. Prior to that, he served for three years as an Operations Supervisor in the Chicago Northwest Field Office of the Social Security Administration and a one-year detail as a Project Manager at the Chicago Federal Executive Board.

Marc is a 2005 Presidential Management Fellow, who earned his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Webster University in Saint Louis, MO. Prior to joining the Federal Civilian Service he completed a 20-year Army career in finance, accounting, budget and resource management, and retired in 2004. He is a Veteran of both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom and is the recipient of two Meritorious Service Medals among other awards.

Marc is a native of Chicago, IL and currently resides in Lake County, IL, with his wife of 33 years. They are the proud parents of four sons, all Veterans, and have two grandsons. Both he and his wife have served in their church and enjoy travelling to keep up with family and friends.

Marc is a member of the American Society of Military Comptrollers, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Association of Government Accountants and the American College of Healthcare Executives.

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Erin Brown

Nashville, TN

Veterans Benefits Administration



Erin Kelly Brown is a Quality Assurance Consultant working for Compensation Service out-based in Nashville, TN.

She began her career with the Department of Veterans Affairs in August 1999 at the Huntington Regional Office and served as a Veterans Service Representative and Rating Veterans Representative. She relocated in 2011 to Nashville to accept a position with Compensation Service's Quality Assurance Staff. She performs national quality reviews, known as Systematic Technical Accuracy Reviews (STAR), for compensation claims, as well as supports various other Compensation Service functions to

serve regional office employees across the nation. Additionally, has had the opportunity to complete two details as a M21-1 'live manual' editor within the Procedures Staff.

Erin earned her master's degree in Fine Arts from Marshall University. Prior to joining the Department of Veterans Affairs she held jobs with the West Virginia Job Service, West Virginia Department of Unemployment, West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, United States Postal Office, and a small company focused on re-training, job placement/retention, and resume/interview skills for high risk individuals returning to the workforce.

Erin and her husband are involved parents of a toddler and an adult Cornish Rex cat; they reside in Nashville, TN. She enjoys reading historical fiction novels, creating art, and performing random acts of unexpected kindness. She was raised in the Eastern panhandle of West Virginia and still considers the mountains of West Virginia home.

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Millette Burns

Washington, DC

Veterans Benefits Administration



Millette Burns serves as the Lead Accountant of the Audit & Internal Control, Insurance Financial Statements, and Cost Accounting teams in the Accounting Policy & Reporting Division, Office of Resource Management for Veterans Benefits Administration.

Ms. Burns leads an audit team that is responsible for the audits and reviews conducted on financial operations. This team is also responsible for reporting Improper Payments, Do Not Pay, Data Act, and USASPENDING. Among other duties, Ms. Burns leads the Insurance Accounting staff in preparation and submission of the monthly, quarterly, and year-end financial statements, Investment accounting, Treasury Report of Receivables, and other reports as required.

Ms. Burns received an Associate of Applied Science degree in Financial Management from Community College of the Air Force in 1994, a Bachelor of Business Administration from Faulkner University in 1999 and a Master of Science in Quality Systems Management from National Graduate School in 2002. Currently Ms. Burns is pursuing a doctorate in Business Administration.

Ms. Burns is a proud veteran of the U S Air Force and has served in support of Operation Just Cause, Operation Desert Shield, the Gulf War, and Operation Southern Watch.

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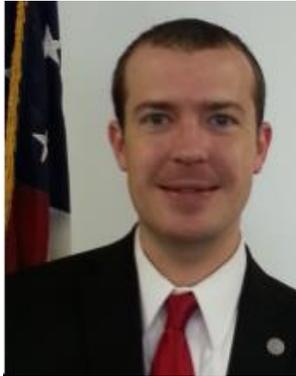


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Jason Cave

Montrose, NY

Veterans Health Administration



Jason Cave is currently serving as Deputy CFO of the VA Hudson Valley HealthCare System in Montrose, New York.

He began his VA career in 2011 and has served multiple VA Medical Centers in Pennsylvania and New York as well as the Office of General Counsel in VACO. He has performed in a diverse array of roles to include Facility/Strategic Planner, Executive Assistant, General Attorney, Emergency Manager, Assistant Chief of Fiscal Services, and Public Affairs Officer in addition to multiple details and interim roles. He has led major facility initiatives such as establishment of outreach clinics in rural communities, central redesign of financial and contracting processes, and refinement of internal governance and reporting structures. He has championed the use of innovative technology and data sets to inform strategic and operational decision-making, improve environments of care, and increase collections and reimbursement.

He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting in 2004 from the University of New Mexico, a Juris Doctor in 2011 from the University of Akron School of Law with litigation and dispute resolution certificate, and is a licensed attorney in the State of Ohio. Mr. Cave is an alumnus of the Presidential Management Fellows Class of 2011 and VISN 4 Leadership Development Institute.

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Sergio Chao

Phoenix, AZ

Veterans Benefits Administration



Mr. Chao was selected to the position of Assistant Director at the Phoenix VA Regional Office in September 2013. He shares responsibility for the effective and efficient direction, control, and operation of benefits delivery for Veterans and dependents residing in the State of Arizona. The Phoenix VA Regional administers a variety of services and benefits including Compensation and Pension, Home Loan Guaranty, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment. In addition, it has responsibility over one the seven National Call Centers.

Prior to this appointment, he was the Assistant Pension Management Center Manager at the Milwaukee PMC from June 2008. In this role, he was responsible for providing benefits and services to recipients of pension and survivor benefits residing in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, and Tennessee. During his time in Milwaukee, Mr. Chao also completed several details at VA Central Office in Washington D.C. These include Assistant Director for the Quality Assurance Staff in 2011, Assistant Director for Pension Services in 2012, and most recently, Project Manager for a White House initiative. Mr. Chao is a graduate of the 2013 Assistant Director Development Program.

Mr. Chao started his VA career in 1997 as a work-study student at the Houston VA Regional Office (RO). He was selected as a Program Support Clerk in the Support Services Division in 1998, and held several other positions at this RO, including a position in Human Resources, Budget Analyst in SSD, as well as Veterans Service Representative (VSR) and Rating VSR in the Veterans Service Center.

In 2006 he was select to be a Consultant in Compensation and Pension Services (C&P) in Washington D.C. While with C&P, he worked on the Procedures Staff, and on the Quality Assurance Staff. He was responsible for the development and dissemination of procedures for the administration of the Compensation and Pension benefit programs. Mr. Chao was also responsible for conducting site visits to regional offices across the country, ensuring that VBA policies and procedures pertaining to the Compensation and Pension business lines were followed consistently nationwide.

Mr. Chao served on active duty in the Army and was discharged in 1996. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance from the University of Houston Clear Lake.

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Lisa Marie Clark

Cleveland, OH

Veterans Benefits Administration



Lisa Marie Clark is currently an attorney with the Office of General Counsel and a recent graduate (2015) of the Federal Executive Institute, Leadership for a Democratic Society Program. Her duty station is in Cleveland Ohio. Her legal practice has included a variety of case types and litigation for all sections of the VA (VHA, VBA, Central Office, and NCA).

Ms. Clark's history with the VA goes back years. She started as a nursing assistant for a VA Medical Center. She has also been a Clinical Nurse Specialist (RN) for a VA Medical Center. Later in her career, she returned to the VA as a Procurement Analyst in contracting.

Her work outside the VA has also included several leadership positions. As an attorney supervisor for the Department of Defense, Defenses Finance and Accounting Services, she supervised 22 to 24 employees at any given time. She has also been a Vice-President and General Counsel for a major health care system that included physician practices, hospitals, and a durable medical equipment company.

She was a CEO for a long-term care business. Her responsibilities include complete oversight for and direct involvement in the legal, financial, operational, marketing, maintenance, personnel, benefits and public relations functions of a skilled nursing facility. Other private sector experience included being in-house counsel for a long-term care organization, protecting the legal interests of three nursing homes and an assisted living facility

Her career as an RN continues to this day. In addition to working as a staff RN for hospitals in both Cleveland and Boston, Ms. Clark has taught nursing in three different RN programs for approximately twenty years. She also studied the National Health Service on site in London, England. Ms. Clark has been a volunteer in Nicaragua on a vaccination program for Amigos de las Americas.

She was a Local Draft Board Member for the Selective Service System, Region I and served for twenty years. Past roles also include being on the Macedonia Civil Service Commission; the board of the Ohio Chapter of Amigos de las Americas; a former board member of Mental Health America Summit County; and being a youth cheerleading coach for a program that included special needs children.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and attended both Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts, and the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio for law school. She is a registered attorney with the Supreme Court of Ohio. She is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio; the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio; and the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

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Ricky Clark

Washington, DC

Veterans Administration Central Office



Ricky L. Clark is a Senior Procurement Analyst in the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Office of Acquisition and Logistics (OAL)/Procurement Policy and Warrant Management Service. OAL provides critical support to our nation's Veterans and other government agencies through strategic acquisitions, logistics, and financial solutions. Mr. Clark joined VA in 2014 in his current position and serves as a team lead for the development, drafting, and revision of the VA Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) and VA Acquisition Manual (VAAM). To support the VAAR/VAAM project, he prepares and provides policy recommendations involving the analysis and interpretation of headquarters level, enterprise-wide regulations and procurement policy impacting VA. The team's objective is to develop and sustain activities to enable the more than 3,000 members of the VA Acquisition workforce to deliver services, supplies, and equipment to fulfill the VA mission.

Mr. Clark, a Veteran began his federal career in 2010 as a Contract Specialist with the 87th Contracting Squadron at Joint Base (J. B.) McGuire- Dix-Lakehurst. He has an extensive range of contract experience which includes bulk fuels (DLA Logistics), Major Systems Acquisition (U.S. Air Force/U.S. Navy), construction (VA), research and development (U.S. Navy Patuxent River), Information Technology (DLA Document Services, U.S. Navy Patuxent), and Healthcare services and supplies (J.B. McGuire) for a variety fixed and cost type contracts. He has obtained the FAC-C Contracting Level III Certification, DAWIA Contracting Level III Certification, Industry Certification in Contract Management – Defense (ICCM-D) Certification Contracting Level III- NCMA, and is a Certified Federal Contracts Manager (CFCM) – NCMA.

Prior to joining the federal government, Mr. Clark successfully performed for more ten years in the private sector as a general manager/Senior Contracts Manager for FedEx and APX Logistics. He also served as a Senior Operations Manager for a nationally branded retailer's distribution center. In both capacities he was directly responsible for human capital and company assets excess of 90 million dollars. As the Program Manager at each facility, Mr. Clark championed the Just in time (JIT) and Total Quality Management (TQM) Lean Manufacturing and process improvement strategies that supported the development of a Quality Assurance (QA) standard that exceeded company goals. When combined, all three processes led multiple teams to receive top performance ranking nationally in areas of process efficiency, dock operations, and customer service goals under his leadership.

A native of Mississippi, Mr. Clark holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from Mississippi College. He also holds a Master of Business Administration from Mississippi College and was inducted into the National Honor Society.

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Kevin Corbus

Cincinnati, OH

Veterans Health Administration



Kevin (Kipp) Corbus, Psy.D., is a clinical psychologist/organization development consultant for the VHA National Center for Organization Development (NCOD). He recently returned to NCOD as an organization development consultant after utilizing his psychology background and organizational development passion and expertise over the past several years in positions at that VHA Support Service Center (VSSC) and the VA Inpatient Evaluation Center (IPEC). In each of his roles during his VA career, Dr. Corbus has had the pleasure of working closely with the leaders and caregivers of our nation's Veterans with a goal of enhancing the service and care provided at the VHA hospitals across the country. He earned his BA in Psychology from Kenyon College, and his MA and Psy.D. from Xavier University. His skills and expertise include training and education, enhancing practical data utilization, executive coaching, leadership development, Servant Leadership, Change Management and meeting and group facilitation.

In his spare time, he can be found teaching classes in the University of Cincinnati's Center for Organizational Leadership, renovating houses, and enjoying time with his wife chasing around their two young children.

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Derek Coughenour

Washington, DC

Veterans Health Administration



Derek Coughenour serves as the Director of Rehabilitation Services at VAPHS. He joined the agency in April 2004 as a staff physical therapist. Derek held several positions including the Preservation Amputee Care Coordinator (PACT), Physical Therapy Clinical Education Coordinator, and PM&R Clinical Education Coordinator. Derek became the Rehab Director in October 2012. He directly oversees Blind & Low Vision Rehab, Kinesiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy as well as a myriad of more than 50 specialty clinics and services such as Clinical Video Telehealth, Edema/ Wound Care, Hand Therapy, Intermediate Low Vision Clinic, Neuro Balance Center, and Wheelchair, Seating & Power Mobility. He provides direct oversight and contribution to three CARF accredited programs.

Derek is a 2012 Leadership Development Institute (LDI) graduate and earned a Master's in Public Management (MPM) at Carnegie Mellon University in 2013. Prior to joining VAPHS, he completed a brief period at a rehab hospital in the private sector as a staff physical therapist. He is a 2011 APTA LAMP graduate and in 2014, became a certified mentor within the Veterans Health Administration.

He is an active member of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), and working towards fellowship. Derek is a native of Washington, PA and resides with his wife and two pit-bull rescues in Pittsburgh, PA.

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Sandra Cupples

Washington, DC

Veterans Health Administration



Sandy Cupples is the National Director of Clinical Services, National Surgery Office, Veterans Health Administration. In this role, she provides evidence-based, strategic direction to the National Director of Surgery regarding all VHA surgical services/programs, including the National Transplant Program (24 transplant programs) and 16 Surgical Advisory Boards comprised of 96 subject matter experts (SMEs); provides direct oversight of the Surgical Quality Data Use Group to ensure compliance with VHA research policies and promote scholarly research utilizing VHA surgical outcomes data; and serves as a SME regarding the development and implementation of policies and procedures at local, regional and national levels, cost-effective resource utilization strategies to improve organizational performance, and methodologies for oversight and evaluation of all surgical programs.

Sandy received her Bachelor of Nursing degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, a Master of Science degree in Nursing from Boston University, and a doctorate in Nursing from The Catholic University of America.

Prior to coming to the VA in 2011, Sandy was the Heart Transplant Coordinator at the Washington Hospital Center in Washington DC. She is currently the President-Elect of the International Transplant Nurses Society and has published 3 books on transplant nursing practice.

Sandy served over 20 years in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps and retired as a Captain in 2010.

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Casey Curry

Austin, TX

Veterans Benefits Administration



Casey Curry MBA, PMP, is a Program Analyst in the Office of Business Process Integration (OBPI) in Austin, Texas and manages Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) operations with respect to: IT Portfolio and Investment Management, Program Management, interagency data sharing, and ITIL Service Level Management. He is a principle advisor to VBA's Chief Architect and Planner.

Mr. Curry joined VBA in 2009 as a Rating Veterans Service Representative in the Waco, Texas Regional Office prior to his promotion to OBPI. His previous private sector experiences include various leadership roles in financial services and construction.

Casey earned a Bachelor's degree in International Studies from the University of North Texas in 2004, followed by a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) in Global Business and Strategy from both the University of North Carolina and the Escuela de Graduados en Administración y Dirección de Empresas (EGADE) in Monterrey, Mexico. Most recently he earned the Project Management Professional designation from the Project Management Institute.

In his private life, Mr. Curry is family-centric and newlywed. He loves to travel internationally without an itinerary, immersing himself in local language, culture, music, and food of the destination. He also manages his own portfolio of real estate investments.

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Walt C. Dannenberg

Palo Alto, CA

Veterans Health Administration



Walt C. Dannenberg was appointed the Associate Director at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in June 2013. Mr. Dannenberg is responsible for the comprehensive assessment of health care system operational needs in concert with VA policies and regulations and under the scrutiny of Veterans Service Organizations, Congressional Offices, internal and external inspection bodies and local community groups. He is fully involved in policy making and management decisions, developing and implementing long- and short-range strategic initiatives, monitoring all regulatory, accreditation and affiliated entities and assuming overall responsibility for the environment of care and major capital projects. He also serves an important role in budget formulation for both administrative and clinical services, allocation of health care system resources and promoting labor partnership relationships. From January to May of 2015, he served as the interim Medical Center Director of the Amarillo VA Health Care System, Amarillo, TX.

Mr. Dannenberg began his VA career as a Graduate Healthcare Administrative Fellow in 2006, at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System in Little Rock, Arkansas. In July 2007, he assumed the role of Administrative Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff at the South Texas Veterans Health Care System (STVHCS). He was promoted in 2009 to the position of Executive Assistant to the Director and he became the Assistant Chief/Acting Chief of Medical Administration Service from January to December 2011. In December 2011, Mr. Dannenberg was promoted to Assistant Medical Center Director of the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, Seattle, WA.

Mr. Dannenberg is a Fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives (FACHE) and has served as the Vice-President of the South Texas Chapter of the American College of Health Care Executives. He received an undergraduate degree in chemistry at Texas A&M University and he holds a Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration and Business Administration from the University of Houston – Clear Lake. Mr. Dannenberg is also a graduate of the 2009 Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 17 Leadership Development Institute and the 2010 Health Care Leadership Development Program. He currently serves on the Health Care Leadership Development board, and the ACHE Regent Advisory Committee.

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Stephanie Deaner

Chicago, IL

Veterans Health Administration



Stephanie Deaner, PhD, is the Telehealth Program Manager for VISN 12. She joined the VISN in 2012 and is responsible for the development, coordination, and management of virtual care programs for 8 complex healthcare centers and 38 community based outpatient clinics in the Midwest.

Prior to joining VISN 12, Dr. Deaner began her federal service with the Lebanon VAMC in Pennsylvania as a Psychologist in the outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic. She continued in clinical and leadership roles at the Lebanon VAMC and VISN 4 before transferring to VISN 12. She has served Veterans for nearly 15 years.

Dr. Deaner is a 2012 Health Care Leadership Development Program graduate and 2010 Network Executive Health Care Leadership Institute graduate. She carries certification as a Lean Healthcare Yellow Belt and achieved fellow status as a certified mentor.

Dr. Deaner is a licensed psychologist. She earned a doctor of philosophy degree in Clinical Psychology from MCP Hahnemann University in Philadelphia and completed postdoctoral training at the University of Michigan. Throughout her training, Dr. Deaner was active with research, authoring several professional publications. She co-authored two chapters for a book published in Spain.

Originally a native of central Pennsylvania, she currently resides with her husband, two children ages 15 and 10, and dog in the suburbs of Chicago. She is active in her community, having served in leadership roles in local educational organizations. She spends her free time cheering her children in athletic events and enjoys exercise.

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Dionne Dent-Lockett

Philadelphia, PA

Veterans Benefits Administration



Mrs. Dent-Lockett began her career at the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2003 as a Veterans Service Representative. In 2006, Mrs. Dent-Lockett was selected as the first-female Field Examiner appointed to the position at the Philadelphia Regional Office. In 2007, she was promoted to Supervisor, Legal Administrative Specialist at the National Call Center. Mrs. Dent-Lockett was subsequently named Chief, Fiduciary & Field Operations in 2008 and as the Pre-Determination Coach at the Veterans Service Center in 2009.

Mrs. Dent-Lockett transitioned to the position of Outbased Coach in the Indianapolis Fiduciary Hub in October 2011. While serving in this role, she supervised 50 Field Examiners in the Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and Delaware areas. Mrs. Dent-Lockett is a proud graduate of the VBA Leadership Development Program Class of 2013.

In 2013, Mrs. Dent-Lockett was promoted to Assistant Chief, VA Insurance Claims Division and in the same year she completed a detail in the Insurance Service, as the Chief of Business System Support and Training Staff. In July of 2015, she was selected as Chief, Insurance Claims Division. In that role, she managed 125 employees in the Death Claims, Live Claims, Imaging and Clerical Support and Insurance Outreach Sections.

Mrs. Dent-Lockett was most recently appointed as the Assistant Director, Philadelphia & Wilmington VA Regional Offices.

Mrs. Dent-Lockett holds a BS in Business Management and an MS in Human Resource Management from West Chester University.

Mrs. Dent-Lockett and her husband, enjoy spending time with their children and volunteering within both their church and community.

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Joseph Donoghue

Pittsburgh, PA

Veterans Administration Central Office



Joseph “Mark” Donoghue is an IT Specialist (Requirements Analyst) within the ESE Lifecycle and Release Management group of OI&T. In his current role, Mr. Donoghue supports the Operational Acceptance Planning process. He works with IT Projects and assists in the transition of the projects from a development to operations by working with the various groups planning projects for transition to operations.

Mr. Donoghue has worked with the VA since September of 2004 where he has functioned as an IT Specialist at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System in which he supported all IT aspects of Medical imaging for both VHA Pittsburgh as well as the VISN 4 Imaging group. Mr. Donoghue transitioned into his current role in August of 2011.

Prior to his tenure at the VA, Mr. Donoghue has twenty years’ experience as a Systems and Process Control Engineer where he functioned in various roles from Programmer through Project Manager within the steel industry. He has assisted in the development and automation of Steel Plants and Mini-mills.

Mr. Donoghue is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh in which he has obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science and a Master of Science in Information Science and Systems Engineering. Mr. Donoghue is an alumnus of the 2009 VISN 4 LDI (Leadership Development Institute) program. He volunteers as a member of the Board of Directors and functions as the Treasurer of his Township Soccer Association and he also volunteers as a member of the Board of Directors for the VA Pittsburgh Employees Federal Credit Union.

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Wende Dottor

Gainesville, FL

Veterans Health Administration



Wende Dottor is Chief, Performance Improvement Service at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System. She has worked for VHA for 23 years.

Wende earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the Catholic University of America and master's in health administration from Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

She completed an administrative residency at the Malcom Randall VAMC as part of the master's program and since that time has held positions of progressive responsibility and diversity at North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System (NF/SGVHS). She has served as Decision Support System Site Manager, Revenue Coordinator, Assistant Chief, Finance and Chief, Finance before transitioning to shepherd NF/SGVHS' framework of quality, safety, and value.

Wende has been married for over 20 years and enjoys spending time with her husband and two incredible teenage boys.

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Grant Eiselen

Fort Meade, SD

Veterans Health Administration



Believing that VA has one of the noblest missions in the federal government Grant Eiselen, MD joined VA Black Hills Health Care System as a radiologist, in 2009, where he has enjoyed caring for veterans in a rural community, serving as president of the medical staff and contributing to multiple local, VISN and national committees often involving high-tech high-cost equipment selection and acquisition. He has developed multiple collaborative interdepartmental policies and quality improvement

initiatives. His efforts include reducing patient radiation dose and organizational costs by minimizing unnecessary medical imaging. His interest in law, policies and rules comes second only to his commitment to patient care and maximizing engagement of his employees' talents to ensure their success.

Prior to joining VA, Dr. Eiselen worked in the private sector in New York, and served as Chief Radiologist in both Alaska and Saipan. He also worked at Reynolds Army Community Hospital at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. As a recruitment specialist Dr. Eiselen helped coordinate a highly successful team to attract physicians to rural Alaska.

In addition to his love of medicine and radiology Dr. Eiselen is an enthusiastic teacher and mentor. As an undergraduate he pioneered a science and mathematics enrichment program between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) student body and the Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School and was awarded the Lord Foundation Community Service Fellowship for outstanding contributions to extracurricular life.

Dr. Eiselen completed a fellowship in magnetic resonance imaging at the University of Rochester and a residency in diagnostic imaging at Rochester General Hospital where he also served as Chief Resident. He earned his medical degree from the Albany Medical College and his bachelor's degree in molecular biology from MIT. As a published researcher at MIT he used murine promoter traps to study mammalian cardiovascular system development.

Beyond his professional and academic interests Dr. Eiselen is active in community service donating his time as an educational counselor for MIT and President of the Board of Directors of a 501c3 non-profit friends group for the DC Booth National Historic Fish Hatchery and Archives.

Dr. Eiselen's avocational passion is sailing, but when he is land-locked he enjoys hiking, mechanical puzzles, fly fishing, photography, canoeing, database development, stargazing, chess and woodworking.

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Ogochukwu Ekwuabu

West Palm Beach, FL

Veterans Administration Central Office



Since October 2014, Ogochukwu Ekwuabu has worked in the Office of General Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel - Southeast District South (formerly known as Office of Regional Counsel - Region 6) as the principal legal liaison and adviser to senior representatives at the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center. Her responsibilities include, but are not limited to, serving as Agency representative in United States Code (U.S.C.) Title 5 employment actions, U.S.C. Title 38 adversary proceedings, discrimination matters, and unfair labor practice complaints and serving as local eDiscovery Coordinator.

Ms. Ekwuabu started her VA career in June 2011 in the Government Contracts, Real Property, and Environmental Law Group as a member of the team supporting VA's Center for Veteran Enterprise (CVE) in the Office of Small Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU). For a little over a year, she also served as the OGC representative on the Veterans Affairs Acquisition Regulation (VAAR) Integrated Project Team (IPT).

Subsequently, Ms. Ekwuabu provided legal counsel to the Office of Construction and Facilities Management (CFM) in its major construction (projects over \$10 million) program. In addition to being assigned specific projects, she was assigned the responsibility of providing counsel to all of CFM's Central Region.

Prior to VA, Ms. Ekwuabu worked in a variety of areas, including representing survivors of domestic violence and serving as a court-appointed guardian ad litem. She received her J.D. from American University Washington College of Law and her A.B. in Politics from Princeton University.

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Kelli Emery

Washington, DC

Veterans Administration Central Office



Kelli Emery, JD, is a Project Manager for VA's Enhanced Use Lease Program and is also the Freedom of Information Act Officer within the Office of Asset Enterprise Management at VA Central Office. As Project Manager and Contracting Officers Technical Representative (COTR) she manages a portfolio Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) projects from concept to post transaction. The majority of Kelli's projects provide supportive housing to homeless Veterans and Veterans at risk for Homelessness.

Kelli earned her undergraduate degree in Communications with a concentration in Journalism from Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY. She later went on to earn her law degree from Suffolk University Law School in Boston, MA. She is licensed to practice law in the state courts of Massachusetts and the U.S. Federal District Courts of Massachusetts. She has also been certified in Mediation and received her Certified Trust and Financial Advisor designation.

Prior to joining VA in 2008, Kelli practiced law in Massachusetts in the disciplines of Real Estate, Estate Planning, Business and Family Law. She began her career as a Senior Relationship Administrator for high net-worth trust and investment relationships for one of the nation's leading Private Banks.

Kelli is a native of Massachusetts and currently resides with her husband and their two young children outside of Phoenix, AZ. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling, reading, running and baking with her kids.

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Bronwyn Emmet

Washington, DC

Veterans Administration Central Office



Bronwyn Emmet works for the National Veterans Outreach Office within the VA Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs (OPIA), and is Program Manager of ExploreVA Outreach. She joined OPIA in March of 2013.

ExploreVA is a blended digital outreach effort designed to educate Veterans and their families about VA benefits and services, and encourage them to apply. The campaign is data driven and continuously improved. Six million unique visitors have come to <http://explore.va.gov/> for information since September 2013, resulting in over one million application starts.

Bronwyn began her federal service with VHA's Employee Education System as an Executive Video Producer where she managed a portfolio of projects which included VHA training, as well as many communications and outreach initiatives for the OPIA and the Office of the Secretary. She is a graduate of Loyola University and holds several post graduate certificates including a Masters Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University.

Prior to joining VA, Bronwyn worked as a television journalist in New York and DC for more than 15 years, producing, writing and editing programming for 20/20, Primetime Live, 20th Century with Mike Wallace, Good Morning America, 48 Hours, Sunday Morning, Discovery Science, Discovery Health and National Geographic.

Bronwyn has two small children and is very involved in education and community sports. After 13 years as a broadcast professional in New York City, she now resides in Davidsonville, Maryland, just 20 minutes away from her hometown of Annapolis.

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Lianna Evans

Waco, TX

Veterans Health Administration



Lianna D. Evans, PsyD, is the Chief of the Education & Dissemination Core at the VISN 17 Center of Excellence for Research on Returning War Veterans. She joined the VISN 17 COE in 2010 and transferred to the Central Texas Veterans Health Care System to serve as the Team Lead of the outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Program in 2012. In 2015, Dr. Evans returned to the VISN 17 COE to take on the role of Director of Training for multiple tiered training programs (undergraduate through postdoctoral Fellowships) and is responsible for business operations and oversight across training programs, development of outreach opportunities and education materials, management of all academic affiliations, supervision of trainee and staff appointments and credentialing, and development of media publications (e.g., website, newsletter, press releases). She has received several awards for developing law enforcement training materials for federal and local agencies, as well as for her humanitarian work after a massive explosion in her region.

Dr. Evans is very involved in the community, as she is committed to developing transparent collaborations with community partners to develop and implement Veteran services throughout Texas. She sits on several state and local Boards where she advocates for mental health services and education events that target Veterans, active duty service members, and their families.

Dr. Evans earned her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from Spalding University, is licensed to practice psychology in the state of Texas, holds advanced certifications in Behavioral Couples Therapy for Substance Use Disorders (as a provider and national training consultant), provides mentoring as a VHA certified mentor (fellow level), and is a 2013 LDI graduate. Her federal service began as a Neuropsychology Technician at the Robley Rex VAMC in Louisville, KY which spurred her commitment to pursuing a career with the VA. Originally a California native, she has enjoyed travelling across the nation pursuing her career through progressive program management and leadership roles in her 9 years of federal service.

In her private life, Dr. Evans is the proud mother of five children (aged 7-20) and has been married to a career soldier in the U.S. Army since 2002. Despite a very busy professional and personal schedule, Dr. Evans is also an avid amateur billiards player and competes locally and regionally in both 8 and 9 ball formats.

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Brian Fase

Lancaster, TX

Veterans Health Administration



Brian Fase, Pharm.D., M.S., BCPS is the Associate Director for the Dallas Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy (CMOP). He joined the United States Army at age 18 and worked in the Field Artillery as a Multiple Launch Rocket System crewmember for three years. He completed basic training at Fort Sill, OK and went on to serve in Fort Hood, TX and Camp Stanley, South Korea. After completing his tour of duty in the Army, Brian moved to Michigan and began working on the prerequisites for a pharmacy degree at Western Michigan University and later transferred to Ferris State University's School of Pharmacy. In 2009 Brian graduated from Ferris State University with a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree.

Shortly after graduating, Brian was selected for a two year Health-System Pharmacy Administration Residency at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center located in Houston TX with a combined Master's in Pharmacy Administration degree program from the University of Houston. Through this program Brian learned from and worked with leaders all over the Medical Center and had exposure to VA pharmacy leaders with rotations at VISN16 and VACO. After completing this program and graduating with a Master's from the University of Houston he was hired as a Pharmacoeconomist at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. In this position Brian worked as the liaison between the pharmacy department and the various medical centers' service line chiefs to ensure that the Medical Center was using the most cost effective medications to treat the Veterans we served. He also took on additional duties as the Health-System Pharmacy Administration Residency Program Director where he taught, mentored, and managed the Residency program. After working in this capacity for three years Brian was selected for the Associate Director position at the Dallas CMOP.

Brian has had several notable achievements starting with earning the rank of Eagle Scout from the Boy Scouts of America, three Army Achievement Medals and a Good Conduct Medal, induction into the Pharmacy Leadership Society and Rho Chi Society, Lean processes improvement awards for leading an Outpatient Pharmacy RPIW and an Inpatient Pharmacy Crash Cart 5S project, and earned Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy. Brian is married to his wife Sophia and has two children, his son Tyler age 4 and his daughter Emilia age 9 months.

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Jason Forgan

Washington, DC

Veterans Administration Central Office



Jason works in the central budget office of the Department of Veterans Affairs, where he is a leader in organizational resilience. He currently oversees budgetary matters for general counsel, security and preparedness, enterprise integration, and veterans' experience.

He has broad interagency experience through two federal details, one with OMB, where he led a team for the Chief Federal Enterprise Architect to develop shared services strategies for the federal government, and one with CFCNCA, the largest federal interagency fundraising program in the history of the world. He has legislative and policy experience in both the House of Representatives and the

Senate, developing expertise in security/intelligence, communications policy, and economic development. He was the communications sector chief of Infragard, a public-private partnership with the FBI, dedicated to sharing information and intelligence to prevent hostile acts against US communications infrastructure and stakeholders.

He holds a master's degree in public administration, a bachelor's degree in communication, and a graduate certificate in counterintelligence. His graduate work focused on information policy and resiliency of public IT systems and communications. He has had training in continuity of operations, operations security, information warfare and security, and risk management.

He lives with his wife and three children in Virginia.

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Leadership VA

Barrett Franklin

Bedford, MA

Veterans Health Administration



Mr. Barrett Franklin, MS, CCE, was appointed Deputy Network Director, VISN 1, December 2015. Mr. Franklin has been a part of the VISN 1 leadership team since June of 2012, as the Network Clinical Engineering Manager (Chief of Clinical Engineering) for VA New England Healthcare System. Mr. Franklin has recently served as the Acting Deputy Network Director, VISN 1, for a one-year detail. He has also previously served as the Acting Associate Director for the Manchester VA Medical Center.

Mr. Franklin's tenure with VA New England Healthcare System began in 2009, initially with VA Boston Healthcare System, and then with Providence VA Medical Center, where he managed the Clinical Engineering Department. Prior to working with VA, Mr. Franklin worked in the Mid-West for a large engineering consulting firm as a Medical Technology and Clinical Engineering Consultant, providing consultation services and project management for projects ranging from two to nearly 200 million dollars.

A graduate of the VISN 1 Transformational Leadership Program and a certified mentor, Mr. Franklin holds a Master of Science Degree from the University of Connecticut and a Bachelor of Science degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

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Lisa Fredrickson

Weaverville, NC

Veterans Health Administration



Lisa S. Fredrickson, Health System Specialist in VHA Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation (OPCC&CT). Lisa joined OPCC&CT in January 2012 and has served in the areas of Communication, Research and Innovation.

Lisa earned her Master's degree in Health Science with a focus in Management from Western Carolina University. Prior to joining the OPCC&CT, she began her federal service at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville, N.C., and continued there for 19 years. She previously held the position of Interim Chief/Assistant Chief of Health Administration Service and had formerly served in numerous front-line administrative positions, managed oncology clinical trials as the Oncology Research Data Manager, and represented Surgery Service as the Administrative Officer for nine years, all the while building her experience in program management and leadership roles throughout her career.

She is a native of Clearwater, Florida and has lived in North Carolina for over 30 years with her husband.

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George Fudge

Petersburg, FL

Veterans Administration Central Office



George (David) Fudge II serves as a Telecommunications Specialist within the Office of Information and Technology. He is the lead for Site Readiness Initiatives involving Commodities Enterprise Contract purchases for Network equipment and team member of the Unified Communications IPT workgroup. David is certified on Public Branch Exchange and Voice over Internet voice system platforms. He is certified as a Level II Contracting Officer Representative through the VA Acquisition Academy. Currently David is pursuing an undergraduate degree in Computer Information Systems at Saint Leo University in Florida.

David served nine years in the U.S. Army Signal Corp as a Non-Commissioned Officer in which he graduated from the Army Signal Corp Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Academy and during his military career David was awarded three Army Commendation medals, five Army Achievement medals, and seven Certificates of Achievement.

David worked in the private sector as a Network Reliability Specialist for Verizon for thirteen years and during which he was awarded two Verizon Individual Excellence awards for leadership and accomplishments. He joined the VA in 2012 and brings over 20 years of Telecommunications experience.

David resides in Tampa, Florida with his wife and two children and continues in his volunteer work in the community, membership with the American Legion, and support of local youth sports and activities.

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John Gannan

Blue Springs, MO

Veterans Administration Central Office



John Gannan is a procurement law attorney with the Office of General Counsel, District Contracting National Practice Group. He is based out of Kansas City, Missouri, where he is responsible for providing legal counsel on contracting matters covering the states of Missouri, Kansas and portions of Illinois.

John graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he earned a B.S. in Accounting, with highest distinction. He also received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

John began his legal career in private practice where he worked for firms focused on litigation. During his 15 years in private practice, he tried numerous cases in front of judges and juries, primarily focused on real estate disputes, contract breaches and other business and commercial litigation. He was active in the bar, having served as a board member and president of the Eastern Jackson County Bar Association. John was also active in his community, leading to his appointment to several municipal committees, and his election to the board of directors and president of the Blue Springs Chamber of Commerce. John switched from the world of private practice following his mobilization with the 3d Infantry Division in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He has been with the VA since 2008. John continues his military service as part of the Army Reserve, Judge Advocate Generals Corps.

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Srivalli Ganne

Jackson, MS

Veterans Health Administration



Dr. Srivalli Ganne, started working as a Staff physician (psychiatrist) in the department of Mental health in G.V sonny Montgomery VAMC in Aug 2011. She has been initially responsible for treating veterans through the telemental health team and coordinating the mental health care services in the 7 CBOC's. After serving in tele service for 3 years she moved on to provide coverage for MH consult service and emergency room MH service. Where she continues to work.

Dr. Srivalli Ganne completed her adult residency training from Harvard south shore and continued to do a child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship from UMC completing it is 2011. She also received MPH degree in 2013 UIC II.

Srivalli enjoys and cherishes her time with her husband and 2 boys ages 4 and 7.

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Angela Gilley

Salisbury, NC

Veterans Health Administration



Jordon and Emarie.

Angela Gilley is the Chief of Care in the Community, VISN 6, located in Salisbury NC. Angela has over 20 years of government experience; the last 6 servicing Veterans at the Salisbury VA Medical Center.

Angela began her career in the United States Postal Service and has held multiple positions working her way through experience to upper management. She decided to join the Veteran Health Administration in 2010 to use her financial experience to assist Veterans. Angela holds an Associate in Accounting which initiated her career path to the budget and financial world.

Angela is happily married to her husband Wesley and has two children

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Kelvin Glascoe

Washington, DC

Veterans Administration Central Office



Kelvin Glascoe is an operations research analyst (ORA) with the Office of Management, Program Analysis and Evaluation. He joined the VA in August of 2011 and serves as the Senior Cost Analyst for OM. In this position, he develops cost policy, Life Cycle Cost Estimates, Cost Benefit Analysis and is responsible for improving VA overall cost analysis culture.

He is a 1984 graduate of Eastern Illinois University with a degree in Physics. Prior to joining the VA, he began his federal service with the U.S. Department of Defense where he served 30 years as an ORA. At DOD, he served as a Senior ORA and moved into the financial management area in 2002 and served as the Business Financial Manager for the Defense Agency Initiative.

He also serves as the head coach of the Kettering, Largo , Mitchellville Boys and Girls club 18 and under boys basketball team and the 12 and under baseball team. He is a native of Chicago, Illinois, the father of two boys and resides with his wife, Lise Glascoe, in Hyattsville, Maryland.

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Christopher K. Gransberry

Washington, DC

Veterans Benefits Administration



Christopher K. Gransberry, Management Analyst, VBA Central Office, Washington, DC in the Office of Administration & Facilities who provides a high level of administrative support services to VBA Central Office, District Offices, and Regional Offices (RO) that meet the needs of customers, Veterans and their families. The mission has national impact on and supports the overall effectiveness of, benefits services delivered to Veterans and their beneficiaries.

Chris is currently the National Vehicle Fleet Program Manger which establishes standard operating procedures to be used in the management of VBA vehicle fleets. Its scope comprises of industry principles, utilization criteria and other key elements required to improve VBA's overall vehicle fleet management performance and helps to establish standards for District and Regional Offices or stations to maintain the right size fleet to meet the mission.

Chris joined the VA in 2008 as a Veterans Service Representative (VSR) at the New Orleans RO administering benefits counseling and advocating for VA claimants providing information about a broad range of benefits and assisting with compensation and pension applications for VA benefits and services.

Shortly after being awarded 2010 Employee of the Year at the New Orleans RO, Chris was selected to the inaugural class of Change Management Agents (CMA) charged by the USB, where he played a key role in managing the successful transition of benefit implementation initiatives into operational areas and lead change management activities across the business lines within the RO.

Chris was eventually selected to lead VA's Organizational Change Management (OCM) initiative, a major component of the Agency's Transformation Implementation Plan, across VBA. He was awarded a Gold Starfish by the USB for his contribution to the successful acceleration of the OM 9 months ahead of schedule and implementation of the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) 6 months ahead of schedule.

Chris is currently a certified Federal Program/Project Manager (FAC P/PM), Contracting Officer's Representative (FAC COR), Implementation Manager, and Change Management Agent. He holds a

Bachelor's degree from Southern University at New Orleans, Post-bachelorette in Management from Tulane University, a Master's of Health Informatics degree from Louisiana Tech University, Post-master's in Healthcare Operations Management, and currently a PhD candidate with research concentrating on Veterans Homelessness.

Chris enjoys spending his spare time traveling with his wife and three sons.

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Susan Gresser

Milwaukee, WI

Veterans Health Administration



Susan K. Gresser, MS, RN, GCNS-BC, APNP is a Nurse Program Manager for the Green House Project at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, WI. She is currently the Acting Co-Division Manager for the Rehabilitation and Extended Community Care (RECC) Division. She started her career at the Milwaukee VA in 2009 as a Gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist in the RECC Division. Throughout her VA career thus far she has enjoyed many opportunities in leadership and clinical program development. She was also just selected for the VISN 12 Leadership Development Program for 2016.

Susan received her BSN at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) in 1992 and her MS in Nursing from UWM with an emphasis on Gerontology in 1998. She is ANCC Board Certified as a Gerontological Clinical Nurse Specialist. She is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at UWM. Her studies encompass clinical and administrative leadership as well as further expertise in Gerontology.

She is married and has two young children who keep her active and on her toes. She enjoys the outdoors and traveling.

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Leadership VA

Hope Hacker

Milwaukee, WI

Veterans Health Administration



Board certified by both the American College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine, Dr. Hacker has served as the Chief of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Services for the Central Texas Veterans Health Administration. Her skills include development of programs and patient care in Pain Management, Musculoskeletal Care, Electrodiagnosis, Community Living Center rehabilitation, Amputee Care, and Assistive Technology.

Administrative experience includes Professional Standards Board, Center Executive Committee, Coordination and Implementation of the Opioid Safety Initiatives, Patient Safety Committee, Mental Health and Behavioral Medical Executive Committee, Geriatric Executive Committee, and implementing a multi-disciplinary Pain Task Force for complex pain patients in Primary Care.

Access improvement plans include: physician taught Back School, group pre-operative clinics to teach essential post-operative equipment and training skills, and a group TENS program.

Musculoskeletal concerns remain high among the top 10 reasons for seeking a visit with your Primary Care Provider. This is even more prominent among our Veteran population who carried heavy ruck sacks and rappelled out of airplanes and helicopters. A Veteran herself with 20 years of service in the U.S. Army, Dr. Hacker embodies the perspective of both our courageous Veterans who serve selflessly and the VA as it serves those who have borne the battle.

Dr. Hacker began her career at Brooke Army Medical Center in 1989. She completed residency training in Pediatrics at Georgetown University Hospital and training in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Cornell University Medical Center-New York Hospital. She has served as a staff physician at Brooke Army Medical Center, 97th General Medical Center in Frankfurt, Germany, and as Assistant Chief of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She joined the staff at University of Texas San Antonio in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and has eleven years of experience in academics and residency training. She is currently on the clinical faculty for University of Texas at Austin.

As the Deputy Commander for Clinical Services for the 5501st Combat Support Hospital, she has been deployed several times in service to the U. S. Armed Forces. She has accomplished this while serving as a VA physician and leader.

She lives in McGregor, Texas. Her main outside interest is her family. Her husband Henry is an ophthalmologist at Scott and White Medical Center. She has a daughter Jennifer, two grandchildren ages 3 and 6, and a 14 year old niece. Other hobbies include Health and Wellness, Working out, reading, and cooking.

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Christine Booker Hamilton

Washington, DC

National Cemetery Administration



Christine Booker Hamilton currently works at the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) and serves as the Executive Assistant to the Interim Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs. In her role, Christine oversees executive correspondence and special projects in support of the NCA's operational and strategic goals.

Christine has over 25 years of federal government work experience in the areas of VA benefits, program management, systems and data analysis, and business process improvement. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo in Urban Studies and has a proven track record as a focused and dedicated public servant.

In her spare time, Christine loves to write and recite poetry for friends and family. She has two sons, ages 30 and 22, who constantly provide her with life's precious moments.

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Lisa Hamilton

Helena, MT

Veterans Health Administration



Lisa Hamilton is currently serving as the Interim Associate Medical Center Director for the VA Healthcare System in Helena, Montana until June, 2016. She will return to the Eastern Oklahoma Healthcare System (EOVAHCS) in Muskogee, Oklahoma where she is the Chief, Prosthetics and Sensory Aid Service and has been instrumental in developing a high performing team of clinical and administrative personnel. Prior to her detail in Montana, Lisa was the Interim Associate Medical Center Director for EOVAHCS. She has previously served as a warranted Contracting Officer and Chief of Contracting at the VA Medical Centers in Long Beach, California; San Diego, California and Honolulu, Hawaii as well as Executive Assistant to the Associate Medical Center Director in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Lisa is a VA Mentor at the Resident level, and a graduate of VISN 16's Leadership Development Institute (LDI) program. She is a faculty member for VISN 19's LDI course, a Civility, Respect and Engagement in the Workplace (CREW) facilitator and a facilitator of Healing Environment Retreats for EOVAHCS staff sponsored by the Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation.

Lisa earned her B.A from the University of Central Oklahoma. She later earned her M.A. from the University of Hawaii focusing on Organizational and Intercultural Communication and Training.

With lifelong military ties, Lisa has lived in a myriad of different states. She currently resides in Tulsa, Oklahoma with her dogs and two teenage sons. Her interests are cooking, traveling, and renovating her home.

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Amy Hammond currently serves as the Director for the VBA Administrative and Loan Accounting Center in Austin, Texas. She leads a team of 50 professional accountants, contractors and management analysts providing administrative accounting services to 56 VBA Regional Offices and the Veterans' Loan Guaranty Program. In addition, she is responsible for developing and supporting VBA's Chief Financial Officer's National Training Strategy. Prior to joining the Agency, Amy served as the Special Assistant to the Deputy Commander, Resource Management, Marine Corps Systems Command, Quantico Marine Corps Base, VA from 2012 to 2013.

Prior to joining the Department of Veterans Affairs, Amy served for 25 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring in 2011. She has extensive experience in a variety of financial management disciplines including budget, inspector general and audit. She commanded the 90th Comptroller Squadron, the 423d Air Base Group, and served as the Military Assistant to the Air Force Auditor General. Her military assignments spanned the globe including a remote assignment to Kunsan Air Base, Korea as the Chief of Financial Analysis and a deployment to Baghdad, Iraq during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM where she served as the Deputy Comptroller to the Joint Area Support Group.

EDUCATION:

BBA, Accounting, University of Texas, San Antonio, TX

MS, Systems Mgt, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Defense Financial Management Course, Maxwell AFB, AL

Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, AL

Air War College, Maxwell AFB, AL



Samual Harper serves as a Special Assistant to the Deputy CIO, Office of Customer Advocacy, where he provides leadership and guidance to develop and improve the customer experience through better managing the customer's business requirements, identifying areas to improve portfolio and lifecycle management, communicating customer challenges and best practices to the attention of VA leadership, and seeking resolution and implementing metrics-driven performance indicators.

Prior to OCA, Mr. Harper served as a Director, in the Office of Information and Technology. He previously served as the Lead Program Specialist, Region 5 Field Operations within the Office of Information and Technology. In this role, Mr. Harper managed the organizational design and performance management capabilities for the National Capital Region. He also provided leadership and guidance to the Executive Director, Field Operations and the Deputy CIO, Service Delivery and Engineering on matters pertaining to human capital management, program management, and performance analysis.

Samual has over 25 years' experience in the Federal government. He joined the VA in 2008 after serving 20 years in the U.S. Navy; positions previously held by Mr. Harper include serving as a Special Staff Assistant (EEO Program Manager) on Diversity, EEO Policy and Compliance for Naval Network Warfare Command, Manning Officer and various positions throughout his Navy career.

Mr. Harper earned a BS in Business Management and Human Resource Management from the University of Maryland University College. He also earned a MS in Human Resource Development from Webster University.



Mr. Heinle joined the VA in January 2007, as an IT Specialist. During his 9 years with the VA, his primary responsibility has been to conduct Security Control Assessments of VA Information Systems. Additionally, he has developed and conducted numerous trainings for ERM, authored several SOPs, and created a process to capture customer feedback from facilities after each SCA.

Prior to coming to the VA, Mr. Heinle was a Regional Manager with Marketworks, an eCommerce company which provided companies with an online sales and inventory management solution. While at Marketworks, he retained the company's largest and most profitable client, Nautilus Inc. Mr. Heinle also spent three years in the mortgage industry in Atlanta, GA, and four years coaching and teaching middle school in Hilton Head, SC.

Mr. Heinle graduated from James Madison University in 1998, and after 13 years in Atlanta and Hilton Head, he moved back to Northern Virginia in 2014. He is an avid golfer, sports enthusiast, and chef, but spends most of his free time with his wife and three young children.



Dr. Andrew Heller was appointed as the Chief of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at the McGuire VA Medical Center in September of 2001. Initially part-time, he has now transitioned to a full-time role, including active participation in Surgical quality management.

Dr. Heller earned his medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, NY and went on to complete a residency in Otolaryngology at Virginia Commonwealth University. He has been in practice for over 16 years, with special interest in head and neck oncology and allergic disease. He also splits his time with the Quality Management service at the hospital, coordinating the peer review committee and running point on most surgical issues. He has been an active participant on a number of committees at the facility and VISN level, including systems redesign, SPS, operating room, and cancer committees. He is one of the leaders of the Head and Neck tumor board.

Dr. Heller is currently an Associate Professor of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Virginia Commonwealth University. While on-staff at VCU, he was the driving force behind the creation of two interdisciplinary clinics, one for voice and one for swallowing. He also served as the head of their otolaryngic allergy division. He remains very active in resident education with clinical hands-on instruction, as well as classroom lectures. In his time off, he enjoys spending time with his wife, son, and daughter. He is an active mountain biker, paddle boarder and an assistant scout master in his son's boy scout troop.



Leadership VA

Bradley Hennings

Washington, DC

Veterans Administration Central Office



Mr. Hennings currently serves as a Veterans Law Judge at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA). Immediately before his appointment, he was an attorney law clerk for the Honorable Alan G. Lance, Sr., at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). Mr. Hennings also previously worked as a Counsel in the Office of Quality Review (QR) with the BVA. Prior to his time in QR, he served as an Associate Counsel at the BVA, drafting decisions for Veterans Law Judges.

Mr. Hennings currently serves on the Rules Advisory Committee of the CAVC and served four years on the CAVC Bar Association Board of Governors. On the Board of Governors, he served in the officer positions of Treasurer, President-Elect, President and Immediate Past-President. Since 2014, Mr. Hennings has been a member of the Publications Committee and a Co-editor of the CAVC Bar Association's Veterans Law Journal, in addition to authoring various articles in prior years. Furthermore, he is a founding member and Vice-President of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Historical Society. Additionally, Mr. Hennings is a member of the Federal Circuit Bar Association's Veterans Appeals Committee. He is also a current alumni chapter member of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International.

Mr. Hennings was published in Volume 5 of the Veterans Law Review (VLR), co-authoring an article entitled, "A Proposed Approach to the BVA's Clarified Hearing Duties to Explain and Suggest Pursuant to *Bryant v. Shinseki*", 5 Veterans L. Rev. 164 (2013). In addition, he served as a managing articles editor on the 4th volume of the VLR (2012) and worked as an editor or reviewer on the first 3 volumes (2009-2011). Mr. Hennings also recently co-authored an article regarding the maturation of the veterans benefits bar and judicial selection of the CAVC, "Now is the Time: Experts vs. the Uninitiated as Future Nominees to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims" __ FED. CIR. B.J. __ (2016) (forthcoming).

Mr. Hennings received his undergraduate degree from George Washington University, a Masters in Information Systems from Stevens Institute of Technology and his law degree from Rutgers University School of Law-Newark. He resides in Annandale, VA with his wife and two children.

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Leadership VA

Ronald Hirtle

Manchester, NH

Veterans Health Administration



Ron Hirtle is currently a Division Chief in Network Contracting Office 1 (New England), Veterans Health Administration. Ron assumed his position in November 2014. Prior to that he was the Branch Chief over Commodities from 2012 - 2014. He is responsible for all construction, leases, high cost IT buys, and prosthetics procurements in VISN 1. Prior to joining the Department of Veterans Affairs, Ron served on active duty with the United States Air Force for over twenty years. His first assignment was as a missile launch officer/instructor. Throughout his military career, he served in various capacities in operational and major weapons systems contracting, USCENTCOM Staff, and as a Commander of an Air Force Installation. He is a recognized authority in contract management and weapon system acquisitions. In addition, he has developed expertise in formulating administration, production, quality assurance, and related field support for the Army, Navy, Air Force, International Coalitions, and foreign governments.

Ron has served in a variety of contracting positions to include: Contracting Specialist, Contracting Officer, Chief of Contracts, Staff Officer, and Commander. He served as the Subcontract Manager for Major Subcontracts at Northrop Grumman's Advanced Development program. Ron deployed numerous times to the Middle East, as the investigation team for the USS Cole, on force protection teams for all countries in the USCENTCOM Area of Responsibility, and a deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is a graduate of the Education With Industry program. Ron also holds a Masters of Business Administration in Contracting and Acquisitions, a Masters of Science in Health Care Administration, and a Bachelor's in Political Science and Psychology. He is also a staunch supporter of Veteran's rights and benefits, as well as serving his fellow Veterans.

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Leadership VA

Justin Holloway

Washington, DC

Veterans Benefits Administration



Mr. Justin Holloway is the Chief of Technical Rules Development in Compensation Service at VBA Central Office in Washington, DC. Mr. Holloway serves as a primary adviser to the Assistant Director of the Business Management Staff and advises the Deputy Directors and Director of Compensation Service. Mr. Holloway's team responsibility is to ensure the enhancement and maintenance of computer application systems that support 20,000 field users daily. Mr. Holloway serves as the Compensation Service business sponsor for major VBA initiatives including Veterans Business Management System (VBMS), Enterprise Veterans Self Service (EVSS), Veterans Services Network (VETSNET), and several automated processes.

Mr. Holloway began his tenure at VBA Central Office in 2009 as a Program Analyst, in the Office of Business Process Integration (OBPI). Mr. Holloway has been an instrumental participant on several large scale initiatives including Fast Track Claims Processing System and Rules Based Processing System (RBPS). Mr. Holloway transitioned from OBPI to Compensation Service in 2012 as the Chief of Business Process Development.

Mr. Holloway began his career with the Department of Veterans Affairs at the Atlanta Regional Office (RO) as a Veteran Service Representative (VSR) in 2003. Mr. Holloway also served as a Senior Authorizer.

Born and raised in Atlanta, GA, Mr. Holloway received his Bachelors of Science in Business Administration/Finance from Morris Brown College and his Masters of Business Administration and Masters of Public Administration from Keller Graduate School of Management. Mr. Holloway holds a Master's Certificate of Project Management from Georgetown University. Currently, Mr. Holloway is writing a dissertation for a PhD in Organizational Leadership from Northcentral University.

In his spare time, Mr. Holloway participates in various hobbies and activities. His hobbies include traveling, cooking, photography, hanging out with friends, writing and performing stand-up comedy, listening to music, and finding the newest electronic gadgets. Mr. Holloway is also a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

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Shannon Huebert, PhD, Health Behavior Coordinator, VA Medical Center, Kansas City, MO. Dr. Huebert joined VHA in 2009 as a staff psychologist in the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center. In 2012, she was hired as the VA's Health Behavior Coordinator. In this role, Dr. Huebert serves as the lead clinical consultant to the medical center on patient-centered communication skills. She was instrumental in the implementation of the Opioid Safety Initiative and provides ongoing coaching to Patient Aligned Care Teams on a variety of access related initiatives and process improvement projects. Dr.

Huebert completed the VISN 15 Leadership, Effectiveness, Accountability and Development (LEAD) program in 2014. Her team project was concerned with healthcare disparities within VA. In 2016, she was selected for the VA Leadership (LVA) Program. She is certified VA Lean Green Belt. Also, Dr. Huebert was awarded Employee of the Year at the Kansas City VA in 2015.

Prior to her VA career, Dr. Huebert obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Doane College in 1991 and earned her Doctorate in Psychology from the University of Denver in 2004. She is currently completing a certificate in Healthcare Information Systems.

Outside of work, Shannon enjoys traveling and is an avid connoisseur of live music.



Leadership VA

Raja Jagadeesan

Mather, CA

Veterans Health Administration



I am currently the Associate Chief of Staff – Education (Designated Education Officer) and the Chief of Hospital Medicine for VA Northern California Health Care System, based in Sacramento CA.

I was born and raised in northeast Ohio, before going to boarding school outside Boston. I graduated from Stanford University in 1999 with Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Biology. I then finished a joint MD/MPH program at Duke University and the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill in 2005, before returning to Stanford for my Internal Medicine Residency, finishing in 2008. I also snuck in a brief stint as a medical reporter for ABC News during my residency years.

I have been an academic hospitalist at the Sacramento VA for 7 years, and built both a clinical academic hospitalist program in Sacramento, as well as creating a joint DoD/civilian hospitalist program at David Grant Medical Center (Travis Air Force Base). I have also been very involved in medical education both at the VA and at our academic affiliate UC Davis, where I am an Associate Professor.

Outside of work, I met my wonderful wife Ravi Kahlon in Sacramento, and we have 2 small boys (ages 4 and 1) that keep me running around even when I can't get to the gym. After finishing a career in state politics, my wife's new passion is to buy and fix up houses – a hobby I am engaging in a steep learning curve with. We love to travel and spend time in the pool and in the garden, and we have been enjoying the lifestyle – visiting wine country, Lake Tahoe, and the occasional Stanford football game – that Northern California affords.

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Cynthia Johnson

Nashville, TN

Veterans Health Administration



Cynthia L. Johnson was appointed the Associate Director for Patient Care Services (ADPCS), Tennessee Valley Health Care System, Nashville, TN on May 1, 2016. Ms. Johnson has been serving as the Acting ADPCS since November 2015. Prior to joining Tennessee Valley Health Care System as the Associate Director of Patient Care Services, Cynthia L. Johnson served as VISN 9 Quality Management Officer (QMO). As QMO, Ms. Johnson was responsible for providing oversight of all aspects of Quality Management, Process Improvement/Redesign, Performance Management, Patient Safety, Compliance Business Integrity, Ethics, Financial Quality Management, Utilization Management, Accreditation Readiness, Risk Management, and Nursing Liaison across VISN 9 facilities.

Before joining VISN 9, Ms. Johnson served as the Chief of Quality and Performance Management at VA Northern California Healthcare System. Previously, Ms. Johnson served at James A Haley VAMC and Orlando VAMC as the Associate Chief Nurse for Ambulatory Care and Surgery. Ms. Johnson began her VA career at the Lexington VAMC where she served in roles such as Patient Safety Manager and Extended Care Coordinator. Prior to joining the VA, Ms. Johnson worked as a Director of Nursing for Life Care Centers of America.

Ms. Johnson received a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from University of Kentucky, holds a Master's of Science in Health Care Administration from Bellevue University and is Board Certified as Nurse Executive, Advanced by ANCC. She completed the VHA ECF/HCLI training program in 2009 and Federal Nurse Executive Institute in 2007.

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Leadership VA

John Knapp

Minneapolis, MN

National Cemetery Administration



Mr. John G. Knapp was appointed Director, Fort Snelling National Cemetery on August 10, 2014. In this role, he is responsible for all burial, maintenance and administrative operations at the facility.

Prior to joining the National Cemetery Administration, Mr. Knapp served as a supervisor with the United States Marine Corps Forces Pacific Headquarters, located at Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii. He was responsible for leading a team of civilians and Marines in the production of multiple operational and conceptual plans. Additionally, he successfully supervised the planning and development of a Marine rotational presence in Australia. He also was the primary author of the

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Strategy 2013-2020, a capstone document guiding over 80,000 Marines throughout the Pacific.

Mr. Knapp served as an AV-8B Harrier pilot in the USMC. His 32 years of military service includes time in the enlisted (USAR) and officer ranks (USMC) in both the active and reserve components. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel from the USMCR.

Mr. Knapp holds a BS in Education from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and a MBA in Aviation Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He is currently pursuing a MA in International Relations with Oklahoma University and is a fellow in the 2016 Leadership VA (LVA) cohort.

He is married to the former Heather L. Wiltanger of Oil City, Pennsylvania. They reside in Eagan, Minnesota with their three children.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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Leadership VA (LVA)



Ellen Kollar is the Director of the Oversight and Effectiveness Service in the Office of Human Resources Management. She leads the VA Human Resources (HR) Accountability Program. Her team evaluates HR offices and Delegated Examining Units in the field to ensure that they are in compliance with merit system principles, Federal laws and regulations; and support the VA's mission. The Oversight and Effectiveness Service provides consulting services to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of HR offices so that they can provide

good customer service to employees and veterans.

Prior to becoming Director, she was the lead technical expert in data analysis, employee satisfaction surveys, and evaluation of HR programs and initiatives. She led the project team that implemented performance-based or behavioral interviewing to assess the best applicants to serve veterans. She participated as a researcher in a collaborative research project on stress and violence in the workplace examining the relationship between the employee survey and other indices of employee satisfaction, productivity, and customer satisfaction. She spent 5 years in Staffing Policy writing HR policy and qualification standards as well as providing technical advice and assistance. Prior to joining VA in 1991, she worked for the Office of Personnel Management as a Personnel Psychologist and as a Human Resources Specialist.

She was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Psychology from the Catholic University of America and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Honors English from Georgetown University. She has completed 60 hours of coach-specific training in an International Coach Federation-approved program.

She and her husband live in Washington, DC with their twin sons. She volunteers at their school and is active in professional organizations. She enjoys travel, going to the beach and reading mysteries.



Leadership VA

Dustin Koonce

Washington, DC

Veterans Administration Central Office



Dustin Koonce serves as the lead Real Estate Portfolio Manager for the Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) construction program within the Office of Asset Enterprise Management (OAEM) at VACO in Washington, DC. Mr. Koonce joined OAEM in 2012 where his responsibilities include effective corporate-level management of VA real estate assets (land and buildings) in order to better serve Veterans and their families. His daily activities include planning, executing, constructing and operating housing (permanent and transitional) and supportive services for homeless

Veterans, senior housing and Veterans with disabilities. Within his current capacity he has assisted more than 800 Veterans and families to be placed in transitional or permanent housing or to have housing opportunities constructed to support them. He has managed more than \$3.2 Billion of real estate and financial assets within his 16 years of federal service.

He previously served 12 years with the US Department of Justice as a policy advisor and managed national initiatives awarded through discretionary and formula programs enacted by Congress.

He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer/President of a 501(c)3 federally designated non-profit organization which provides resources and services to low-income individuals and families. In addition, he serves as a licensed real estate agent and is an executive member of Reid Temple Church- Senior Housing Committee that is chartered to plan and execute a 250 unit - \$40,000,000 active senior living facility.

In 2010 he earned a master's degree in Real Estate Development from Georgetown University. He also is a graduate of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University with a master's degree in Public Administration.

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Dr. LeDeaux was born in Fort Jackson, South Carolina to a career Army family and spent her childhood mostly in Germany. She considers herself as being from New Jersey because this is where her Korean War Veteran father retired the family. She enjoys baking, sewing, flute and piano.

Dr. LeDeaux attended Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA where she received a B.A. in Biology and then Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA where she received an M.S. in Environmental Science. After working in the field of Occupational Safety and Health for several years, Dr. LeDeaux taught biology and physical science in a New Jersey public high school. She then decided to change to a career in medicine and attended Rutgers University – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway, NJ and received her medical degree.

Dr. LeDeaux completed a Family Medicine residency training program and is board certified in Family Medicine. She has served in many leadership positions in primary care. She was the Program Director/Medical Director of a relationship-centered Family Medicine Residency program for seven years in Pennsylvania. During this time she participated in numerous primary care innovations including the Patient Centered Medical Home, Open Access Scheduling, Patient Activation/Self-Management in Chronic Illness, and Informed/Shared Decision-Making. She considers innovations in patient care her passion. Dr. LeDeaux also served as the Managing Physician for the Cumberland Clinic and Associate Chief of Medicine for Quality at the Southeast Permanente Medical Group in Atlanta, Georgia before arriving at the VA.

Dr. LeDeaux joined VA New Jersey Healthcare System in 2010 as the Associate Chief of Staff for Ambulatory Care. In this role she has been responsible for implementation and oversight of VHA transformative programs including Primary Care/PACT, Health Promotion Disease Prevention, Caregiver Support, and Virtual Health. She also oversees Compensation & Pension and Dermatology. Dr. LeDeaux is currently serving as one of the leaders in VA New Jersey's Center of Innovation activities and was instrumental in the development and opening of the Center for Health & Wellness where primary care and Integrative Health innovations are being piloted. Dr. LeDeaux received a certificate of recognition by the Federal Executive Board of Northern New Jersey as 2012 Woman of the Year.



Leadership VA

James Lester

Newington, CT

Veterans Benefits Administration



James entered active duty military service just after graduation from high school, at the ripe old age of 17. After discharge, he became lost in life, struggling with drive and proper healthcare. After a few years in and out of different jobs and no real direction, James walked into the VA's VR&E Program office. A retired VR&E Officer, then contractor, met with him. He took an interest in James, later becoming his mentor for several years and then his close friend, before passing away in 2015. This man helped James discover his talent for understanding people and passion of helping others, which helped to direct him towards the social sciences field.

James had never considered college, so this was an adventure. He got married and they had their first child during the first year of college, while he worked full-time for the county as a clerk and carved out 1 day per week to work at the local VR&E Office conducting group orientations and assessments. While nearing completion of his Bachelor's degree, James was hired on at the VARO's Service Center as a Program Support Clerk. Around 6 months later, he was promoted to Claims Assistant and a few months later was promoted to Veteran Service Representative (VSR). While working as a VSR, he began working towards a Graduate degree, taking night and weekend classes at the local university. During the first semester of his studies, he and his family lost their home and belongings to a fire. Baby number 2 came along the month after they moved into a new home. James applied for a position as a Voc Rehab Technician to aide in completing internship hours for his Master's and was eventually hired on as a Voc Rehab Counselor (VRC). While working as a VRC, James also taught nights at the Graduate College as a part-time adjunct professor. After a few years, James moved on to Central Office, working for the VR&E Service STAR Team. In March of 2016, James was notified of his selection as the new VR&E Officer of the Hartford Regional Office.

James has served more than 12 years through the federal government. He has been involved in many pilots, workgroups, and innovations throughout different government agencies, colleges, universities, and community organizations. He has completed multiple certifications and leadership programs and has served on advisories, committees, and councils with dozens of organizations and agencies. James has also been working to complete a doctorate degree in psychology; his dissertation involves an innovative study of specific employment aspects of military Veterans. His ability to lead and make executive resolutions is noticed in the community, as he has been asked to serve on several board of directors and as oversight on major projects and organizations at local, state, and national levels.

Whether small or large, the slightest influence can cause a wave or a wrinkle in the world and touch others' lives. James' personal objective is for his ripples to be constructive and long lasting.

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Leadership VA

James Lipton

Hampton, VA

Veterans Health Administration



James Andrew Lipton CSP-OMM, FAAO, FAAPMR, FAOCPRM graduated from the University of Maryland in 1976 where he earned a double degree with honors simultaneously in Psychology and Zoology. He went on to a Ph.D program in the Neurosciences and Anatomy at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, where he taught medical, dental and graduate students. From there in 1981 he attended the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine on a full scholarship from the United States Navy graduating in 1985 with honors in OMM.

He rose to Deputy Chief of the United States Navy Medical Corps for General Practice in Washington D.C. He was the first junior officer to ever hold this position in the history of the Navy. He then authored BUMEDINSTR 6300.1 1 for worldwide distribution permitting the use of OMM, and created the position of Specialty Advisor to the Surgeon General in OMM. Dr. Lipton was also appointed the Specialty Leader to the Surgeon General of the Navy in PM&R from 1995-1999. Commander Lipton has been decorated many times including the Surface Warfare Medical Officers Designator Pin, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, two National Defense Medals, six Meritorious Unit Citations, the Expert pistol and Expert rifle medals and two Letters of Commendation. He served three years in Naval Special Warfare Command as Squadron Medical Officer supervising US NAVY SEAL Corpsman and medical personnel aboard Patrol Coastal Combatant Ships worldwide.

He has multiple publications including in the New England Journal of Medicine and those which represent landmarks in osteopathic thinking such as the intellectual extension of William Garner Sutherland's Osteopathy in the Cranial Field to include the Unified Field Theory and the naming of a tissue never before found in the human body, the cervical myodural bridge, for the research group reported on in the New York Times and Time Magazine.

CDR Lipton was appointed the Navy's Champion and their single representative to work with multiple champions across the other services, all experts tasked to develop the Department of Defense (DOD)/ Veterans Administration (VA) Clinical Guidelines for the Treatment of Low Back Pain. Commander Lipton spent hundreds of man hours writing the algorithms, literature justifications and guidelines concerning manipulative medicine and provided quality assurance in the production of the finished guidelines.

Following 24 years of honorable service and retirement from the Navy, Dr. Lipton was asked to serve at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Hampton Virginia to help care for our Nations' wounded warriors. Dr. Lipton has served as Chief of RMS, and works daily relieving the pain of some of our most complicated patients. He has opened the first credentialed manual medicine clinic in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in the history of the Hampton VAMC in 2009. He currently has MOU's in place with VCOM, NECOM and NYCOM and has published numerous papers along with rotating medical students demonstrating the efficacy of OMM in treating our Veterans.

Dr. Lipton is the world's only MD/DO certified FAAO/physiatrist. He is a full professor in both PM&R and OMM. He is quadruple board certified to serve in any MD/DO joint capacity. Dr. Lipton is a 2012 graduate of LDI.

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Leadership VA

Kenyatta McLeod-Poole

Washington, DC

Veterans Administration Central Office



Ms. Kenyatta McLeod-Poole currently serves as the Legislative Counsel and Deputy Chief Counsel, Information Law Group. Ms. McLeod-Poole supervises a team of legal experts responsible for advising the Department on information law issues such as the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); Privacy Act; Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA); VA's Privacy and confidentiality statutes; reporting to State Licensing Boards; and reporting to State Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs. Additionally, she directs the Office of Legislative Counsel, the primary legal office with responsibility for facilitating the disclosure of information in response to Congressional oversight investigations.

Prior to joining the Information Law Group in 2010 as a staff attorney, Ms. McLeod-Poole served as a staff attorney with the Baltimore/Washington Office of Regional Counsel from 2003 to 2010 where her primary practice related to EEO and labor relations issues. Ms. McLeod-Poole began her career with VA in December 2000 as a staff attorney with the Board of Veterans Appeals. Prior to joining VA she was a Presidential Management Intern with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Office of Merit Systems Oversight and Effectiveness. Ms. McLeod-Poole earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice at Virginia Union University where she graduated summa cum laude in 1996 with the distinct honor of Class Valedictorian. Thereafter, she attended the University of Richmond, T.C. Williams School of Law. She has been a member of the Virginia State Bar since 2000. She is also a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/Government).

Ms. McLeod-Poole is married and has 2 sons and 1 daughter ages 9, 6 and 3 years old.

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Leadership VA

Gregg Morin

Augusta, ME

Veterans Benefits Administration



Gregg Morin was appointed the Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager (AVSCM) at the Togus VA Regional Office (VARO) in September 2011. Gregg supports the VSCM in the day-to-day oversight of the Veterans Service Center (VSC) operations which has an authorized ceiling of 163 employees. Along with processing claims for Maine Veterans, the Togus VSC brokers in claims from regional offices throughout the nation.

Gregg joined VBA in March 2001 at the Togus VARO as a Veterans Service Representative (VSR) and was promoted to Rating Veterans Service Representative (RVSR) in July 2003 then Supervisory Veterans Service Representative (Coach) in May 2008. Gregg has served on organizational details to include Lead Program Analyst in the Office of Field Operations, Acting AVSCM at the Boston VARO, and a Compensation Services Site Survey Team.

Prior to joining VBA, Gregg served in Kosovo on active duty with the United States Army. Gregg is an avid sports fan and helps coach youth sports in his community. Gregg and his wife Kim have three wonderful daughters Sophia 9, Alexis 7, and Julianna 5. Gregg is a lifetime member of Disabled American Veterans.

Gregg has an undergraduate degree in History from Worcester State University and a Juris Doctorate degree from University of Massachusetts School of Law.

He is a graduate of VBA programs: Introduction to Leadership, Workload Management Training, Division Level Management Training, Leadership Enhancement and Development, and Leadership Development Program.

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Jan Northstar

Atlanta, GA

Veterans Administration Central Office



Jan Northstar is the Southeast district director for the Office of Public Affairs in Atlanta, Ga. She serves as spokesperson on regional matters and provides guidance, training and crisis communications assistance to facilities in six states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Northstar also coordinates media appearances for the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the region.

Northstar served in various government positions for more than 35 years beginning with the Army Corps of Engineers, New York District in 1980. After joining VA (Central Office) in 1988, she was a public affairs specialist and assistant editor of VAnguard, the VA's national magazine. She moved to Atlanta, Ga., in 1996 and worked for the Atlanta Police Department as public affairs director and spokesperson, primarily during the Olympic Games. She returned to VA in 1998, where she rose to the position she holds today.

A retired Lt. Col., U.S. Army Reserve, she is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College and holds a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University and a bachelor's degree in communications from the City College of New York. She is married to David Northstar Sr. They have two sons, Xavier and David II, who served with the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq.

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Leadership VA

Sami O'Neill

Seattle, WA

Veterans Administration Central Office



Sami O'Neill is the Director of the Seattle Regional Office of Healthcare Inspections, VA Office of Inspector General. Ms. O'Neill previously served as the Associate Director and joined VA-OIG in October 2010 as a Health System Specialist.

She completed her Bachelors in Speech in 1990 and her Master of Arts in Speech and Hearing Science in 1991. After working as an audiologist in the private sector, Ms. O'Neill joined VA Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle, WA as a staff audiologist in 1993. She also held an Adjunct Clinical Instructor position with the University of Washington. In 2005, Ms. O'Neill assumed the position of Chief of Audiology and Speech Pathology. In addition to direct patient care and management, she was also active in VA research. Ms. O'Neill has several published papers as co-investigator in the field of rehabilitative audiology.

After completing the VISN 20 UW/VA Executive Development Program, Ms. O'Neill was appointed to the position of Business Manager for Primary and Specialty Medicine in 2006. She directed daily operations for primary care and multiple specialty medicine departments across all divisions for VA Puget Sound. She served as program oversight for activities in performance measures, compliance, credentialing, and contracting.

Ms. O'Neill performed as a National VA Systems Redesign Coach directing local, VISN, and national clinical/administrative redesign teams. She has presented regional VA Systems Resign programs and served as Chair of the VHA National Audiology Systems Redesign Steering Committee.

She resides in Sammamish, WA with her teenage son. Weekends will find Ms. O'Neill visiting her daughter at the University of Mississippi, supporting her son in his sporting activities, or escaping to the mountains in search of wildlife.

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Leadership VA

Lateefah Parker

Austin, TX

Veterans Administration Central Office



Lateefah S. Parker is a Supervisory Contract Specialist for the Office of Acquisition and Logistics, Office of Acquisition Operations, Technology Acquisition Center in Austin, TX. In this role, she is directly responsible for the acquisition planning and execution of Enterprise Information Technology (IT), in support of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Office of Information and Technology. She manages a portfolio of acquisitions to include micro purchase procurements, simplified acquisitions, and negotiated contracts for complex multi-million dollar IT hardware, software and service solutions.

Prior to joining VA in 2007, Ms. Parker served the U.S. Department of Army, Tank Automotive Armaments Command (TACOM) where she performed as a business information specialist, responsible for IT portfolio management providing direct support to the Chief Information Officer (CIO/G6), and later transitioned to the TACOM Acquisition Center where she gained contracting experience as a contract specialist and procurement analyst providing acquisition services in support of major weapons systems, base operations, IT, and research and development. Before her Army employment she worked as a human resource management system consultant for PeopleSoft Consulting, responsible for implementing human resource (HR) enterprise resource planning (ERP) solutions for several state and federal agencies. Mrs. Parker began her federal career as a U. S. Department of Energy Co-op College Intern at the Bonneville Power Administration located in Portland, OR. After graduating from the intern program, she continued her federal service career with BPA, serving as a management development specialist, and later, human resource information specialist on a team responsible for the implementation of BPA's first deployment of a HR ERP solution.

Ms. Parker received her Bachelor of Science degree in education from Prairie View A&M University, Masters of Science degree in education, policy foundation and administration from Portland State University and Masters of Business Administration degree from Lawrence Technological University. She received a Master of Science certificate in Project Management from Villanova University, holds a Greenbelt certification in Lean Six Sigma, a Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting (FAC-C) Level III, and is eligible for FAC in Program and Project Management (FAC-P/PM), Level II. She has received numerous commendations and coins throughout her career. Ms. Parker is a member of the National Contract Management Association. Ms. Parker is married and has two children. In her spare time, she enjoys exercising, travel, and spending time with friends and family.

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Brandon Parrinello is a Senior Management Analyst with the Office of Inspector General. He is located at the Bay Pines, FL field office. He joined the OIG in 2009 and has served as a team leader on multiple audits and reviews. He has worked on audits of the Fiduciary Program, Technology Acquisition Center, and Implementation of HSPD12 to name a few.

Brandon earned his Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Connecticut in 2009 and is a Certified Fraud Examiner. He has conversational knowledge of Brazilian Portuguese and an intermediate grasp on Spanish. He also has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Central Florida.

Prior to beginning his Federal Service with the VA OIG Brandon worked with several Fortune 500 companies in various positions and also consulted for a small entrepreneurial venture. Brandon is a member of the Roman Catholic Church and enjoys spending time with his wife Mirela and two young children, Sophia (3) and Nicholas (6 months).



Leadership VA

Jessica Pierce

Seatac, WA

Veterans Benefits Administration



Jessica Pierce assumed the position of Assistant Special Missions Program Officer for the Seattle Regional Office's Disability Rating Activity Site (DRAS) in November 2014. Jessica started her career with the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2007 as a Rating Veterans Service Representative (RVSR) in the Seattle Regional Office. She worked in Veterans Benefits Administration Central Office in Washington, DC from September 2009 through October 2014, holding progressive positions including Management and Program Analyst in the Office of Disability Assistance and Chief of the Procedures and Program Development staff in Compensation Service.

Prior to joining the Department of Veterans Affairs, Jessica worked for the Social Security Administration. She has a strong commitment to public service, working for the Federal government her entire adult career. She received a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Washington, and earned a Masters of Public Policy from George Mason University in 2014. She has completed LEAN Yellow and Green Belt training and is currently working on both certification projects.

Jessica lives in Seattle, Washington with her husband Sean and their two dogs. She enjoys reading, spending time with family, and crafting; her current projects include making 1940's-style fascinator hats and upcycled vintage purses.

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Leadership VA

Stacy Pommer

Washington, DC

Veterans Health Administration



Stacy Pommer, LMSW, currently serves as a Health System Specialist in the Associated Health Education (AHE) section of the Veterans Health Administration Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA). AHE oversees clinical training programs for over 40 allied health professions. Ms. Pommer manages clinical education programs for six funded mental health and rehabilitation professions in addition to ten unfunded professions.

She holds a Master's of Science in Social Work from Columbia University and completed her social work internship training at NY Harbor Healthcare System (Manhattan Campus). She was appointed as a Health Science Specialist at the Manhattan VAMC in 2007 with her first role as same-day triage clinician for the Primary Care Mental Health Integration team. Her most recent clinical role at the Manhattan VAMC was serving as the Visual Impairment Services Team Coordinator (she has adjusted to her own vision loss over the past decade). She has been working with OAA since 2013. She is an advocate for expanding the delivery of health care services to Veterans and training our next generation of health care professionals.

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Leadership VA

Edda Quinones-Romero

McClellan, CA

Veterans Health Administration



Edda Quinones-Romero, MD serves as the Chief of Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service, at VA Northern California Health Care System (NCHCS). In this position, she is responsible for overseeing and managing clinical and administrative operations of the largest VA C&P program in VISN21. NCHCS C&P provides disability evaluations to Veterans in collaboration with the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA); and Fitness for Duty examinations to Active Service Members who are in the process of being discharged, in partnership with the Department of Defense (DoD) in several joint programs, to include the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) and its expanded program Outside the Continental United States (OCONUS) - Korea, Guam and Japan. Her duties include frequent interaction with multiple stakeholders: Veterans and their families, Facility Services personnel, VHA facilities'

C&P Programs, Contractors, VBA Regional Offices, DoD sites, Veteran Service Organizations, VISN21, VA Central Office, US Congressional staffers and US Congress Members. This has given her experience in high level partnering and cross-functional expertise.

Dr. Quinones-Romero began her federal career at the VA Caribbean Healthcare System in San Juan, PR. At this institution, she developed methods to evaluate effectiveness and quality of patient care, implemented new programs and contributed to policy development in the Disability Evaluation Field, Mental Health and Primary Care settings. In her 16 years of service and leadership at the VA, she has held positions with progressively increasing responsibilities and managerial involvement, going from Staff Physician to Service Chief, and serving in roles as Physician Team Leader, Clinical Supervisor, Clinical Administrator; and Chairperson of Performance Improvement and Provision of Care Committees. In her professional career she has also served as Staff Developer, Healthcare Advisory Board Member, Inter-agency Liaison, Clinical Reviewer of Annual Budget Service-Level Proposals, Continuous Medical Education and Leadership Training/Workshop Speaker, National and Regional System Redesign Workgroup Member, and Subject Matter Expert in cases of medical negligence.

Dr. Quinones-Romero graduated with a bachelor's degree in General Sciences in 1991, and concluded a graduate course in Neuroscience at the University of Puerto Rico in 1992. She completed her Doctorate in Medicine from Universidad Central del Caribe in Puerto Rico in 1996 after completing clinical rotations at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (Philadelphia) and Hospitals affiliated with New York University (NYU). She obtained her Specialty in Internal Medicine in 1999 and completed a Fellowship in Primary Care Education in Medicine in 2000, both at the VA Caribbean Healthcare System. She is a member of the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American College of Physicians (ACP). She is also a graduate of the VISN 21-22 Leadership Development Institute (LDI) Program.

Dr. Quinones-Romero has a passion for traveling, reading, writing, singing, and cooking. She currently lives in Sacramento, California with Liberato, her loving husband of 14 years.

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Leadership VA

Deo Rampertab

Fresno, CA

Veterans Health Administration



Dr. Rampertab received his medical degree from the Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in Chicago, IL. He completed a Podiatric Surgery Residency at Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ where he also served as Chief Resident from 1993-1994.

During his 23 year career in private practice in Phoenix, AZ, Dr. Rampertab perfected Ultrasound Guided Cryoanalgesia and has served as a Guest Lecturer at various National and International Podiatric and Innovative Surgical Conferences on the topics of Nerve Surgery and Nerve Healing/Regeneration. He has traveled to Europe and nationwide training doctors on this unique surgical procedure.

He has been a Physician Leader at Honor Health/John C. Lincoln Hospital and over the past 20 years he has served in numerous administrative and leadership roles. For the past 10 years, Dr. Rampertab has been a Clinical Assistant Professor at The Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine at Midwestern University and a Consultant Podiatrist at the Carl T. Hayden VAMC training student and resident doctors in the OR as well as in the office-based settings.

Dr. Rampertab loves to teach and it shows as he has earned a number of awards and honors during his career as a clinician, educator, and administrator. He is recognized for excellence in teaching and lecturing having been awarded Best Lecturer of the Year Award on numerous occasions.

Dr. Rampertab retired from private practice and joined the VHA in 2015 as a Staff Podiatrist. He has been assigned as the Lean Process Improvement Champion for the Department of Surgery. He also serves on the Ethics Advisory and Preventative Ethics Committees. His goal is ultimately to start a Podiatric Surgical Residency Program based out of the VACCHCS, Fresno, CA.

When he is not actively treating patients, Dr. Rampertab is owner of a boutique winery in Healdsburg, CA. He has won numerous awards for his wines. His Merlot was named Best Merlot of 2011 and 2012 at the San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition. His wines were the Official Wines of the Major League Baseball All-Star Game in 2010 in Anaheim, CA.

Dr. Rampertab is an avid trail hiker and mountain climber having climbed some of the tallest peaks in the lower 48 states. His wife is a nurse and an Army Veteran having served in Operation Desert Storm. His older daughter has been in the US Navy for 8 years and has had 5 deployments to the Persian Gulf aboard her aircraft carrier. His younger daughter is finishing up her Freshman year at The University of Southern California.

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Leadership VA

Brian Reed

Charleston, IL

Veterans Administration Central Office



Brian Reed is a procurement attorney for the Department of Veterans Affairs District Contracting National Practice Group. He began working for VA in 2006 as procurement counsel at VA's Central Office in Washington, DC and moved to the Chicago field office in 2008. Mr. Reed began his career in procurement law at the Office of Naval Research in Washington in 1987 while he was earning a Master of Laws degree from the George Washington University National Law Center in Washington, DC, concentrating in government procurement law. While studying for his LLM, Mr. Reed interned with Judge Robert Yock at the United States Claims Court drafting procurement-related legal opinions. In 1988, he moved to the Chief Counsel's Office at the Federal Aviation Administration, where he created procurement law training programs for regional attorneys, drafted a procurement law handbook, and was designated as a procurement law subject matter expert by the Department of Transportation; in that capacity, he taught various regional procurement attorney orientation courses at the Department's Center for Management Development in Palm Coast, FL. He also holds a certification in Federal Workplace Mediation from the Institute of Conflict Analysis & Resolution, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA. While at FAA, Mr. Reed developed an innovative streamlined enforcement process that has been replicated at the Transportation Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security, an effort that earned him the Secretary of Transportation's Silver Medal for Meritorious Service. Mr. Reed is licensed to practice law in Illinois and Washington, DC.

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Leadership VA

Suzanne Rhodes

Orlando, FL

Veterans Benefits Administration



Suzanne Rhodes currently is a Program Manager at VBA's Training and Performance Improvement Division, and has held that role since 2014. In this capacity, she oversees development of training programs and human performance interventions that support employees in all VBA business lines. She began her career with the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1990 as a graduate intern with the Roanoke Regional Office. From there, she worked as a Program Analyst on the Insurance Service Staff in Philadelphia for 5 years. Asked to be a part of the VBA Technical Training Task Force, she then moved to Orlando to join VBA's Office of Technical Training and Evaluation as a Project Manager. Her primary role was to partner with VBA business lines to create entry-level, journey-level and advanced training.

She earned a master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) from Virginia Tech and a master's degree in Instructional Technology/Media: Instructional Systems from the University of Central Florida. She has maintained her Project Management Professional (PMP) certification from PMI since 2003, and is a certified Contracting Officer's Representative (COR).

Ms. Rhodes is the proud daughter of an Army Veteran and the wife of a Navy Veteran. She resides in Orlando, where she enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons. In her free time, she enjoys travelling and cooking with her family.

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Leadership VA

Harry Robinson

Orlando, FL

Veterans Health Administration



Harry Robinson was appointed as the National Program Manager for VHA Simulation Learning Education and Research Network (SimLEARN) in February 2012. Prior to that, he was a Senior Associate with Booz Allen Hamilton, where he served as the Advanced Analytics Modeling and Simulation lead supporting Team Orlando, a collaborative alliance of governmental and non-profit agencies, including the Department of Defense and VA, working to leverage simulation technology to improve employee performance. His focus was on providing live, virtual and constructive simulation to support training solutions to improve human performance and accomplish individual and team training requirements.

A Veteran of the U.S. Navy, Mr. Robinson completed his active duty as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division leading over 1,100 personnel accomplishing full life-cycle acquisition of training solutions for the Navy. As a Naval Flight Officer, he primarily flew the E-2C Hawkeye and commanded both an operational squadron and type wing. His combat experience includes strike, close air support, and air superiority missions over Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. The Philadelphia native retired at the rank of captain after 28 years of naval service

Harry earned his commission through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps upon graduation from the Pennsylvania State University in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. He earned a Doctorate of Philosophy in Modeling & Simulation from Old Dominion University and a Master's of Science in Aviation Systems from the University of Tennessee. Harry completed training at the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, the Naval War College Command and Staff Course, and Medical Modeling & Simulation Certificate Program from the Navy Postgraduate School. In 2015, he completed the VHA Health Care Development Leadership Program.

VA



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Leadership VA

Lynn Thiem Rodriguez

Washington, DC

Veterans Benefits Administration



Lynn Thiem Rodriguez currently works as a Lead Program Analyst in Compensation Service supporting the Live Manual. She is active on VA Pulse, managing the intake and resolution of procedural issues from the Live Manual page and authors M21-1 in the Knowledge Management system.

Lynn began her VA career as a Veterans Service Representative (VSR) in Montgomery, AL, in 2000. She attended VBA's Instructor Development Course and conducted local VSR training and quality review. She was promoted to Rating Veterans Service Representative in 2003. She served as the VA Medical Center liaison to Veterans Integrated Service Network -7 for the Compensation and Pension Examination Program. In 2008, Lynn joined VA Regional Office Hartford as a rating and appeals Coach. Prior to her current position, Lynn worked for VA Central Office in the Compensation and Pension Service as a program analyst for the Pension Management Center consolidation, training consultant for Challenge, and Chief of the Interagency Data Sharing staff. She was the Compensation Service Chief of Procedures and Program Development, Acting Assistant Director for Procedures, and liaison to the Office of Strategic Planning, providing support for the development of VBA's transformation initiatives. She worked closely with Change Management Agents and the Operations Center during the rollout of the transformation plan. As an external liaison to the Social Security Administration (SSA), Lynn supported the planning, delivery and maintenance of SSA's Government to Government Services Online system to over 6,600 VBA employees.

Lynn is a native of Bristol, CT. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Resources Management from Troy University, an MBA from Auburn University, and is a recent graduate of the Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executive Fellows program. She currently resides in Fairhope, AL where she enjoys cooking and wine tasting. Her interest in studying wine has taken her to vineyards throughout the US and central Europe, including Alsace and the Rhineland. Lynn plans to travel to Auckland and Northland New Zealand in 2017.

VA



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Leadership VA

Michael Roth

Washington, DC

National Cemetery Administration



Mike Roth is the Director, Design and Construction Service for the Veteran Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA). He is responsible for minor construction and engineering guidance/policy for National Cemeteries across the United States. The motto of NCA as defined by President Lincoln, commander-in-chief and a Veteran himself, who pledged the nation “To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.” The mission of NCA is to honor Veterans and their families with final resting places in national shrines and lasting tributes that commemorate their service and

sacrifice to the Nation. Currently, the Design and Construction Service provides project planning, design, construction, and engineering technical expertise to 134 National Cemeteries.

Mike has been with VA since September 2012. His previous job in the VA was Chief, Facilities Management Service at the Washington DC VA Medical Center where he managed all facility related maintenance, repair and construction. He joined NCA in September 2014. Before joining the VA, Mike retired from the Air Force after 21 years. Mike was a career Civil Engineer Officer who held numerous leadership positions at every level of the Air Force engineering community. Mike lead engineers and project/program management teams in 8 different countries to include Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Portugal and the United Kingdom. His permanent assignments included Whiteman AFB, Lajes Field, RAF Fairford, Scott AFB, Vandenberg AFB, Langley AFB, the Pentagon and the United Arab Emirates.

Mike grew up in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is a 1991 Penn State graduate and earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering. He also earned a master’s of science degree in International Relations from Troy University and a master’s of science degree in Strategic Leadership from the Air Force Institute of Technology. Mike is married and has three children; a 17 year old and 12 year old son as well as a 13 year old daughter. Mike enjoys boating and traveling.

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Leadership VA

Dennise Sauvage

New Orleans, LA

Veterans Health Administration



Dennise Sauvage, with over 24 years of experience in communications and marketing, currently serves as the Communication's Director of the Workforce Management and Consulting Office. Receiving her degree in Communications & Marketing in 1992 from the University of Southwestern Louisiana, she worked in the Oil and Gas Industry for over 10 years. While there, she was able to address many crisis communications issues very proactively, and within 3 years, was promoted to lead the company's Marketing and Communications Division.

Ms. Sauvage's father was an Army and Navy Veteran who also served in combat during his 3 tours in Vietnam. After his passing, she looked into working with the Department of Veterans Affairs to honor his memory.

In November 2004, Ms. Sauvage joined the local VA Medical Center in New Orleans as their Public Affairs Officer. In less than 1 year of working for VHA, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans and her crisis communications background was put to the test. In 2006, Ms. Sauvage was selected to work at the national Healthcare Retention and Recruitment Office which is headquartered in New Orleans.

Since then, her role has broadened as the Communications Director to now include all divisions within the Workforce Management and Consulting Office. Ms. Sauvage provides time-critical advice and counsel to commanders and directors on effective communication strategies at the local, regional and national level to support mission goals. This includes developing external communication strategies that include highly visible national projects such as national television recruitment commercials for the Veterans Health Administration, Public Service Announcements, Congressional responses, fact sheets, briefing presentations and speeches.

Ms. Sauvage was born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras while her father was working overseas and moved to New Orleans, LA at the age of 3. She is bilingual in English and Spanish and enjoys to travel throughout Central America and Southern Europe with her two children, Kieffer (23) and Korinne (20).

VA



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Leadership VA

Kip Sheppard

Golden, CO

Veterans Administration Central Office



Kip Sheppard is a Supervisory Contract Specialist at the VA's Denver Acquisition and Logistics Center (DALC) in Golden, CO. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army and a graduate of Colorado Christian University (CCU). While at CCU in 1991, he was hired as a student clerk at the General Services Administration (GSA), Public Building Service (PBS) in Lakewood, CO. After graduation, he was hired as an intern and progressed through the ranks as a contract specialist/contracting officer and became a GS-13 team leader in 1999.

In the summer of 2002, he was selected to become the GS-14 property manager for all the federal buildings in the state of Utah. His team consisted of about 12 federal workers who took care of over 3 million square feet of federally owned and leased space. In 2007, he transferred back to Denver to resume serving as a contracting team leader and was selected to the GSA Advanced Leadership Development Program class of 2008.

In the summer of 2011, he transferred to the DALC after 20 years with GSA. The position was new to the organization and put him in charge of the contracting for all the strategically sourced prosthetic items offered at the DALC and all the acquisition support of the VA Acquisition Academy. It has proven to be a challenge and a great learning experience the last five years.

He has been married for 24 years and has four kids; a boy and three girls. The youngest is sixteen and the oldest is 21. He enjoys spending time with his family and serving at church.

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Chip Snead is the acting Director of Calendaring and Release Management for the newly formed OI&T Enterprise Program Management Office (EPMO). His team has overall responsibility for the transition of certified IT products that are released to the production environment, and lifecycle management of those products or systems through retirement.

Chip is a 1979 graduate of West Point, earned an MBA from St Edwards University in Austin, Texas, and holds certifications related to quality and project/program management. He joined the VA in 2002. In 14 years at the VA, Chip has successfully served various positions at the Austin ITC location in the organization now known as Enterprise Operations; all positions focused on Project Management, Program Management, and Functional Management. Prior to the VA and just out of college, Chip completed Army Airborne and Ranger Schools and served in various US Army leadership positions overseas in West Germany for 5-1/2 years. The positions included platoon leader, company XO, battalion staff and company commander. Upon leaving Germany and the Army, Chip and his wife settled in Austin Texas, where he worked for Texas Instruments and Raytheon in a manufacturing environment. He served multiple positions including Advanced Development Lab Manager, and Process Engineer Manager. After Raytheon, Chip moved to Dell and served there as Manager of Process Engineering and Quality for about two years. He then 'changed gears' and worked as a private consultant for Hitachi Chemical, focusing on the circuit board business that he supported while working at TI and Raytheon. After about two years in private consulting, Chip decided to switch again and found an opportunity at the VA data center in Austin.

Chip enjoys spending time with his family. He and his wife particularly love to travel in their large bus-size RV. Chip and Karin travel overseas a couple times a year if the time is available. Chip is an avid jogger, although 'runner' was a more appropriate term until about 5 years ago. He also enjoys serving as a mentor in the local school district, delivering Meals on Wheels, and providing volunteer support to local cancer patients.



Leadership VA

Amanda Spector

Washington, DC

Veterans Administration Central Office



Amanda Spector, Special Assistant to the Vice Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board), Washington, DC. A native of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, Amanda attended the University of Florida, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminology, with a minor in Sociology. Amanda then completed her Juris Doctor at Michigan State University School of Law, with concentrations in Criminal and Family Law.

Amanda joined the Board in 2010, initially working as an Associate Counsel drafting decisions for signature by Veterans Law Judges. From February 2014 to July 2014, she served as Special Counsel to the Office of Learning and Knowledge Management, providing guidance regarding complex legal issues to Board staff; providing attorney training and mentoring; and assisting with attorney career development. Since February 2015, she has served as the Special Assistant to the Executive in Charge / Vice Chairman, a role in which she assists with the Board's budget submissions and reports to Congress; represents the Board on a number of Department-wide workgroups; drafts various memoranda; serves as the Board's All Employee Survey Coordinator; and co-facilitates the Board's Survey Results Task Force.

While living in the DC area, Amanda has also thoroughly enjoyed volunteering for various Veteran-centered causes, including the annual Winterhaven Homeless Veterans Stand Down and Honor Flight Network events. Outside of work, Amanda loves traveling, live music, and movies. She is also an avid college sports fan. Go Gators!

VA



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Leadership VA

Leigh Starr

Hampton, VA

Veterans Health Administration



Leigh Starr is an Associate Director within the VHA Office of Systems Redesign and Improvement. She joined the program office in 2010 and leads the Patient Flow Systems Optimization branch. Her focus within her current role is on the development and execution of national improvement initiatives supporting inpatient access and patient flow. In addition, she is responsible for the coordinated program management of VHA's inpatient flow informatics strategy. Within her current position, Leigh has also served as the Lead for the Systems Redesign Transformation 21 (T21) Sub-Initiative and supported the initiative through its transition to sustainment. Prior to her current role, Leigh was the Administrative Lead for the VISN 6 Tertiary Care Service Line in support of network medicine, surgery and emergency medicine operations. Prior to her role with VISN 6, she served as the Chief of Quality Management at the Hampton VA Medical Center in Hampton, Virginia.

Leigh is a 2007 VHA HCLI/ECF program graduate, has a Bachelor of Science from The College of William and Mary, a Master of Health Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certificate from Villanova University. Prior to coming to VA, she began her federal service as an active duty Air Force Medical Service Corps Officer and as the civilian Chief, Performance and Planning at an Air Force hospital. She served for almost 10 years in these roles and worked in patient administration, medical readiness, logistics, engineering, managed care, quality, planning, and resource management. She is currently the Senior Administrator of an Air Force Medical Reserve Squadron for which she co-led activation.

Leigh is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and a Board member for the Healthcare Administrators of Tidewater. She resides in Williamsburg, VA with her husband who is a VAMC service chief, and their two children, aged 17 and 14. She is a part-time gymnastics coach/choreographer and enjoys spending time with family, including her three Shetland Sheepdogs.

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Leadership VA

Usha Subramanian

Indianapolis, IN

Veterans Health Administration



I currently serve as the PACT team leader in primary care at Roudebush VAMC, in Indianapolis, where my principal duty is to provide primary care and geriatrics care to vulnerable older veterans. I also serve on the National Dementia Steering Committee and play an active role in implementing PACT model in primary care.

I was born and raised in India and moved to the US after graduating from Medical School in Hyderabad. After graduating with a Masters from the University of Texas, Galveston in 1995, I pursued an internship at the University of Washington followed by an Internal Medicine Residency at Providence Portland Medical School in Oregon. I moved to Indianapolis where after completing fellowships in General Internal Medicine as well as Geriatrics in 1998, I started as faculty at Indianapolis VAMC and have continued to serve as Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine.

Outside of work, I enjoy contrasting hobbies – I seek out and participate in high adrenaline activities such as Bungee jumping, sky diving, zip lining and mountain hiking. I also greatly enjoy music and am still pursuing Indian classical music and Bollywood dancing and am a self-described yoga addict. I am always willing to try my hand at some/any random thing that catches my fancy and right now it is crochet.

I am single. I have a sister, niece and nephew who live in the US with their families and I am enjoying my new role as a Grantie!. My mother and 2 older siblings still live in India and we all travel between India and the US and this year I will be back in Hyderabad, India for our 30 year Medical School reunion!

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Leadership VA

Nina Tann

Washington, DC

Veterans Benefits Administration



Nina Tann is the Assistant Director of Stakeholder and Organizational Change Management for the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) Program Management Office (PMO). She was previously the inaugural Veterans Service Center Manager for the Appeals Management Center since 2011. She has been in her current position since May 2015. Nina started with the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Winston-Salem Regional Office as a Rating Veterans Service Representative, then Assistant Coach, and later Coach. Nina also spent time on VBA's Compensation Service's Quality Assurance Staff as an Operations

Analyst for the Site Survey Team.

Nina is a graduate of VBA's Leadership Develop and Executive Coaching Programs and serves as a mentor for VBA's Leadership Enrichment and Progression Program.

Nina is a graduate of Elon University in North Carolina and holds a Bachelors of Arts degree with a major in Psychology. She is married and enjoys traveling with her husband.

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Leadership VA

David Tharp

Waco, TX

Veterans Health Administration



Lt Col (Dr.) David F. Tharp is the Program Manager of the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Residential Rehabilitation Program (PRRP) in Waco, Texas. He joined the Waco VA staff in 2009 working previously for the VISN 17 Center of Excellence for Research on Returning War Veterans.

He is a two time National and Congressional Award winner. In 2012, he won the Air Force Association Veterans Affairs Employee of the Year award. In 2014 he won the Disabled Veterans of America National Commander's Award for the VA Manager of the Year. He also won the District 17 Texas Veterans Congressional Award from Congressman Bill Flores. He has a Doctorate and 3 Masters degrees with 10 years in the Department of Justice and 6 years in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

He is also a Lt Col in the United States Air Force Reserve and served as a NATO commander in Kandahar, Afghanistan as the Medical Advisor and was responsible for 28 countries medical assets. Dr. Tharp is the President of Project Healing Heroes, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation that serves veterans with PTSD.

He is an ordained minister in the American Baptist Church and coaches his son's basketball and football games. He has written three books and is a national speaker. He has a wife, Katherine Tharp, MD and two children, Joshua, age 9 and Peyton, age 8 who reside in China Spring, Texas.

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Leadership VA

James Theres

Washington, DC

National Cemetery Administration



James Theres is the Speechwriter for the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration (NCA). He is responsible for all internal and external communication in support of the Under Secretary. Prior to this assignment, he served as the Public Affairs Officer at the G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center in Jackson, MS from 2011-2014, and as the Public Affairs Officer at the Tomah VA Medical Center in Tomah, WI from 2009-2011. Mr. Theres is a 10-time VHA Communications Award recipient to include being named the 2011 “New Communicator of the Year.”

In addition to his duties as Speechwriter, he served as the Acting Cemetery Director at the Los Angeles National Cemetery in March-April 2016 and the Memphis National Cemetery in November 2014. He is a 2011 graduate of the Tomah VA Leadership Development Program with an emphasis in Servant Leadership.

Prior to joining VA, Mr. Theres was an executive in the newspaper industry with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from 1998-2004 and with a small publisher in Madison, Wisconsin from 2004-2009.

Mr. Theres is a U.S. Army and Desert Storm veteran. He earned an MBA from Cardinal Stritch University in 2006 and a BA in History from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1988. He will receive an MA in History from Jackson State University in December 2016.

He lives in Silver Spring, MD and has two adult children, Dionysius and Adrianna.

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Mario E. Torres is the Director of Instructional Services for the VA Acquisition Academy Program Management School. Mr. Torres oversees all instruction delivery associated with Program/Project Management, and FAC-COR courses to ensure compliance with the Federal Acquisition Institute certification processes and federal government and industry's best practices. He is also involved in conducting Services Acquisition Workshops for the Enterprise. These Workshops are dedicated to isolate and address management impediments within critical programs/projects that are negatively impacting the cost, schedule, performance or customer satisfaction. The Workshops are currently involved with \$9.3B of Construction and Hospital Activations Programs/Projects. Currently, Mr. Torres is on detail as the Program Manager for the New Orleans Replacement Medical Center Activation Project.

Prior to the VA Acquisition Academy, Mr. Torres was a consultant for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as a Program Manager Subject Matter Expert (SME) for 3 years. In this role, Mr. Torres was in charge of the day-to-day management of a \$9B Portfolio. In 2005, Mr. Torres was appointed the Director of Financial Accounting and Contract Management Section for Northrop Grumman – TASC overseeing the Budget and Execution of \$7.1B. Mr. Torres served as a Non-Commissioned Officer in the United States Army where he served as a Program/Financial Resource Manager for 10-years.

Mr. Torres has over 18-years of experience in Program/Project Management and Financial Management. He also has a Master's of Business Administration in Federal Acquisitions and a Bachelor's degree in Accounting.



Leadership VA

David VanMeter

Tampa, FL

Veterans Administration Central Office



David VanMeter is the Deputy Medical Center Director at the James A. Haley Veterans Hospital, Tampa, FL. Mr. VanMeter graduated from the University of Kentucky Gatton School of Business with a Dual Degree Bachelor's in Finance and Management. He earned a Master's Degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Policy. He holds Fellow distinction in the American College of Healthcare Executives, is an active member with his local ACHE chapter, and is the recipient of the 2012 Federal Excellence in Healthcare Management, Healthcare Executive of the Year Award.

Mr. VanMeter is a graduate of the VHA Executive Career Field Candidate Development Program, VHA Health Care Leadership Institute, VHA New Executive Training Program, University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School VA Executive Transformational Leadership Course, Federal Acquisition Institute Certified Project/Program Manager, and Mediation Training with the Justice Center of Atlanta.

Mr. VanMeter started his career in the Department of Veterans Affairs as a Graduate Healthcare Administration Training Program Administrative Fellow at the Robley Rex VA Medical Center in Louisville, KY. His career has traversed duty locations including the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, VA Gulf Coast Veterans Healthcare System, and the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital prior to his current appointment.

David and his wife Crystal have been married for 14 years and have a son Isaac age 12, and a daughter Ava, age 8. He and his family are active in intramural lacrosse, tennis, and swimming. He is an Eagle Scout and is active with his son in the Boy Scouts of America. In his spare time he enjoys running, cycling, and swimming and is an avid marathoner.

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Leadership VA

Alethea Varra

Salt Lake City, UT

Veterans Health Administration



Alethea Varra is a Clinical Psychologist and Health Behavior Coordinator within the Office of Patient Centered Care and Cultural Transformation at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Salt Lake City Utah. She has served as Acting Associate Director Quality and Safety Systems and Acting Director of Addictions Services in Salt Lake City. Dr. Varra is faculty for the VISN 19 Leadership Development Institute and currently the VISN 19 LDI Coordinator. She also serves as national faculty for the VA Voices initiative. She has 12 years of service within the VA with previous positions ranging from Research Technician at the Boston VA Medical Center to Director of the Evaluation and Brief Treatment PTSD Unit at the VA Puget Sound.

Alethea's interests include workforce development, organizational change management, and development and implementation of evidenced based approaches to treatment. She received her B.A. from Dartmouth College and her Ph.D. from the University of Nevada, Reno. She completed her pre-doctoral internship and the Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center Postdoctoral Fellowship at the VA Puget Sound in Seattle, Washington. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the University of Utah School of Medicine.

Alethea grew up on a ranch in Texas but currently lives in the great state of Utah with her husband and two children. She enjoys hiking, skiing, running, reading, and travel.

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Leadership VA

Christopher Warguez

Manila, Philippines

Veterans Benefits Administration



Christopher Warguez was recently selected as an Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager at the Winston Salem VA Regional Office. Mr. Warguez began his VA career with the Salt Lake City VA Medical Center in 2002 as a psychology technician. In 2005, he began working for the Salt Lake City VA Regional Office as a Veterans Service Representative (VSR) where he served on all claims processing teams. In 2007, Mr. Warguez served as a Rating Veterans Service Representative. In 2008, he was promoted to an Assistant Supervisory VSR and served with the pre-determination team. In 2009, Mr. Warguez was promoted to Supervisory VSR of the triage, public contact, and files team. He was named Assistant Veterans Service Center Manager for the Manila VA Regional Office at the U.S. Embassy in November 2010.

Mr. Warguez served as the Manila Regional Office Acting Veterans Service Center Manager from July 2014 to June 2015, responsible for 78 employees and managing \$16 million in monthly benefits. He has also served as Acting Director for three months, and is currently the Acting Support Services and Logistics Division Chief, responsible for both VBA and VHA divisions with a \$23 million operational budget.

While working in the Manila Regional Office, Mr. Warguez worked closely with several agencies within the U.S. Embassy and the Department of State. In addition to his regular duties while assigned to the U.S. Embassy, Mr. Warguez was the VA control officer for a POTUS visit, control officer for various Embassy events, and coordinated Veterans care with various Philippine Government agencies and other U.S. agencies. Additionally, Mr. Warguez was a member of the Embassy Green Team and initiated the conversion of one of the largest Embassies in the world to a paperless correspondence system.

Mr. Warguez is a native of the San Francisco Bay Area. His wife Mindy and four children enjoy the outdoors and love to travel, scuba dive, ski, hike, mountain bike, run, camping, and fishing.

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Leadership VA

Julio Warren

Bay Pines, FL

Veterans Health Administration



Julio A. Warren is a physician anesthesiologist in the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System. Prior to joining VA in 2009, he worked for two years in private practice in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Dr. Warren is an alumnus of the University of Florida (B.S. Zoology, 1999). He is a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Medicine (M.D. 2003). He completed his internship at Mayo Clinic Jacksonville (2004) and anesthesiology residency at the University of Alabama Hospital in Birmingham (2007). He is a diplomate of the American Board of Anesthesiology.

Currently, Julio is completing the 2016 VISN 8 Competency Development for Leaders in the 21st Century (CDL) Program. He is also active as a board member of the Florida Society of Anesthesiologists.

His professional interests include regional anesthesia, perioperative transesophageal echocardiography, and medical simulation.

Dr. Warren enjoys boating and cycling, and is an avid tennis player. He is a native Floridian and fluent Spanish speaker. He resides in St. Petersburg, FL with his wife and young daughter. The Warren family is blessed to be expecting a new baby this fall prior to completion of LVA 2016.

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Leadership VA

Chris Williams

McClellan, CA

Veterans Health Administration



Chris Williams is Deputy Director, Service Area Office West for the Veterans Health Administration, Sacramento, California. He leads 681 contracting professionals located in 19 western states and United States territories. Chris oversees the obligation of over \$2 billion and the award of 44 thousand contracts annually. He directs the full range of acquisition vehicles, policies, and procedures ensuring outstanding contracting support to our nation's veterans.

He is an Air Force veteran, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2011. Chris has 20 years of contracting experience and is Level III contracting certified. His last active duty assignment was Director, Logistics, Installations and Mission Support, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. He led a staff of 42 personnel for an organization that functioned as a major command headquarters equivalent. He is a 2 time contracting squadron commander and served a Washington, D.C. tour assigned to the Pentagon.

Chris served in 3 combat deployments to include 2008 when he was Deputy Principle Assistant Responsible for Contracting (PARC) Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq supporting all American military forces inside Iraq.

He and his wife Carol have two wonderful children, Ryan age 14 and Brooke age 10 who are both active in golf and basketball.

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Leadership VA

Birch Wright

Shreveport, LA

Veterans Health Administration



Birch G. Wright, Interim Associate Medical Center Director, at the Overton Brooks VA Medical Center; Shreveport, LA is a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a Master's Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Healthcare Administration. He has been with the Department of Veterans Affairs since 2001 and served in numerous leadership roles. Birch is an active member in the American College of Health Care Executives, a graduate of the Executive Career Field Candidate Development Program, a Robert W. Carey Performance Excellence examiner and a Malcolm Baldrige examiner.

He is currently participating in Leadership VA. His experience with engaging senior leaders has proven to be critical for achieving and sustaining a culture focused on excellence. Past assignments include Interim Associate Medical Center Director, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Acting Chief Quality Management Service, Acting Chief of Environmental Management Service; Acting Chief Voluntary Service; and serving as the Patient Advocate. Birch is an avid sports fan and enjoys watching and playing golf, baseball, basketball, and football. He loves to travel and you can find him in a tropical locale when on vacation. He and his wife, Rebecca, an emergency room nurse, and their three young children enjoy boating, music and entertaining friends and family.

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Leadership VA

Lisa Yee

Chicago, IL

Veterans Administration Central Office



Lisa Yee is Deputy Chief Counsel with the Office of General Counsel - Midwest District West located at Chicago (Hines), IL. She joined VA in 2000 as a Staff Attorney working in many areas of VA Law including Personnel Law Litigation, Medical Malpractice Investigations, and Health Care Law and Policy matters. Currently she supervises a legal staff in a district that is comprised of 9 states with 3 VISNs, 26 VAHs, 11 VAROs, 20 NCAs and 25 tenant clients such as CBO and VCS.

She received her J.D. degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. Prior to joining the VA she worked for a medium-sized law firm in Chicago specializing in Social Security Disability and Employment Law. She is also a Captain with the U.S. Army Reserves, JAG Corp and has deployed to Kuwait and Iraq with the 3rd Medical Command.

Lisa lives downtown Chicago, IL for over 20 years and is a Cubs fan.

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Leadership VA

Song Yi

Washington, DC

National Cemetery Administration



Song Yi, MPH is the Program Lead for NCA's Veterans Cemetery Grants Compliance Review Program, which includes all VA grant funded State and Tribal Veteran Cemeteries. He is responsible for program oversight, leading compliance review teams, and providing NCA senior leadership with a formal evaluation tool to determine state and tribal governments' honoring of the terms and conditions of their federal cemetery grant awards. He also serves as a member of NCA's Organizational Improvement and Assessment Program redesign team and leads compliance reviews on NCA's Operational Standards and Measures, Annual Statement of Assurance, Internal Controls requirements, and Baldrige Performance Excellence Framework at national cemeteries, district offices, and central office services.

Mr. Yi joined the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2003 through the Presidential Management Fellows Program. During this program, he served as the clinic manager for the Optometry and Ophthalmology clinics at Philadelphia VA Medical Center. In 2005-2011, he was the Administrative Manager for all Surgery Service outpatient clinics, where he worked to improve Veteran experience and maximize clinic productivity. In FY11, the Optometry Program was ranked #4 nationally for all VHA medical centers and #1 for all level 1b High Complexity facilities in provider productivity. In 2011-2014, he was the Administrative Officer to the Chief of Staff at VA Central Western Massachusetts Healthcare System. During this time, he also served as the Integrated Ethics Program Officer and VISN 1's Integrated Ethics Point of Contact, and led many improvement teams such as the Consult Management Oversight team. In 2014, he relocated to Washington, DC to join NCA's Business Process Improvement and Compliance Service in his current role as a Program Lead for NCA's Veterans Cemetery Grants Compliance Review Program.

Mr. Yi volunteers as a National Baldrige Examiner for the Baldrige Performance Excellent Program. In 2013, he completed the Transformative Leadership Development Program through University of Washington's Center for Leadership and Strategic Thinking. He is a graduate of the 2007 VISN 4 Leadership Development Institute Program. In 2004, he earned his Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Management from Rollin's School of Public Health at Emory University.

Mr. Yi enjoys traveling with his wife and riding his motorcycle through curvy, mountain backroads and on race tracks. He completed Tough Mudder in 2013 Tri-State and 2015 Capital Region.

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Kristy Zadora

Washington, DC

Veterans Benefits Administration



Kristy Zadora, Counsel, Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board), Washington, D.C. A native of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, she attended the University of Pittsburgh and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and history. Kristy then completed her Juris Doctor at American University. Following law school, Kristy worked as a trial attorney handling various criminal and civil matters in the private sector.

Kristy joined the Board in 2008, working initially as an Associate Counsel and later as Counsel. In that capacity, she drafts tentative appellate benefit decisions for review by a Veterans Law Judge. She also serves as an Acting Veterans Law Judge by holding hearings with Veterans and adjudicating appeals as well as a mentor individually training new Board attorneys and assisting with attorney career development. In addition, she co-created and implemented a biweekly practical training program for unit junior attorneys aimed at increasing attorney job satisfaction and reducing attrition.

Outside of work, Kristy loves traveling, cooking and spending time with her family and her 7 year old daughter, Eleanor.

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Brian Zeitz

Cincinnati, OH

Veterans Administration Central Office



Brian Zeitz is the Chief Information Officer at the Cincinnati, OH Veterans Affairs Medical Center campus. He joined the Veterans Affairs in May 2013.

Mr. Zeitz has earned Master of Science Degrees in Information Security (Air Force Institute of Technology) and Operations Management (University of Arkansas). He also holds Chief Information Officer and Chief Information Security Officer graduate degree certifications from the National Defense University. Mr. Zeitz is a VHA certified mentor (fellow level) and was competitively selected for the Federal Executive Institute's Leadership for a Democratic Society program for senior career federal government executives. Recently, the VA Corporate Education Development Board

selected Mr. Zeitz for the esteemed Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executive Fellows program.

Mr. Zeitz retired from the Air Force with both enlisted and commissioned officer service. His duty stations included Arkansas, Florida, Korea, Ohio and a three-year hardship tour of duty in Hawaii. Prior to arriving at the VA, he worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security. He enjoys spending weekends on his 110 acre cattle farm in western Kentucky with his wife, Marsha.

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