

# Emerging Leaders

May 14 – 19, 2023

## PHOTO ROSTER



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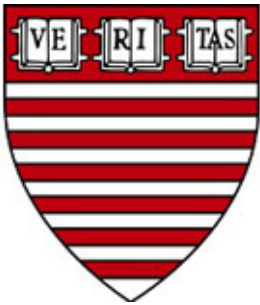


### **Mrs. Nora Eidah Alharthi**

Outreach Programs Lead / PR & Media Relations Lead (Acting)  
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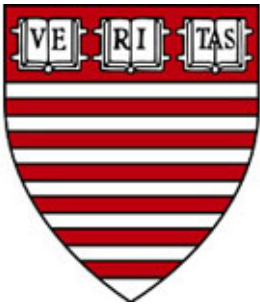
Nora is an Engagement & PR Specialist at King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture (Ithra) located in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia. She contributed to the curation, planning and execution of several mega projects that engage the community and inspire youth in the fields of Art & Culture. Prior joining Ithra, Nora had an excellent track record as an entrepreneur, she founded her own company -named Wardat Store- specializes in cosmetic products and won several awards nationally and regionally.

Nora is a purpose-driven, self-motivated and resourceful young professional with a proven ability to provide key business decisions.



### **Colonel alhaj Thani alkuwaiti**

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### **Mr. Azam Matouk Almasri**

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### **Mr. Ibrahim Abdullah Alrumaih**

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Ibrahim is a result-driven decision support expert proven in his ability to enhance decision-making efficiency with extensive experience in complex analytics, data management, data mining, and data visualization techniques. Ibrahim is a Senior Decision Support specialist in a governmental entity in Saudi Arabia, providing technical and strategical consultation in the data domain and developing a data driven culture.

Throughout his career, he participated in developing and monitoring many strategies on a national level across multiple sectors. In addition, he helps the decision maker by providing recommendation supported by data. Also, he helped many organizations to create a data driven culture.

Ibrahim has a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. His current focus lies in developing and implementing data analytics and market studies initiatives to achieve national and international objectives.

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### **Mr. Saud Althubaity**

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Director, Spectrum Surveillance & Monitoring at Communication, Space, and Technology Commission

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### **Ms. Adaku Apugo**

Special Assistant on Intergovernmental Affairs to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Federal Republic of Nigeria  
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Adaku is one of the few young women at the fore front of policy and governance in Nigeria. She is committed to driving transformational change in Africa through public policy and responsive legislation that impacts lives. She has spent the last 8 years dedicated to public service, advising the leadership of Nigeria's parliament, currently leading Intergovernmental Affairs at the Office of the Speaker as his Special Assistant and acting as his arrowhead in engaging all arms of government across Africa's largest nation. She is committed to excellence and holds several degrees in policy and governance, including an MSc. in Public Policy and Ethics from Suffolk University, Boston, USA and an M.A degree from the University of Bonn, Germany in European studies. She is also a Senior Fellow at the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, Florence, Italy.

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### **Mr. Niyaz Barzani**

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I joined the Iraqi Kurdistan Region Presidency in July of 2020 to serve as Head of Foreign Affairs and Diplomacy at the Office of President Nechirvan Barzani. Prior to that I worked at the Kurdistan Regional Government Representation in the United States from April 2017 to June of 2020 as Special Advisor at the Mission. I had transferred to Washington after having served several years in Erbil, the capital of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, at the Department of Foreign Relations of the Kurdistan Regional Government-Iraq as the Director of Media and Communications.

I am a Fulbright alumnus and received Master's degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio in International Relations in 2012.

I am fluent in Kurdish, Persian and English in addition to understanding Arabic.

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### **Mrs. Nada Beati**

Strategic planning Manager  
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My name is Nada Beati, and I am currently the Acting GM of Strategic Planning and Institutional Excellence in the Human Rights Commission (HRC). HRC is a government entity which reported directly to the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The role of the HRC is to protect and promote human rights in accordance with international human rights standards in all fields, spreading awareness of them and contributing to ensure the application of this in the right of the provisions of the Islamic law.

Earlier in my career, I have been interested in education ever since I was in high school. I was once a school principal; and I was very close to my students, additionally listening to their ambitions and concerns. I led an initiative to change the higher education policy in Saudi Arabia which resulted in me joining a team at the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP). A year later, I joined the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) team at MEP, where I was leading SDG 4: Quality Education, and SDG 5 Gender Equality. Realizing how some social issues affect students' education drew me to broadening my scope into human rights; and working on strategy and policy development to ensure vulnerable groups are not left behind.

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## **Ms. Yasmina Benbrahim**

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Yasmina Benbrahim is a Moroccan diplomat. She currently serves as Counselor for Political Affairs at the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Paris. Prior to her appointment in Paris, she served for 5 years as an advisor to the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Yasmina is very committed to the active promotion of gender equality as a cross-cutting principle and foreign policy priority. In parallel to her functions, she teaches feminist diplomacy at Sciences Po Paris as part of a program that aims to promote gender equality in public policies.

Before specializing in gender at Columbia University in New York, Yasmina earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in international security from Sciences Po Paris.

Yasmina speaks French, Arabic, English, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

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## **Dr. Laurie Jean Carter**

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Dr. Carter serves as the Dean of the School of Arts and the School of Humanities at Susquehanna University. She is an author, educator, scholar, and Army Veteran. Before beginning her career in academia, she served in the U.S. Army for six years. In her role of dean at Susquehanna University, she advocates for student veterans, disabled veterans, and active-duty military members. She has published an array of articles and essays on poverty in America, community and domestic violence, women's issues, and veteran's issues. She has also spoken against sexual assault in the military at West Point Military Academy. Her forthcoming military memoir, *War with No Honor* will be released by Etruscan Press.

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## **Mrs. Ana Yanci Chaletzky**

Director, Accounting  
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Ana Chaletzky is a native of San José, Costa Rica. She graduated summa cum laude from the Universidad Latinoamericana de Ciencia y Tecnología, with both bachelor and licentiate degrees in Public Accounting. She also attended the Universidad Escuela Libre de Derecho where she was studying to obtain her law degree.

Ana Chaletzky currently works as Director, Accounting at the U.S. House of Representatives. She has over 20 years of Accounting experience working in the public and private sectors. Prior to joining the House, she worked as a senior operating accountant at the Library of Congress. Before joining the federal government, Ana worked for Choice Hotels International as a Treasury Analyst and for Discovery Communications as a Financial Analyst. Her professional certifications include Certified Public Accountant, Certified Government Financial Manager, Project Management Professional, Government Information Leadership Chief Financial Officer, and Women in Leadership Certificate Program. Ana is an Advisor for the Executive Women of Influence Program at Florida International University.

Ana Chaletzky is married and lives on Capitol Hill with her husband and daughter.

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## **Ms. Chih-Shuan Chang**

Section Chief  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan)  
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Ms. Chih-Shuan (Shirley) Chang currently works as section chief at the Department of NGO International Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of China (Taiwan). She previously worked in Taiwan's representative office in Denver, Colorado, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Denver, for four years and it was a wonderful lifetime experience for her. During the time in the U.S., she also visited the capital of the state of Missouri, Kansas, South Dakota, and North Dakota, and made many good friends there.

Prior to her government career, she worked as a television/radio reporter in Taiwan for 6 years, and interned in the Voice of America's Chinese branch in Washington D.C.. She holds a master's degree in journalism from Missouri School of Journalism, University of Missouri, and a bachelor's degree in law from National Taiwan University. She is married with a son and a daughter.

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## **Mr. Alfredo Matugas Coro**

Mayor

LGU Del Carmen

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Citizenship: Philippines

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I am currently the Mayor of the Municipality of Del Carmen, Siargao Islands, Philippines and have been at this job for 9 years plus 3 years as Vice Mayor / Legislator. Under our administration, we helped transform our community from one of the poorest in the Philippines in 2008 to the #1 Island in the World per Conde Nast in 2019 and the #1 Islands in Asia by Conde Nast in 2021. These recognitions was even more meaningful with poverty index reduction by more than 50%, increase of the household income by more than 5 times, improvement of health (decrease in maternal / infant mortality, reduction in malnutrition) indicators, increase in education (reading, survival rate) indicators and strengthening of environmental outcomes (0 illegal mangrove cutting, 98% reduction in illegal fishing).

The transformation of the Municipality of Del Carmen and Siargao Islands was approached with an environmentally balanced and community-based development model which is recognized by various national and international organizations.

I am still a Father first and a Public Servant.

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## **Lieutenant HENRY RIGGS DAWSON**

LOGISTICS OFFICER

Department of Navy

SEAL TEAM ONE

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Citizenship: United States of America

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A native of Annapolis, Maryland, Lieutenant Riggs Dawson graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Quantitative Economics while participating as an active member of the Men's Varsity Lacrosse team. After graduation, Riggs completed his Division Officer tour aboard the aircraft carrier USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) as the S-1A division officer, as well as the disbursing and sales officer. Ashore, he served as the Flag Supply Aide to the United States Naval Academy Superintendent, VADM Sean Buck. While in his Flag Aide position, Riggs participated in the VADM Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership Fellowship program where he earned the title of Associate Fellow.

Riggs' current duty station is with SEAL Team ONE as the Logistics Officer (N4) Department Head and Combat Service Support Troop One (CSST-1) Commander. A logistician by trade, he leads all garrison and deployment logistic requirements for ST-1. Riggs ensures that the essential logistical capabilities, supply functions, combat engineering activities, and transportation tasks necessary to sustain all elements of operating forces in theater of war are met. He provides specific logistics knowledge and expertise to the SEAL Team Command leadership, enhancing their operational readiness and mission capabilities.

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## **Abdoulaye Diomande**

Contract Specialist

U.S. Department of Defense

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Abdoulaye Diomande is a Contract Specialist at DeCA (Defense Commissary Agency). He previously served at DLA (Defense Logistics Agency), DCMA (Defense Contract Management Agency), US Navy as Contract Specialist, Contract Administrator, Acquisition Specialist, and Contract Management Specialist. He is currently certified DAWIA (Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act) level II. He had intensive years of experience working in Côte d'Ivoire in construction and land development sector as Business Engineer and Sale Representative.

Abdoulaye Diomande holds a Bachelor and a Master in Marketing and Sale from Université de Cocody in Côte d'Ivoire. He also holds an Executive MBA from Jack Welch Management Institute/Strayer University (Suitland, MD), a Graduate Certificate in Public Administration from Liberty University (Lynchburg, VA), and a Graduate Certificate in Government Contracting from Webster University (Washington, DC).

Abdoulaye Diomande is Ph.D. student at Virginia Tech, and his research interests focus on Operations Management specifically in Service Design, Quality Management, and Project Management.

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## **Ms. Laura Emily Durback**

Manager

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Operations

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Ms. Durback joined the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) in 2005.

Ms. Durback began her tenure in her current position as Customer Account Manager, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Whole of Government (WOG), in January 2019. In this role, she has provided trading partner /liaison support to the following U.S. Government Agencies: General Services Agency (GSA), Federal Emergency Management Agency, Health and Human Services, U.S. Coast Guard, Forest Service, Department of State, and the United States for International Development (USAID). She is the Agreements Manager for DLA Operations and provides Agreements support throughout the DLA Enterprise, to include transition to Treasury's G-Invoicing system to manage interagency buy-sell transactions. She leads the development and maintenance of agreements for DLA WoG partners, Military partners, and Regional Command partners. Additionally, she is the Financial Support Lead for DLA Operations. In this capacity, she leads the Foreign Military Sales audit program, assisting the Defense Security Cooperation Agency in their audit readiness effort. She also provides ongoing accounting and audit expertise for DLA's WOG financial statement audit requests.

She also worked in DLA Finance, in various capacities; Chief Financial Officer Analyst/Team Lead, Project Manager for DLA Financial Integration, and Financial Reporting Support Lead. She was a key contributor to DLA's Audit efforts, with her primary focus being the Project Lead for DLA's Agency Financial Report (AFR).

Prior to working at DLA, Ms. Durback was employed at the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) from 2002-2005, heading up DISA's Financial Reporting Group and Audit Liaison Team. She previously worked in private industry, with positions in public accounting and telecommunications.

She is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Government Financial Manager, Certified Defense Financial Manager, and Contracting Officer Representative. She is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC), and Association of Government Accountants (AGA). She is especially active with the AGA, serving as a member of their Technical Committee and speaking at AGA conferences. She graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.S. in Commerce (Finance) and a Master's in Accounting.

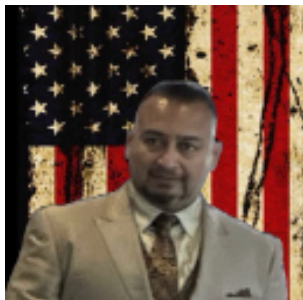
Ms. Durback attended the Advanced Program in Logistics and Technology, UNC, Chapel Hill, NC in May 2022. She has also participated in professional training at USAID and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Comptroller, as well as numerous ASMC and AGA Professional Development Institutes.

She is engaged with People and Culture efforts at DLA, serving as a Combined Federal Campaign Chair, Culture/Climate Lead, and Workforce Council Lead.

Ms. Durback is the recipient of a DLA Director Award, DLA Audit Readiness Team Assertion; Audit Readiness Team Member Certificate - Unwavering Support to DLA Audit Readiness Initiative; DLA Director's Award, DLA Audit Readiness Team, Award of Commendable Service; DLA Peer Award for Support to GSA; and Special Act Awards for Support to the Security Assistance Community.

Ms. Durback lives in Fairfax and has two children: her daughter Melissa, and her son Sean. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, exercise, reading, charitable activities, and baking.

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## **Mr. Juan F. Francisco Elizarraras**

Lead Project Engineer  
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Mr. Juan Francisco Elizarraras started his career as Submarine Officer in the United States Navy in 1999. He left the submarine force in June of 2007 and began working for the United States (U.S.) Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC) in July 2007 as a Test Officer at the Yuma Proving Ground's (YPG) Munitions and Weapons Division (M&W). He worked on multiple evaluated programs and served as a lead Test Officer for the M109A7 Paladin Integrated Management (PIM) program.

In September 2010, he accepted a position as a Team Leader within M&W's Artillery and Mines Branch. There, he led multiple Acquisition Category I (ACAT I) test efforts as well as new developmental test programs. These efforts helped to improve weapon systems lethality, range, and mobility in addition to validating new technology on various Army munitions.

Mr. Elizarraras holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of San Diego and most recently completed a Master of Science in Engineering Management from Old Dominion University. His Civilian and Acquisition education includes DAWIA Level III Certified in Test and Evaluation and was the recipient of the 2015 National Defense Industrial Association Tester of the Year for the Army.

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## **Mr. Antonio Gonzales**

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Mr. Antonio Gonzales is the Command Chief ISR Information Security Officer (CIISO), Headquarters, United States Air Forces in Europe – Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA), Intelligence Directorate, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Mr. Gonzales' role is to ensure security controls governing the creation, dissemination, and destruction of classified data are followed. His work entails the development of MAJCOM level policies, training for security personnel, and compliance reviews. Additionally, Mr. Gonzales is the chief of the Special Security Office Cybersecurity branch chief where he manages a team of six security professionals.

Mr. Gonzales began his Air Force civil service career as a National Security Agency scholar in 2005 and was assigned to the Air Force Information Warfare Center on Lackland AFB ("Security Hill") as an Information Operations (IO) Architect Draftsman. There he mapped out large-scale acquisition and maintenance processes and procedures for a variety of organizations and services. His career has primarily been focused on network security and operations; an area of continued growth and importance. However his true passion comes from the mentoring and guidance of civilian employees which he first experienced during a career broadening assignment with the Air Force Personnel Center. As a member of the Comm and Info Career Field team he helped institute a new virtual vectoring process allowing career field managers to reach more career field members than ever before. His desire is to continue building upon his mentoring and leadership skillsets to help pay-it-forward to the future generation of Airmen.

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## **Mr. Andrew James Good**

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Andrew Good serves as an Assistant Counsel with the Office of Counsel of the Defense Logistics Agency- Troop Support. (DLA). DLA Troop Support is a Major Subordinate Command of the DLA located in Philadelphia, PA, with a global presence including offices in Europe & Africa and the Pacific regions. He joined DLA Troop Support in April of 2018. Currently, he serves as Assistant Counsel providing legal support to the Medical Directorate. The Medical Directorate is responsible for providing acquisition and logistical support to all elements of the Department of Defense, including the military branches. DLA also provides support to the Veterans Health Agency and other government agencies. Mr. Good is responsible for providing legal reviews, advice and guidance on contracts in excess of a billion dollars. Mr. Good also worked with the medical directorate in providing direct support to the Department of Health and Human Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic and public health emergency.

Mr. Good is also currently a Major in United States Army Reserve and is assigned to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate for the 99th Readiness Division at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. There he currently serves as the Chief of National Security Law, where he is responsible for advising a two-star command on issues of National Security including Disaster Relief and Homeland Defense. Mr. Good was also mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from 2013-2014 and served as a Legal Assistance Attorney with the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, New York.

Andrew received his Juris Doctor from Drexel University, in Philadelphia. He also graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of the Arts degree in History and Political Science from Temple University in Philadelphia. He is currently admitted to the bar in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Andrew currently resides outside of Philadelphia with his wife, Elizabeth, two rescue dogs Leo and Tony and a cat, Zoey. When not working, Andrew enjoys traveling, going to restaurants and playing softball. He is also an avid Philadelphia sports fan.



## **Mr. Samuel Gyamfi**

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## **Mr. Ioannis Hadjiyiannis**

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Head of the Unit "Horizontal Policies" of the European Commission's Directorate General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM). Responsible for developing DG REFORM's strategic priorities, including technical support to Member States' Recovery and Resilience Plans and migration management, as well as for coordinating DG REFORM's presence in EU Member States. Also Head of the Athens Office of DG REFORM since September 2018. Prior to that, assisted the Head of the European Commission's Structural Reform Support Service in coordinating the EU support to the management of the 2015 migration crisis in Greece. Worked for many years as project manager for technical support projects in Greece, as well as worked for several years as member of the European Commission's Legal Service. Studied law at King's College London and the Catholic University of Leuven and received a postgraduate degree in law from Columbia University in New York. Admitted to the Bars of New York and Cyprus.

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## **Mr. Robert Heine**

Division Chief- Land Contracting Support Division

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I currently serve as the Contracting Support Division Chief of the Land Supplier Operations Directorate, of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). DLA is the combat support activity for the US Department of Defense (DOD) which is responsible for the acquisition of repair parts, fuel, food, medical supplies, and various other support material that directly support the four branches of the US military, as well as other branches of government. The Land Supplier Operations Directorate provides DOD with worldwide-integrated supply chain solutions for all land based weapon systems. My specific role is to provide leadership, articulate vision, and develop acquisition strategy for a division of 144 dedicated acquisition professionals.

The Contracting Support division builds and maintains collaborative relationships with the suppliers that make up the industrial base, executes contract administrative actions to maintain a strong on-time delivery rate for critical supply contracts, performs emergency procurement actions to address readiness issues, assists our military customers in resolving their high priority requisition problems, and executes tactical long-term contract arrangements that directly support readiness and material availability.

I am a veteran of the US Navy, completed my undergraduate work at LaRoche College in Pittsburgh, PA, my graduate studies at Central Michigan University, as well as Executive Education at The University of Virginia's Darden School of Business and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

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## **Mr. Michael James Hooker**

Director, Educational Leadership. Ryde Network  
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Michael is the Director, Educational Leadership in Sydney Metropolitan North Directorate for the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Education.

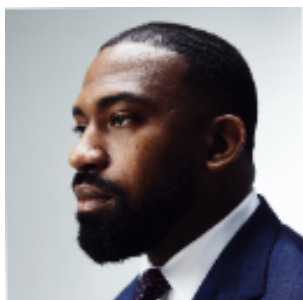
Key to Michael's role is to support the continuous improvement of principals in NSW public schools to ensure that the work of schools is evidence-based and responsive to the needs of all students from pre school to year 12.

Michael is part of an executive team focused on driving improved ways of working to deliver meaningful and long-lasting impact. As a successful people leader, he has a strong track record in managing stakeholder relationships. He has the knowledge and capacity to provide outstanding leadership and foster excellence in research, education and training.

In previous roles Michael was the Director for the Feedback and Complaints function of the NSW Department of Education. He has worked in education for over 30 years, including experience as a school Principal in five different settings across the state.

A passionate advocate for public education, Michael believes that education is a vehicle to bring about positive change for individuals and society more broadly.

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## **Mr. Rodney Wayne Jacobs**

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Rodney Jacobs is an City Executive and Social Catalyst. He is the Executive Director of the City of Miami Civilian Investigative Panel, a police oversight department in the City of Miami, which purpose is to conduct independent Investigations of police officers involved in misconduct. Rodney completed his B.A. from Hiram College, a master's degree in Public Health and Public Administration from the University of Miami. And earned his Law Degree from the University of Dayton School of Law.

He recently began his academic teaching career as a lecturer and professor at the Florida International University (FIU), Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs, teaching courses in Criminal Justice, Law, and Public Administration.

Rodney is formally an Military Intelligence Officer for the United Sates Army Reserve, and currently a Captain Company Commander for the Headquarters and Headquarters Company Unit of the 436 CA BN. In the United States Army Reserve where he counsels and advises foreign and domestic key leaders on government, economics, safety, health and social remedies/policies. He serves on the executive board as Vice Chair of Engage Miami which promotes Civic Leadership and engagement, while supporting youth civic training for personal and professional development .Also, efficiently mobilizes resources for innovation and a positive change within the legal, health, and policing profession through his leadership positions with the United Way of Miami and Board Member for the National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE). Also, with his dynamic skills and versatile understanding of the legal landscape he is a noted speaker, and columnist to multiple organizations on policing, law, health and society throughout the country.

He enjoys playing tennis and time at the gym, and cheering on all Philadelphia Professional Sports Teams. His biggest accomplishment has been his marriage to his wife Ramona, and fathering his son Reign.

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### **Ms. Mard Maree Jarvis**

Assistant Secretary, Regional Services  
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Mardi is a Senior Executive in the Department of Defence with over 28 years of dedicated service to the Australian Public Service

Throughout Mardi's career, she has gained extensive experience in various fields and sectors including 15 years at the Family Law Courts (inc as the inaugural Associate to the Chief Federal Magistrate of Australia) and six years as the Base Manager of a number of Defence Bases across Australia

Mardi is a strategic and systemic thinker, and possess a proven record in change management and she brings a unique perspective and insight to any task or challenge. Mardi is passionate about developing female talent and created a leadership and development program to equip women working in Defence projects with leadership skills to advance their careers.



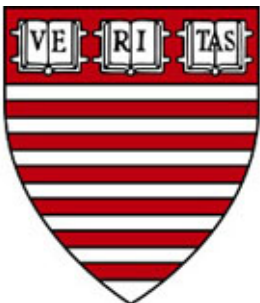
### **Mr. Aaron Jernigan**

Strategic Planner  
Department of Defense  
Future Operations Division (J35)  
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Aaron Jernigan began serving as a Future Operations Planner at United States Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) in Doral, FL in March 2022.

Aaron's previous positions at USSOUTHCOM include serving as a senior strategic Military Information Support Operations (MISO) planner from May 2020- March 2022 and as an Information Operations (IO) planner from December 2018-May 2020.

Aaron previously served in the United States Army as a Psychological Operations (PSYOP) officer assigned to the 1st PSYOP BN (A), 8th PSYOP Group (A) at Fort Bragg, NC from September 2015- June 2018 where he commanded a PSYOP detachment and deployed to Honduras and Colombia in support of USSOUTHCOM and US Embassy Tegucigalpa and Bogota. Prior to that Aaron was a US Army Special Operations Warfare student at Fort Bragg, NC from April 2014- September 2015. Aaron also served as a Quartermaster Corps officer assigned to the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) at Hunter Army Airfield, GA from November 2010-March 2014 where he served as a maintenance platoon leader, a petroleum and munitions distribution platoon leader and as an executive officer. Aaron deployed to Kandahar Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from December 2012-September 2013.



### **Mr. Ismail Seleman Juma**

Regional Bureau Chief (RBC)  
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## **Enrik Keco**

Staff

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Keco holds a bachelor degree in Political Science with a concentration in Governance and Public Policy and has specialized in European Union Politics and Diplomacy. He has a combined work experience of nine years in the public and private sectors and NGOs.

Mr. Keco has worked as a research manager in the field of education, political parties, innovation, markets, EU studies, participation, business, etc. Further, he worked as a Development and Good Governance Policy Expert in the Prime Minister's Office in the Council of Ministers.

Currently, Mr. Keco is working as a Senior Project Coordinator at the Albanian-American Development Foundation (AADF) in the education sector. He was appointed Acting Executive Director at the Center for School Leadership.

He is deeply involved in the local community demonstrated by his active participation in organizations that serve the Albanian youth population. He is the local coordinator and Leadership Council representative of the European Democracy Youth Network founded by NDI, IRI, and USAID. For this mandate also he is appointed vice-president for the network which took place in 23 European countries.

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## **Ms. Amalia Kokoli**

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Currently working as and advisor to the Prime Minister's Office. Amalia holds a Master's degree (LLM) in International Commercial Law from University College London. She also has graduated in law and holds a Master's degree in Civil Law from the University of Tirana. In 2015 she attended and completed her training at the National School of Advocacy and obtained the lawyers license by the National Chamber of Advocates. Amalia has 6 years of experience as a Legal Advisor in the banking sector. She has gained a vast experience in the field of implementing contractual law for corporate clients whilst closely working with bankers and lawyers to facilitate the business activities of national and foreign companies in Albania. She also has a long experience working at a notary office advising clients and drafting contracts. During her studies in Albania, Amalia has successfully contributed and been engaged as an intern at EU Info Centre, a project funded by the EU and at Albanian Helsinki Committee. She has attended various traineeships in international institutions such as the European Court of Human Rights, International Chamber of Commerce etc.

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## **Colonel Hector G. Lopez**

J/G-6 Director

Joint Task Force - National Capital Region & Military District of Washington

J/G6

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Colonel Hector G. Lopez is the Director, C4 Cyber, Joint Task Force National Capital Region, U.S. Northern Command. He oversees the joint communications cyber directorate plans to conduct Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities by managing the efforts of personnel, projects, infrastructure, architecture, tasks, common operational picture, cyber operations, information technology, contracts and resource management supporting six Army military installations and four major subordinate commands.

Col Lopez previously served as the Director of Communications, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve, U.S. Central Command overseeing the combined joint communications directorate plans in the support of the defeat of Daesh in Iraq and Syria. Col Lopez other joint assignments were at the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment as the Deputy, Cyber Programs; Branch Chief, Cyber Command & Control and Communications & Networks Systems and at the Joint Staff J-5 as a Political-Military Strategist, Middle East Affairs. Additionally, he also served as Commander, 31st Communications Squadron, Aviano Air Base Italy. He is a graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California.

Additionally, he has also held a variety of communications and information and political military affairs assignments to include Mission Systems and System Support Flight Commander, Squadron Operations Officer, Section Commander, Chief Command, Control, Communications, and Computers System Requirements and Integrator and Joint Interoperability and Networks, Aide-de-Camp to 12th Air Force and Air Force South Commander, Deputy Commander and Presidential Communications Officer, Plans and Programs Action Officer, and Country Director under the Secretary of the Air Force, International Affairs Americas Division.



## **Mr. Christopher Ludwig**

Branch Chief, Customer Ops, Subsistence Directorate, DLA Troop Support

Defense Logistics Agency

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Chris Ludwig is the Customer Ops, Branch Chief, for the Northeast Region, Garrison Feeding Division in the Subsistence Directorate at DLA Troop Support. Chris manages a team of Account Managers who support customers from all branches of the United States military and school customers through the USDA/DOD Fresh Produce Program. Chris also manages the Subsistence Air Mission to Honduras, GITMO and Thule AFB, Greenland. He completed his undergraduate degree at Temple University's Fox School of Business and recently completed his graduate degree (MSA) from Central Michigan University focusing on Leadership in 2020.

Chris lives in the Philadelphia area and enjoys going to Philadelphia Eagles and Philadelphia 76ers games. He also likes to golf and enjoy traveling to new countries.





## **Ms. Katherine McLean**

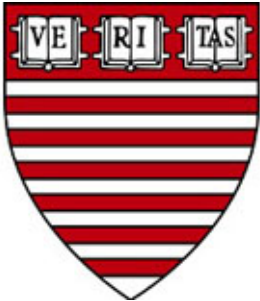
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Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute  
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Katherine (Kate) McLean is the Executive Director of Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) in Washington, D.C. CCAI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to raising awareness of the millions of children around the world in need of permanent, safe, and loving homes and eliminating the barriers that hinder these children from realizing their basic right of a family.

As Executive Director, Kate leads the organization in increasing CCAI's visibility and impact among members of the adoption, foster care, and greater child welfare community; strengthening and diversifying the organization's funding sources; and maintaining the strong relationship that exists between CCAI and Members of Congress. Kate is committed to continue supporting the caucus and CCAI community to identify and remove barriers for vulnerable children and families.

In her previous role as CCAI's Director of Programs, Kate managed the organization's outreach, development, and programming in the implementation of CCAI's core programs and annual projects including the Foster Youth Internship Program®, Angels in Adoption®, and National Adoption Day. Kate was first a CCAI Programs Intern and then Policy & Programs Associate before becoming Director of Programs and most recently Managing Director.

Originally from New York, Kate has been a District of Columbia resident for over eight years. Kate enjoys volunteering with CASA for Children of DC and has been a Court Appointed Special Advocate since 2019. Kate holds a bachelor's degree in international affairs with a concentration in conflict resolution from The George Washington University.



## **Rachel Ann Moran**

Commander  
San Francisco Police Department  
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## **Mr. Jamilu Muhammad Muhammad Gidado**

Executive Assistant  
Dangote Industries Ltd  
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My name is Jamilu Muhammad Gidado, born 38years ago in the city of Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria.

I Started my working career in Lagos 13years ago with Dangote Industries Ltd, one of the biggest conglomerates and as well the biggest manufacturer of cement in Africa with plants across 14 African countries and a major producer of Sugar, Salt, fertilizer and currently building the biggest single train refinery in the world with a capacity of 650,000B/day that will be commissioned in 2 weeks time.

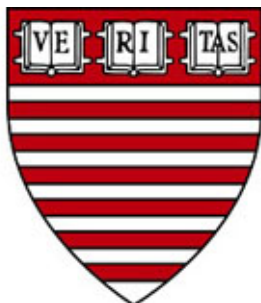
I started as a corporate sales executive and rose to the position of Executive Assistant to the GP/CEO in 2016.

Had my 1st degree in History & International Relations from Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto, my 2nd degree in Master in International Affairs & Strategic Studies from Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna and my 3rd degree in Master in Peace & Conflict Studies from Nile University of Nigeria, Abuja and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration from Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna.

I've attended so many courses both within and outside Nigeria which includes courses at The London Business School, The Protocol School of Washington, The European School of Protocol and another upcoming one in Geneva School of Diplomacy, Switzerland.

I love traveling as a hobby which has taken me to around 29 countries of the world and still counting and I play football and cycling in sport.

I'm married with 3 kids. A boy and 2 girls.



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## **Mr. Ashley Thomas Nealis**

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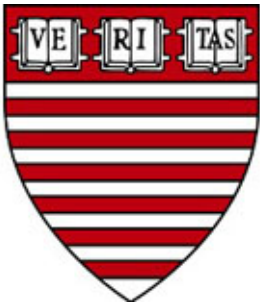
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### **Mr. John Parisella**

General Manager - Defence Base Services- Victoria, Tasmania,  
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Unknow Organization  
Defence  
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Highly motivated transformational leader focused on developing teams, reducing costs and enhancing customer experience Over 17 years experience across multiple private and public organisations. Managing complex multi disciplined contracts over a national portfolio within Government and Private sectors. Developed and led the Digital / Operational transformation. Currently managing a multidisciplinary portfolio with a revenue of \$400m/pa and 700+ workforce. Responsible for all aspects of the portfolio from financial results, health & safety, people and culture, customer experience and operational delivery. I earned my Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in Victoria, Australia. A passionate Formula 1, Football (Soccer) supporter and cyclist.



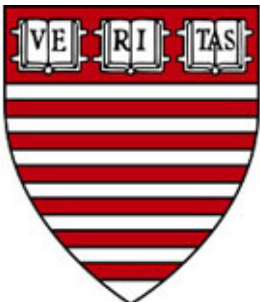
### **Mr. Derrick Parks**

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### **Ms. Gladys Mutsa Pasvani**

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### **Mrs. Dorina Patuzi**

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## **Mrs. Grazyna Piesiewicz**

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## **Mr. Corey Rackley**

Supervisory Contracting Officer  
Defense Logistics Agency  
Strategic Acquisitions and Programs  
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Corey Rackley currently serves as the Deputy Division Chief for the Strategic Contracting Division (AB) within the Defense Logistics Agency - Aviation (Richmond, VA), the nation's combat logistics support agency. In this role, Mr. Rackley assists in supervision of ten GS12 & GS13 Contracting Specialists, all of whom administer complex long-term contracts supporting various engine platforms for the U.S. Airforce, U.S. Navy, U.S. Army and Foreign Military customers. Mr. Rackley has spent the last 13 years at DLA in different roles to include Contracting Officer, Cost/Price Analyst, Procurement Supervisor, and Procurement Analyst. He has a wealth of experience related to acquisition planning, evaluating complex large dollar commercial and non-commercial proposals, leading complex contract negotiations and awarding contracts.

In 2022, Mr. Rackley was an award recipient for two large awards: DLA Enterprise Award - Large Team General Electric T700, and DLA Director's Strategic Goal 3rd Quarter. Additionally, Mr. Rackley was a final nominee for the Excellence in Acquisition Award, sponsored by the Director, DLA Acquisition which recognizes DLA civilian or military individuals who have demonstrated exemplary innovation and best practices in the acquisition of products and services, and reflects achievements that exemplify goals and objectives established for further life cycle cost reductions. Mr. Rackley is a member of the Defense Acquisition Corps, and has volunteered as the Combined Federal Campaign Co-Chair and a Culture Climate Champion in past years.

Mr. Rackley grew up and currently resides in Prince George, VA (20 miles south of Richmond), and enjoys spending time at the beach and camping with his wife and 2 kids. Mr. Rackley holds a Bachelor of Science from Virginia Commonwealth University, and his MBA from Columbia Southern University with a concentration in Finance.

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## **Mr. Ajax Rangel**

Military Planner  
US SOUTHERN COMMAND  
Special Operations and Activities  
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Special Operations Planner / Sensitive Activities Integrator (CIV)  
USSOUTHCOM J3X / Oct 2022 - Present

Information Operations Planner (CIV)  
USAFRICOM J39 / Apr 2021 - Sep 2022

Information Operations Planner (CIV)  
USSOUTHCOM J39 / Oct 2019 - Apr 2021

Foreign Affairs Specialist (CIV)  
US Army North / Mar 2019 - Oct 2019

US Army (Active Duty)  
Apr 2011 - Sep 2017  
Deployments  
Honduras (2015-2016) - Psychological Operations  
Afghanistan (2012) - Infantry

Other work activities  
M.D., General Practitioner (Mexico). Focus: mental health.  
Compensation and Pension Examiner for the VA (Mexico).

In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my wife, Alena.

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## **Mr. Isaac Rodriguez**

General Engineer  
U.S. Army  
US Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma Test Center, Combat &  
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Isaac Rodriguez is currently a Team Leader for the Combat & Automotive Systems Division Counterfire engineering test team at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma Test Center. Mr. Rodriguez has been a Department of the Army Civilian for 15+ years having supported various developmental tests, production tests, and integrated developmental and operational tests for the Army, sister services, and commercial organizations.

Mr. Rodriguez received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at El Paso, and his Master of Science in Engineering Management from University of Arizona.

Mr. Rodriguez a member of the US Army Acquisition Corps, is Level 3 certified in Test and Evaluation, is Level 1 certified in Program Management, and is recipient of the 2014 National Defense Industrial Association Government Civilian Tester of the Year.

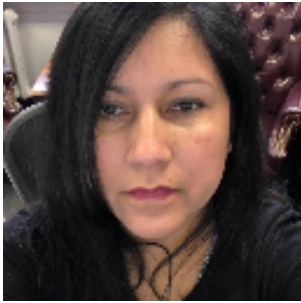
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## **Mr. Ramiro Gaston Rovira**

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## **Jacqueline Gisselle Ruley**

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Jacqueline (Jackie) Ruley was born in the Republic of Ecuador. In addition to her country of birth, Jackie has lived in Panama, Japan, Ivory Coast, and Mali, and she has visited a half dozen other countries around the world. She is fluent in Spanish and proficient in French. Jackie is a certified Suitability Adjudicator and OPM Evaluator. Jackie started her career in the Federal Government in June 2002. She has since progressed to a Director role at the Department of Commerce OIG. As the Director of Human Resources, she is responsible for providing oversight and leadership in all HR activities related to human capital management, employee relations, payroll, hiring, personnel security, employee development, position management and classification, and staffing. Previously, Jackie worked as the Human Resources Operations Manager for the Department of Interior OIG. She began her career in Human Resources at the Department of State. Additionally, she has gained experience in the areas of budget and financial management, procurement, and personnel security over the past 20+ years. Jackie considers herself a transformational leader; she is constantly dealing with change. She is always amenable to new ideas and leading her team to better serve the mission and goals of her organization.

Jackie holds an Executive MBA from George Mason University. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, University College at Adelphi, Maryland. Jackie is currently a doctoral student at Marymount University. Her Awards and Honors include two Department of State Superior Honor Awards and two Meritorious Honor Awards; one Department of Interior Inspector General Mentoring Award, one DOI Continuous Improvement Award; and multiple DOI Excellence Awards and Executive Level Awards; and a Department of Commerce Agent of Positive Change Award, and Special Act Award; among several other awards and achievements during her career.

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## **Ms. Natalie Soroka**

Senior Advisor

ITA

Trade Policy & Analysis

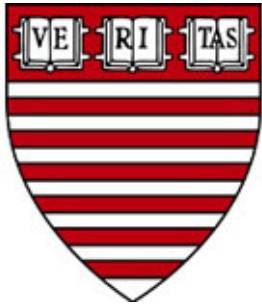
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Natalie Soroka is the Senior Advisor for Trade Policy and Analysis (TP&A) at the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration where she coordinates and facilitates TP&A's work combining economic expertise, policy, and industry knowledge to provide guidance and unique value-added products that facilitate informed policy decision-making. Ms. Soroka is currently leading teams in TP&A analyzing the impacts of supply chain disruptions, economic coercion, and benefits of agreements such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). She previously served as a Senior International Economist in Trade Policy and Analysis, where she supported the development and enforcement of U.S. trade policy through complex economic analysis of international trade and policy issues. She was also involved in the management and promotion of major data products to support greater access and understanding of U.S. trade. She holds degrees in Economics from the University of Mary Washington and the Johns Hopkins University.



## **Devin L Spencer**

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## **Ines Stasa**

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Citizenship: Albania

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Ines Stasa holds a Master of Arts in International Relations from Leeds Beckett University in the United Kingdom, also a Master of Science in Political Science and International Relations from Epoka University in Albania. Ines graduated in political science from the University of Tirana. Currently, she is finishing her Ph.D. thesis on transitional justice in a comparative analysis between Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia. She has presented research articles in many international conferences and published in international journals mainly on transitional justice, responsibility to protect, liberal international order and of politics on gender justice. Ines has also took part in several summer schools and training programs such as OSCE/ODIHR school on Political Parties and Democracy; "Democratic innovations in the EU and in Europe", held by the University of Saint-Louis Brussels; "Justice after mass atrocities" organized by the Center for Comparative Conflict Studies, University of Belgrade; "EU law and European Governance in populist times", UClan Cyprus, School of Law; Summer School "War and Disinformation" at College of Europe in Natolin. Recently she held an intensive training program of Leadership Academy for Development led by Prof. Francis Fukuyama and faculty members at Stanford University. Ines has previous experience in Public Administration institutions, in civil society organizations and cross-border programs. Her research interests are on democratization processes in the Western Balkans, reconciliation, and transitional justice.



## **Ms. Mary K Swiderski**

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## **Mrs. Junida Tafaj**

Advisor to the Minister of Finance and Economy - LEAD Albania  
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Junida Tafaj is now working as advisor to the cabinet at the Ministry of Finance and Economy in Albania. She holds a Master of Science in Business Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations and Communication from the European University of Tirana. Junida has a long-term experience as an expert in human capacity building and development in the financial sector, with extensive experience in planning and implementing digital and financial literacy projects. She has contributed in projects promoting employment and self-employment of youngsters through mentorship, training and support programs for entering the labor market. She has represented the banking sector of Albania in the Financial Education Project Group at the European Banking Federation (EBF) and has coordinated all financial education projects of commercial banks and managed relationships with financial literacy key stakeholders such as Central Bank, Ministry of Education, Schools, Foundations, International Organizations (WB & EFSE), Research Centers etc. She is the initiator of the creation of the Albanian Network for Financial Education (ANFE) where main focus has been the development of awareness-raising initiatives to spread financial culture in the country.

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## **Mr. Richard Michael VanSchoor**

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Richard M. VanSchoor

Deputy Chief of Plans, DLA Energy

Richard M. VanSchoor is the Deputy Chief of Plans, Customer Operations, Defense Logistics Agency Energy, located at Fort Belvoir, VA. Mr. VanSchoor is responsible for supervising, managing, coordinating, and directing the execution of strategic logistics planning and future operations planning efforts. Mr. VanSchoor leads a team of 7 professionals ensuring all wartime requirements and DLA Energy concepts of support are in place for Warfighter Success.

Prior to his current position, Mr. VanSchoor served as the DLA Energy NORTHCOM/SOUTHCOM planner ensuring viable Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) and Homeland Defense Class IIIB support. In addition, served as DLA Energy LNO to FEMA, ensuring a "life-saving" capability for FEMA First Responder fuel support.

Mr. VanSchoor holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Southern Illinois. He has over 34 years in combined military and civilian service. He served in the U.S. Air Force as Logistics Readiness Officer, ensuring operational logistics planning and support, supply chain and contract management, air movements and freight distribution, and distribution of aviation fuel.

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**Mr. Bjorni Vasili**

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Currently serving as legal advisor at the Prime Minister Office of Albania.

Experienced Associate with a demonstrated history of working in the legal services industry. Focused in Employment, Litigation, Corporate and IP sectors. Advised various clients in corporate, commercial and competition law with a focus on M&As, drafting, and review of commercial contracts, merger control filings, vertical agreements, etc.