

THE WHITE HOUSE  
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**President Obama Announces More Key Administration Posts**

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate the following individuals to key Administration posts:

- **Tony G. Collins** – Member, Advisory Board of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation
- **Robert M. Gordon** – Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Department of Education
- **Cheryl A. LaFleur** – Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- **David Arthur Mader** – Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget
- **John Maeda** – Member, National Council on the Arts
- **Jeffrey A. Murawsky** – Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs
- **Marcia Denise Ocomy** – United States Director, African Development Bank
- **Gentry O. Smith** – Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, Department of State
- **Debra S. Wada** – Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Department of Defense
- **George Albert Krol** – Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Department of State
- **Mark William Lippert** – Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Department of State
- **James D. Nealon** – Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras, Department of State
- **Dana Shell Smith** – Ambassador to the State of Qatar, Department of State

President Obama also announced his intent to appoint the following individual to a key Administration post:

- **Jason W. Young** – Member, President’s Advisory Council on Financial Capability for Young Americans

**President Obama** said, “I am pleased to announce that these experienced and committed individuals have agreed to join this Administration, and I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead.”

**President Obama announced his intent to nominate the following individuals to key Administration posts:**

**Dr. Tony G. Collins, Nominee for Member, Advisory Board of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation**

Dr. Tony G. Collins is currently the President of Clarkson University, a position he has held since 2003. Prior to this position, Dr. Collins served in a variety of roles at Clarkson University from 1982 to 2003. Most recently, he served as Provost from 2001 to 200 and Vice President for Academic Affairs from 1997 to 2001. He also served as Dean of Engineering from 1996 to 1998, and Professor and Chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering from 1992 to 1996. Dr. Collins served as a Visiting Scientist with Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation’s Division of Water Resources in Canberra, Australia in 1999. He was an Environmental Coordinator with the Utah Development Company from 1975 to 1976. From 1973 to 1975, Dr. Collins served as Manager of Australian Consolidated Industries and Assistant Project Engineer in 1971. Since 2011, he has served as Co-Chair of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council. Dr. Collins received a B.E. from Monash University and an M.S. and Ph.D. from Lehigh University.

**Robert M. Gordon, Nominee for Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, Department of Education**

Robert M. Gordon is currently a Guest Scholar at the Brookings Institution. From 2009 to 2013, Mr. Gordon served in various roles at the Office of Management and Budget, including Acting Deputy Director, Executive Associate Director, and Associate Director for Human Resources. From 2005 to 2006 and 2007 to 2008, Mr. Gordon was a Senior Fellow and Senior Vice President for Economic Policy at the Center for American Progress. From 2006 to 2007, he was Chief Executive for Resource Allocation at the New York City Department of Education. Mr. Gordon previously worked on Capitol Hill and at the Juvenile Rights Division of the Legal Aid Society in New York. From 2000 to 2001, Mr. Gordon was a Law Clerk for United States Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. He received a B.A. from Harvard University and a J.D. from Yale Law School.

**Cheryl A. LaFleur, Nominee for Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

Cheryl A. LaFleur has been a Commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission since 2010 and was designated Acting Chairman in 2013. In 2008, prior to joining the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Ms. LaFleur was President and CEO of The Steppingstone Foundation. From 2006 to 2007, Ms. LaFleur served as Executive Vice President and acting CEO of National Grid USA. She was President and CEO of New England Distribution at National Grid USA from 2001 to 2005. From 1986 to 2000, Ms. LaFleur worked for New England Electric System in a variety of roles, including Senior Vice President and General Counsel. From 1978 through 1986, she was an attorney at Ropes & Gray LLP in Boston. Ms. LaFleur received an A.B. from Princeton University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School.

**David Arthur Mader, Nominee for Controller of the Office of Federal Financial Management, Office of Management and Budget**

David Arthur Mader is currently a Senior Vice President for Strategy and Organization at Booz Allen Hamilton, a position he has held since 2007. From 2004 and 2007, he was a Principal at Booz Allen Hamilton focusing on strategy and organization. From 2003 to 2004, Mr. Mader was the Managing Director of the Public Sector practice of Sirota Survey Intelligence. Before joining Sirota Survey Intelligence, Mr. Mader held various positions at the Internal Revenue Service from 1971 to 2003, including Acting Deputy Commissioner, Acting Deputy Commissioner for Modernization and CIO, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, and Chief for Management and Finance. Mr. Mader received a B.S. from Mount St. Mary's University.

**Dr. John Maeda, Nominee for Member, National Council on the Arts**

Dr. John Maeda is a Design Partner at Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, a venture firm he joined in 2014. Previously, he was the 16<sup>th</sup> President of the Rhode Island School of Design from 2008 to 2013. Dr. Maeda was Professor and Associate Director of Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Laboratory from 1996 to 2008, and a researcher and software engineer at the International Media Research Foundation from 1990 to 1996. He serves on the Board of Directors of Sonos, Inc. and Wieden+Kennedy, and he chairs the eBay Design Advisory Council. Dr. Maeda received a B.S. and an M.S. from MIT, an M.B.A. from Arizona State University, and a Ph.D. in Design Science from the University of Tsukuba Institute of Arts and Design in Japan.

**Dr. Jeffrey A. Murawsky, Nominee for Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs**

Dr. Jeffrey A. Murawsky is the Network Director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN 12), a position he has held since 2009. Dr. Murawsky is also currently an Associate Professor of Medicine at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. Prior to becoming the Network Director of VISN 12, Dr. Murawsky was the Chief Medical Officer for the Network from 2006 to 2009. He served as the Associate Manager for Medicine and Neurology Services at the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital and as the Associate Program Director for Internal Medicine at the combined program with Loyola University Medical Center. Before joining the Hines VA Hospital in 2001, he was the director of community based teaching for the Loyola University Health System and the medical director of the Loyola/Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago Center. Dr.

Murawsky received a B.A. from Brandeis University and an M.D. from Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

**Marcia Denise Occomy, Nominee for United States Director, African Development Bank**

Marcia Denise Occomy is currently a Specialist Leader in the Emerging Markets Division of Deloitte Consulting LLP. During her tenure at Deloitte, Ms. Occomy worked with the United States Agency for International Development on various assignments. Most recently, she served as an Advisor on the Economic Governance reform project providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of South Sudan. She also served as Team Leader of the Capacity Development Program in Afghanistan from 2009 to 2012, Ministry of Finance Advisor in Egypt in 2006, and Deputy Chief of Party and Advisor in Ukraine from 2005 to 2006. Ms. Occomy was also Senior Advisor for assignments in Iraq from 2003 to 2005, Kosovo from 2001 to 2003, and Kazakhstan from 1999 to 2001. From 1992 to 1999, Ms. Occomy served as an Analyst at the Office of Management and Budget. She received a B.A. from Vassar College and an M.A. from The University of Chicago.

**Gentry O. Smith, Nominee for Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, Department of State**

Gentry O. Smith, a career member of the Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, is Deputy Assistant Secretary and Assistant Director for Countermeasures at the Department of State, a position he has held since 2009. Previously, Mr. Smith served as Director of the Office of Physical Security Programs. He has served as the Regional Security Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, Japan and the U.S. Embassy in Rangoon, Burma. He served as a Security Officer and Deputy Regional Security Officer during two separate tours at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Egypt. Mr. Smith entered service with the Department of State in 1987 and joined the ranks of the Senior Foreign Service in 2006. Before joining the State Department, he served as a Police Officer with the Raleigh Police Department. Mr. Smith received a B.A. from North Carolina State University.

**Debra S. Wada, Nominee for Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Department of Defense**

Debra S. Wada is a professional staff member for the Subcommittee on Military Personnel for the House Armed Services Committee, a position she has held since 1999. Ms. Wada served as the lead staff member for the Subcommittee from 2007 to 2010, and briefly served as Deputy Staff Director for the committee in 2011. In 1999, Ms. Wada served as a Legislative Affairs Specialist for the National Park Service. Ms. Wada served as a Legislative Assistant for U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka, acting as the Senator's principal aide on national defense, veterans' affairs, maritime issues, education, Social Security and welfare from 1987 to 1999. Ms. Wada received a B.A. from Drake University.

**Ambassador George Albert Krol, Nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan, Department of State**

Ambassador George Albert Krol, a career member of the Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, is currently the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan, a position he has held since 2011. Previously, he served in the Department of State as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs from 2008 to 2010. Ambassador Krol was Faculty Advisor at the National War College from 2006 to 2007. From 2003 to 2006, he was the U.S. Ambassador to Belarus. He also served as Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia from 1999 to 2002, Director of the Office of Russian Affairs in the Bureau of European and Canadian Affairs from 1997 to 1999, and Special Assistant to the Ambassador-at-Large for the New Independent States from 1995 to 1997. Ambassador Krol was the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Minsk, Belarus from 1993 to 1995, Political and Economic Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Kiev, Ukraine from 1992 to 1993, and Political and Economic Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Leningrad/St. Petersburg, Russia from 1990 to 1992. He has also served as a Desk Officer in the Office of East European and Yugoslav Affairs, and was a Watch Officer in the Operations Center at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi, India and the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Poland. Ambassador Krol received an A.B. at Harvard University and a B.A. and M.A. from Oxford University.

### **Mark William Lippert, Nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Department of State**

Mark William Lippert, a U.S. Navy veteran with service in Iraq and Afghanistan, is currently The Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense, a position he has held since 2013. Previously, he was Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs from 2011 to 2012, Intelligence Officer at the Naval Special Warfare Development Group in Virginia Beach, Virginia from 2009 to 2011, and Deputy Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff for the National Security Council in 2009. He served as Deputy Director for Foreign Policy of the Obama-Biden Transition Project in Chicago, Illinois and Washington, D.C. from 2008 to 2009, and Senior Foreign Policy Advisor for Obama for America in Chicago, Illinois from August 2008 to November 2008. Previously, Mr. Lippert was the Foreign Policy Advisor in the Office of U.S. Senator Barack Obama from 2005 to 2008. From 2007 to 2008, he took a leave of absence from that position to deploy with Seal Team One in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a Professional Staff Member on the Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on State-Foreign Operations in the U.S. Senate from 2000 to 2005. In addition, he was a Policy Advisor to the Democratic Policy Committee in the U.S. Senate and a Legislative Correspondent in the Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein. He served on active duty in the U.S. Navy from 2007 to 2008 and 2009 to 2011, and has been an Intelligence Officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve since 2005. He received a B.A. and M.A. from Stanford University.

### **James D. Nealon, Nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of Honduras, Department of State**

James D. Nealon, a career member of the Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, is the Civilian Deputy to the Commander and Foreign Policy Advisor at U.S. Southern Command in Doral, Florida, a position he has held since 2013. He was Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassies in Ottawa, Canada from 2010 to 2013, Lima, Peru from 2007 to 2010, and Montevideo, Uruguay from 2005 to 2007. Previously, he served as Charge d'Affaires in Montevideo. He served as Counselor for Public Affairs at U.S. Embassies in Madrid, Spain and Budapest, Hungary. He was the Press Attaché at the U.S. Embassies in Manila, Philippines and Budapest, the Cultural Attaché in Montevideo, and Assistant Press Attaché in Santiago, Chile. Mr. Nealon also served in Washington in the Bureau of Human Resources of the United States Information Agency. Earlier in his career, he was a high school teacher and athletics coach. Mr. Nealon received a B.A. from Brown University.

### **Dana Shell Smith, Nominee for Ambassador to the State of Qatar, Department of State**

Dana Shell Smith, a career member of the Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, is currently Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, a position she has held since early 2014. Previously, Ms. Smith served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Public Affairs at the Department of State from 2011 to 2014. She was the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Media in the Bureau of Public Affairs from 2010 to 2011, and Regional Arabic Spokesperson for the Regional Media Hub in Dubai from 2009 to 2010. She also served as Senior Advisor in the Office of Career Development and Assignments in the Bureau of Human Resources from 2006 to 2008. She was a Public Affairs Officer at the American Institute of Taiwan from 2003 to 2006 and a Press Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan from 1999 to 2002. From 1996 to 1999, she was a Public Diplomacy Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel and was Assistant Cultural Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Egypt from 1993 to 1996. Ms. Smith received a B.A. from the University of California, San Diego.

### **President Obama announced his intent to appoint the following individual to a key Administration post:**

#### **Jason W. Young, Appointee for Member, President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability for Young Americans**

Jason W. Young is co-founder and CEO of Mindblown Labs, a social enterprise that uses gaming to teach young people about personal finance and other 21st century skills. He is also the Founder and President of Hidden Genius Project, a year-round mentoring and youth workforce development program. In 2010, he founded Zindagi, LLC, an education technology company that produced web-based financial literacy software for families with students aged 9 to 13. Previously, Mr. Young was a Product Manager at Nvest, Inc. from 2007 to 2009. He held various positions at Merrill Lynch Global Private Client, including Corporate Strategy and Business Development Analyst from 2006 to 2007 and Wrap Finance Senior Specialist from 2004 to 2006. Mr. Young founded New World Tutorial Services where he was a Private Tutor from 1997 to 2002. He also

founded J.W. Young and Associates Travel Agency where he worked as a Travel Agent from 1995 to 1997. Mr. Young received an A.B. from Harvard University.

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