

## Key Governor Kathy Hochul Appointments

(Revised 10/1/21)

### Office of the Lieutenant Governor:

Brian Benjamin, Lieutenant Governor

- Former State Senator (D-Harlem)

Stacey Lynch, Chief of Staff to LG

- Former Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for Mayor de Blasio

Phil Giltner, Senior Policy Advisor

- Former Director of Operations for Senator Brian Benjamin

### Executive Chamber:

Karen Keough, Secretary to the Governor

- Former Head of Philanthropy, JP Morgan Chase and Sr. Advisor to Hillary for President (2007-08)
- Replaced Melissa DeRosa

Jeff Lewis, Chief of Staff to the Governor

- Former Chief of Staff to Lieutenant Governor Hochul (since 2016)
- Replaced Jill DesRosiers
- Replaced Dana Carotenuto

Elizabeth Fine, Counsel to the Governor

- Former Executive Vice-President and General Counsel of Empire State Development
- Former General Counsel of the New York City Council
- Former Counsel to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno
- Replaced Beth Garvey

Jeffrey Pearlman, Special Counsel to the Governor

- Former Special Counsel, State of New York
- Former Director, New York State Authorities, Budget Office
- Former Chief of Staff and Counsel to the then Lieutenant Governor Hochul

Robin Chappelle Golston, Executive Deputy Secretary

- Former President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Empire States Acts
- Former Vice President of Corporate Relations and Government Affairs of Emblem Health

Kathryn Garcia, Director of State Operations

- New York City Mayoral Candidate 2021 Democratic Primary Election

- Former New York City Sanitation Commissioner
- Replaced Kelly Cummings

Shirley Paul, Senior Advisor to the Governor

- Former Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs at SUNY Systems Administration
- Replaced Rich Azzopardi

Bryan Lesswing, Senior Advisor to the Governor

- Former Communications Director to Lieutenant Governor Hochul
- Former Communications Director for U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin's re-election campaign

Hazel Crampton-Hays, Press Secretary

- Former Press Secretary to New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer
- Replaced Jennifer Givner

Julie Wood, Communications Director

- Former Senior Director of Communications at Lyft
- Former VP of Communications and External Affairs at Motivate
- Former Press Secretary to Bloomberg 2020 presidential campaign

Linda Sun, Deputy Chief of Staff

- Former Deputy Superintendent for Intergovernmental Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer at the NYS Department of Financial Services

Melissa Bochenski, Deputy Chief of Staff

- Former Deputy Chief of Staff for then Lieutenant Governor Hochul (since 2014)

Sandra Rivera, Deputy Special Counsel to the Governor

- Former Principal, Rivera Law, PLLC

Neysa Alsina, Special Adviser on Pandemic Relief

- Former Chief Counsel, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer
- New position

Julissa Gutierrez, Chief of Diversity Officer for the State of New York

- Has worked in this position since being appointed in early 2020
- Replaced Rose Rodriguez

Sinead Doherty, Deputy Secretary for Executive Operations

- Former Director of Operations for the children's non-profit, Good Tidings Foundation

Padma Seemangal, Deputy Secretary for Policy Operations

- Former Director of Communications and Public Affairs at Global Strategy Group

Amit Bagga, Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs

- Former Deputy Director of the New York City Censes Office, served under Mayor de Blasio
- Ran for City Council in June primary for Queens District 26 seat

Jelanie DeShong, Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs

- Former Director of Government Relations for SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University

Devan Cayea, Director of Strategic Planning and Scheduling

- Former Senior Advisor and Director of National Strategic Planning for the Amy [Klobuchar] for America presidential campaign

Fohat Aird-Bombo, Director of Advance

- Former Director of Advance and Special Events for Lieutenant Governor Hochul

Marty Mack, Appointments Secretary

- Former Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental and Legislative Affairs and as Appointments Secretary for Governor Paterson
- Former Executive Deputy Attorney General for Attorneys Eliot Spitzer, Eric Schneiderman, and Barbara Underwood
- Former Mayor of Cortland, NY

Sita Fey, Deputy Appointments Secretary

- Serves as Senior Advisor for the Executive Transition Team
- Former Director of Policy at the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
- Former Senior Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Hochul

### Executive Branch Agencies:

Adrienne Harris, Superintendent of the NYS Department of Financial Services

- Former Special Assistant to the President Obama for Economic Policy
- Replaced Linda Lacewell

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH, Commissioner of NYS Department of Health

- Former Director of the François-Xavier Bagnoud (FXB) Center for Health and Human Rights at Harvard University
- Former Commissioner of NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Replaced Dr. Howard Zucker

### Announced Departures:

Michael Hein, Commissioner of NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

Dr. Theodore Kastner, Commissioner of NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities

Arlene Gonzalez-Sanches, Commissioner of NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services

Licha Nyiendo, Commissioner of NYS Human Rights Division

Molly Reilly, Deputy Secretary for General Government and Technology

Debra Alligood White, Deputy Secretary for Civil Rights and Workforce

Norman Birenbaum, Director of Cannabis Program

Jeremy Shockett, Deputy Secretary for Public Safety

#### Cannabis Management Board:

##### Governor's Appointees

Reuben R. McDaniel

- President and Chief Executive Officers of Dormitory Authority of the State of NY

Jessica Garcia

- Assistant to the President of United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
- Former Deputy Political Director of Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union

#### Other:

Trey Nix/Meredith Kelly, Declaration Media

- Political consulting firm that will be assisting Governor Hochul in her election effort.

Rory M. Christian, Chair of the Public Service Commission and CEO of the Department of Public Service

- Former Director of New York Clean Energy at Environmental Defense Fund
- Former Director of Energy Finance and Substantiality for the New York City housing Authority

**Note:** Governor Hochul has stated that all current department commissioners and personnel can stay in their positions for at least the first 45 days of her Administration while she evaluates them and determines who will remain. That timeframe would end on/around October 8<sup>th</sup>.