

Governor Kathy Hochul Administration Key Appointments

(Revised 1/7/22)

Office of the Lieutenant Governor:

Brian Benjamin, Lieutenant Governor

- Former State Senator (D-Harlem)

Stacy Lynch, Chief of Staff to the Lieutenant Governor

- 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:

Senior Staff

Karen Keough, Secretary to the Governor

- Former Head of Philanthropy, JP Morgan Chase
- Former Senior Advisor to Hillary for President (2007–2008)
- Replaced Melissa DeRosa

Elizabeth Fine, Counsel to the Governor

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

Jeffrey Pearlman, Special Counsel to the Governor

- Former Director, NYS Authorities Budget Office
- Former Special Counsel, Executive Chamber
- Former Chief of Staff and Counsel to then Lieutenant Governor Hochul

Kathryn Garcia, Director of State Operations

- New York City Mayoral Candidate, 2021 Democratic Primary Election
- Former New York City Sanitation Commissioner
- Replaced Kelly Cummings

Jeff Lewis, Chief of Staff to the Governor

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

- ❖ Linda Sun, Deputy Chief of Staff
 - Former Deputy Superintendent for Intergovernmental Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer, NYS Department of Financial Services
- ❖ Melissa Bochenski, Deputy Chief of Staff
 - Former Deputy Chief of Staff for then Lieutenant Governor Hochul (since 2014)

Robin Chappelle Golston, Executive Deputy Secretary

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

Shirley Paul, Senior Advisor to the Governor

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

Bryan Lesswing, Senior Advisor to the Governor

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

Ron Zacchi, Director of LGBTQ+ Affairs

- Former Director of External Affairs, NYS Division of Human Rights

Communications

Hazel Crampton-Hays, Press Secretary

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

- ❖ Avi Small, First Deputy Press Secretary
 - Former Senior Communications Adviser, State Senator Brad Hoylman

Julie Wood, Communications Director

- Former Senior Director of Communications, Lyft
- Former Vice President of Communications and External Affairs, Motivate
- Former Press Secretary to Bloomberg 2020 presidential campaign

Deputy Secretaries

Kate Harris, Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and Technology

- Former Director, Reimagine New York Commission
- Former Minority Counsel, U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Nivardo Lopez, Deputy Secretary for Transportation

- Former Bronx Borough Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation
- Former Director of City Legislative Affairs, NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer
- Former Bronx Director, NYC Mayor Bloomberg Administration

Jihoon Kim, Deputy Secretary for Human Services and Mental Hygiene

- Former Special Assistant to Executive Deputy Commissioner, NYS Office of Mental Health
- Former Deputy Director of Policy, Executive Chamber
- Former Senior Advisor to the NYS Governor for Human Services and Mental Hygiene
- Former Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, NYS Attorney General's Office

Sinead Doherty, Deputy Secretary for Executive Operations

- Former Director of Operations, Good Tidings Foundation (a children's nonprofit)

Tania Dissanayake, Deputy Secretary for Housing

- Former Deputy Director, City of New York Mayor's Office of State Legislative Affairs
- Former Legislative Director, Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

Marcos Gonzalez Soler, Deputy Secretary for Public Safety

- Former Director, City of New York Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice (MOCJ)
- Adjunct Assistant Professor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY)
- Former Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Civilian Complaint Review Board

James Katz, Deputy Secretary for Economic Development and Workforce

- Former Deputy Borough President, Office of the Manhattan Borough President
- Former Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff, New York City Economic Development Corporation
- Former Senior Advisor and Special Counsel, New York State Attorney General's Office

Legislative Affairs

Sandra Rivera, Senior Advisor for Legislative Affairs

- Former Principal, Rivera Law, PLLC

Chatodd Floyd, Deputy Secretary for Legislative Affairs and Policy

- Former Director of Legislative Affairs
- Former Deputy Chief of Staff, New York City Mayor's office
- Former Legislative Fellow, State Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson

Veronica Ng, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

- Former Lead Consultant, The Parkside Group
- Former Director of External Affairs to then-Lieutenant Governor Hochul

- Former Communication Directors to former NYC Councilmember Mark Weprin

Rhay Guillen, Director of Legislative Affairs

- Former Senior Advisor of Legislative Affairs, Executive Chamber
- Former Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie
- Former Regional Coordinator, NYS Assembly Office of Communications and Information Services
- Former Coordinator, NYS Democratic Assembly Campaign Committee

Eva Wyner, Deputy Director of Jewish Affairs

- Currently studying American History and Modern Jewish Studies, joint program between Columbia University and Jewish Theological Seminary
- Member, Hillel

Policy

Padma Seemangal, Deputy Secretary for Policy Operations

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

Micah Lasher, Director of Policy

- Former Head of Communications, Sidewalk Labs
- Former Chief of Staff, Office of the NYS Attorney General
- Former Director of State and Legislative Affairs, City of New York
- ❖ Lonnie Threatte, Deputy Director of Policy
 - Former Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Program and Counsel, NYS Senate
 - Former Vice President of External Affairs, NYS Higher Education Services Corporation
 - Former Assistant Deputy Secretary for Education, Executive Chamber

Intergovernmental Affairs

Amit Bagga, Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs

- Former Deputy Director of the New York City Census Office; served under Mayor de Blasio
- Former Candidate for City Council in June primary for Queens District 26

Jelanie DeShong, Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs

- Former Director of Government Relations, 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

Kylah Hynes, Director, Federal Affairs

- Former Director of Federal Affairs, New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Appointments

Marty Mack, Appointments Secretary

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

Sita Fey, Deputy Appointments Secretary

- Senior Advisor, Executive Transition Team
- Former Director of Policy, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
- Former Senior Advisor to then Lieutenant Governor Hochul

Other Executive Staff Appointments

Neysa Alsina, Special Advisor on Pandemic Relief

- Former Chief Counsel, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer

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

Matthew Pennello, Director of Cabinet Affairs

- Former Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, NYS Department of Taxation and Finance
- Former Special Assistant to the Governor for Legislative Affairs, Executive Chamber
- Former Regional Representative for the Mohawk Valley and Assistant Director for Central New York Intergovernmental Affairs, NYS Department of Labor
- Former Policy Advisor, City of Syracuse

Ashley Dougherty, Assistant Secretary for Environment

- Former Counsel and Legislative Director, NYS Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation
- Former Counsel to the Deputy Leader of the New York State Senate Democratic Conference
- Former Policy Director and Assistant Counsel, New York State Senate

Fohat Aird-Bombo, Director of Advance

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

Executive Branch Agencies/Authorities:

Adrienne Harris, Superintendent, 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, Harvard University
- Former Commissioner of NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Replaced Dr. Howard Zucker

Robert Rodriguez, Secretary of State (nominee)

- Former NYS Assemblyman

Lucy Lang, New York State Inspector General

- Former Director, Institute for Innovation in Prosecution
- Former Assistant District Attorney, Appeals Bureau and Trial Division, Manhattan

Justin Driscoll, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer, New York Power Authority

- Former Outside Litigation Counsel, Dormitory Authority of New York
- Former Senior Vice President and General Counsel, NYS Housing Finance Agency

Jeanette Moy, Commissioner, NYS Office of General Services

- Former Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Public Health Solutions
- Former Chief Operating Officer, NYS Attorney General
- Former Chief Strategy Officer, Brooklyn Public Library
- Former Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor, NYC Office of the Mayor

Marica Imperial, Commissioner, NYS Division of Human Rights

- Former CEO, YWCA White Plains & Central Westchester

Jackie Bray, Commissioner, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

- Former Deputy Executive Director, NYC Test and Trace Corps
- Former Director, NYC Office of the Mayor
- Former First Deputy Commissioner, NYC Department of Homeless Services

Hope Knight, Commissioner of the NYS Department of Economic Development and President and CEO of Empire State Development

- President and CEO, Greater Jamaica Development Corporation
- Commissioner, New York City Planning Commission
- Vice Chair, Regional Plan Association, TruFund Financial

Kevin Law, Director & Chair of the Empire State Development Corporation

- Partner and Executive Vice President, Triteck Real Estate Development Company
- Co-Chair, Long Island Regional Economic Development Council
- Chairman, Stony Brook University Council
- Board member, Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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

- Former Director, New York Clean Energy, Environmental Defense Fund
- Former Director, Energy Finance and Substantiality, NYC Housing Authority

Kerri Neifeld, Commissioner, NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OTDA)

- Former Assistant Secretary to the NYS Governor for Human Services & Mental Hygiene
- Former Assistant Deputy Commissioner, NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance
- Former Special Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner, OTDA

Rossana Rosado, Commissioner, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

- Former NYS Secretary of State
- Former Editor-in-Chief and then Publisher & CEO, El Diario La Prensa

Gaurav Vasisht, Executive Director, NYS Insurance Fund

- Former Advisor, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System
- Former Executive Deputy Superintendent, Department of Financial Services
- Former Assistant Counsel, Executive Chamber

Minosca Alcantara, Executive Director, NYS Bridge Authority

- Former Chief of Project Scheduling, Metropolitan Transportation Authority Construction & Development
- Former Commissioner, Equal Employment Practices Commission for the City of New York

Dr. Chinazo Cunningham, Commissioner, NYS Office of Addiction Services and Support

- Former Executive Deputy Commissioner of Mental Hygiene, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
- Former Professor of Medicine, Family and Social Medicine, and Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Montefiore Health System and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Haley Viccaro, Strategic Communications Director for Climate, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

- Former Senior Advisor for Communications, Governor Hochul

Reverend Viviana DeCohen, Director, NYS Division of Veterans' Services

- Veteran, United State Marine Corps
- Former Commissioner of Veterans Service, City of Mt. Vernon
- Former Director of Military & Veteran Affairs and Adjunct Professor, Concordia College
- Former Veterans Advisor, Mercy College

Daniel Tietz, Commissioner, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

- Former Interim CEO, Bronx Parent Housing Network, Inc.
- Former Temporary Receiver CEO for Children's Community Services, Inc
- Former CEO, Bailey House
- Former Chief Special Service Officers, New York City's Department of Social Services/Human Resources Administration
- Former Executive Director, ACRIA

NYS Cannabis Management Board:

Governor's Appointees

Reuben R. McDaniel

- President and Chief Executive Officer, Dormitory Authority of New York State

Jessica Garcia

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

Chris Alexander, Executive Director, Office of Cannabis Management

- Former Government Relations and Policy Manager, Vill LLC.
- Former Associate Counsel, NYS Senate

Jason Starr, Chief Equity Officer

- Former Director of Litigation, Human Rights Campaign
- Former Carey Gabay Fellow, Assistant Counsel to Governor Cuomo

Other:

Robert Mujica will remain as Director of the Budget

Rick Cotton will remain as New York Port Authority Executive Director

Trey Nix/Meredith Kelly, Declaration Media

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

Jose Nieves, Chair, NYS Joint Commission on Public Ethics

- Founder, Law Offices of Jose L. Nieves & Associates
- Former Deputy Chief in Special Investigations and Prosecutions Unit, NYS Attorney General

Sharon Stern Gerstman, Commissioner, NYS Joint Commission on Public Ethics

- Counsel, Magavern, Magavern Grimm, LLP
- Former President, New York State Bar Association (2017–2018)

Terryl Brown, Commissioner, NYS Joint Commission on Public Ethics

- Chief Legal Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs and Administration, FDNY
- Former Executive Vice President and General Counsel, New York Power Authority

Honorable Justice Shirley Troutman, NYS Court of Appeals (nominee)

- Currently an Associate Justice, Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department

Honorable Lisa Fisher, NYS Appellate Division, Third Department

- Justice of the Supreme Court in the Third Judicial District
- Former Assistant Public Defender, Family Court Division, Ulster County Public Defender's Office
- Former Sole Practitioner
- Former Court Attorney, Honorable Edward T. Feeney, New York State Office of Court Administration
- Former Staff Attorney, Ulster County Department of Social Services

Honorable Andrew G. Ceresia, Appellate Division, Third Department

- Justice, Third Judicial District of the Rensselaer County Supreme Court
- Former Justice, Third Judicial District of the New York State Supreme Court
- Former Judge, Rensselaer County Court
- Former Appellate Court Attorney, Third Department of the Appellate Division of the NYS Supreme Court
- Former Acting Justice, City Courts of Albany, Rensselaer, and Hudson

Honorable Eddie McShan, Appellate Division, Third Department

- Associate Justice, First Judicial Department of the Appellate Term, New York State Supreme Court
- Former Justice, Twelfth District, New York State Supreme Court.
- Adjunct Professor, Business and Paralegal Department, Bronx Community College CUNY
- Former Acting Justice and a Hybrid Acting Justice, New York State Supreme

Announced Departures:

Dr. Howard Zucker, Commissioner, NYS Department of Health

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

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

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

Licha Nyiendo, Commissioner, NYS Division of Human Rights

Molly Reilly, Deputy Secretary for General Government and Technology to the Governor

Debra Alligood White, Deputy Secretary for Civil Rights and Workforce to the Governor

Norman Birenbaum, Director, Cannabis Program

Jeremy Shockett, Deputy Secretary for Public Safety to the Governor

Linda Lacewell, Superintendent, NYS Department of Financial Services

Letizia Tagliafierro, NYS Inspector General

Larry Schwartz, Chief Strategy Officer, will resign from the MTA board effective when the Senate confirms his replacement

Michael Green, Commissioner, NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

RoAnn Destitio, Commissioner, NYS Office of General Services

Patrick Murphy, Commissioner, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services

Gil Quiniones, President and CEO, New York Power Authority