

Working Together to Serve **Diverse Communities**

A Virtual Resource Fair

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Herbert Austin is currently the District Director of SBA's Dallas/Fort Worth Office and has held this position since 2008.

Herb joined SBA in 1989 in the New Jersey District Office; he spent many years in New York and Long Island offices before moving to Dallas/Fort Worth Office. He is fluent in French and Spanish.

Herb holds a BS in Marketing from New York University and an MBA from Pace University in International Marketing and Management.



Lilly I. Bouie, Ph.D., is the Special Nutrition Programs Director for the Southeast Regional Office of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service in Atlanta. She has over thirty-one years of administrative experience in the operation of federal Child Nutrition Programs. She has served as a nutrition administrator for most of her professional career, beginning with the State Agency in Mississippi. Thereafter, she served as Major City District Director for Little Rock School District in Little Rock, Arkansas. Dr. Bouie joined the SERO staff in 2017.

Under her current leadership, the Southeast Regional Office for Special Nutrition Programs provides oversight to fourteen of USDA's Food and Nutrition Service Programs, which include National School Lunch and Breakfast, Food Distribution, Farm to School, Child and Adult Care Food, Summer Food Service, WIC, and several others. She and her TEAM provide oversight of nutrition programs in eight States: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.



Leslie Bradley is HUD's Region VI Deputy Regional Administrator (DRA) in the Fort Worth Regional Office. As the DRA, she assists the Regional Administrator in managing HUD's programs in the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico and Louisiana. Region VI has seven field offices in addition to the regional office in Fort Worth, and more than 600 employees. Ms. Bradley has worked at HUD for 31 years. During her career at HUD, she spent 26 years working in the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity enforcing civil rights related housing laws. Since December 2016, she has served as Interim Co-Chair of Region VI's Federal Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness.

As a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), Ms. Bradley received a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications (broadcast news). In addition, she has completed mediation courses at UTA.



Dama Brown is the Regional Director of the Federal Trade Commission's Southwest Region, which covers Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. As Regional Director, Ms. Brown oversees litigation involving unfair or deceptive acts or practices or rule violations. She has supervised matters including automobile and home financing, consumer credit, debt collection, mobile technologies, and telemarketing. She also speaks to business, industry, media, and consumer groups about consumer protection issues and regulation.

Prior to becoming Regional Director, Ms. Brown was a staff attorney with the FTC in Atlanta and she spent ten years in private practice in metro Detroit. She is a graduate of Wayne State University Law School in Detroit, Michigan.



Izra Brown is the Grants Management and Administrative Services Director for the Food and Nutrition Services Southeast Regional Office (SERO). He came to SERO from the US Department of State (DoS), in Washington, DC, where he served as the Senior International Advisor and manager for US foreign assistance funding and voluntary grant management policy at the United Nations (UN). Before joining DoS, Izra was a Senior Comptroller at the Pentagon where he directed US funding, through US Army military commands, for military training, construction and grant assistance, military force readiness, capacity building, peacekeeping and other highly political activities. Preceding his government experience he was the Principal and founder of

Trifecta Welding & Fabrication, LLC.

Mr. Brown holds a bachelor's degree from Auburn University and a Master's of Business Administration from Alcorn State University.

Domingo Y. Castillo has been employed with the Department of Labor Wage-Hour division since June of 2000. He started his career with Wage-Hour out of the Dallas District Office where he worked as a Wage-Hour Investigator for nine years. As a Wage-Hour Investigator he conducted numerous investigations under the various laws enforced by the Wage-Hour Division.

From May of 2009 – to June of 2011, he worked as an Assistant District Director in both the New Orleans and Oklahoma City District Offices. In this capacity he assisted both offices to meet its goals and obligations for the fiscal years. More importantly, he supervised and directed the work of experienced Wage-Hour Investigators and in the development and training of newly hired investigators.

In 2011 he transferred back to the Dallas District Office to serve in the newly created position of Community Outreach & Resource Planning Specialist. In this position he has and continues to work with other Federal Agencies, State Agencies, Consular Offices of various Foreign Embassies, Employer Associations of various Industries, Worker Advocacy Groups, and Non-Profit Organizations in various capacities – with the goal of educating employers about their responsibilities under the laws enforced and educating workers about their rights and responsibilities under the laws enforced by Wage-Hour. And lastly, Mr. Castillo has been the recipient of numerous Secretary of Labor Awards in all positions held with the agency.

Racheal Freeman is a senior examiner in the Banking Supervision Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. She primarily works with Community Reinvestment Act and Fair Lending. She serves as the Community Reinvestment Act trainer in the Consumer Affairs Division. She has over 20 years of experience as a federal regulator. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Master of Science in Community and Economic Development. Additionally, she has earned the designation of a Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager (CRCM).



Lissette Flores is a Community Relations and Minority Affairs Specialist at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Her experience consists of a combination of policy, advocacy and programmatic work from her time at HUD and think tanks in DC. Prior to joining the OCC, Lissette served at HUD as a Supervisory Community Development Specialist in the Office of Community Planning and Development. She also previously served in the Obama Administration as the Special Advisor for jobs and economic development at HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing, where she led efforts to connect HUD-assisted families to employment and educational opportunities. Lissette is an alumna of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Graduate Fellowship. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Political

Science and Latino Studies from DePaul University. She also holds a Master's degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago in Urban Planning and Policy with a concentration in Community Development.



Arlene Good is a Sr. Stakeholder Liaison with the Internal Revenue Service. As a Sr. Stakeholder Liaison, she focuses on the local engagement of the payroll, practitioner, and industry stakeholder organizations to provide information about the policies, practices, and procedures the IRS uses to ensure compliance with the tax laws.

She began her career with IRS in 1987 as a Taxpayer Service Representative in Customer Service, she later advanced as a Taxpayer Service Specialist. She then crossed to another business unit to the Examination Division as a Tax Compliance Officer in Small Business Self-Employed (SBSE) Division; there she examined individual and small business tax returns and educated taxpayers and Tax Professionals. Arlene has also served as Acting Manager in Examination and Acting Area Manager of several Area Stakeholder Liaison groups. Arlene has served as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteer and conducted Small Business tax workshops.

Julia Huseman serves as Senior Counsel in the Enforcement Division of the Fort Worth Office of the SEC. For almost twenty years, while in this position, Ms. Huseman conducted dozens of investigations involving insider trading, accounting fraud, off market frauds, Ponzi schemes and market manipulation.

During her tenure, Ms. Huseman also contributed to numerous community outreach efforts. She has given numerous presentations to various groups from religious organizations to teachers unions in an effort to prevent individuals from becoming victims of securities fraud. Ms. Huseman also conducted outreach efforts involving high school and college students including student shadowing and financial literacy programs.

Ms. Huseman graduated from Mount Holyoke College with a B.A. in English and Latin and received her J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law.

Italia Jackson joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas in 2013 after working in the banking and mortgage industries for over a decade. Italia is a commissioned senior examiner currently specializing in fair lending, where she is responsible for evaluating fair lending risks at small and larger more complex state member banks. She attended Louisiana State University where she studied economics, and also earned a master's degree in Business Administration from Texas Woman's University.



LaKesha Pope Jackson works for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) as the Regional Administrator for Region 6.

With 20 years of experience working on behalf of marginalized youth and families in multiple social services systems, Ms. Jackson is responsible for ACF's national initiatives and priorities in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, as well as 68 federally recognized tribes.



Derek Lee is the regional administrator for the Administration for Community Living (ACL) at the Dallas regional office, providing policy guidance and technical assistance related to Older Americans Act home- and community-based services to state and tribal grantees in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas. Derek is responsible for representing the Assistant Secretary for Aging in the region through building partnerships and advocating for the health and independence of older individuals and their caregivers.

At the ACL, Derek serves as the regional point of contact for disaster assistance; provides guidance on developing and implementing state plans on aging; and provides training to state and tribal staff on OAA programs and policies. He has served as the project officer for SHIP, SMP, and MIPPA grants; reviewed and scored grant applications related to Alzheimer's disease supportive services, Medicare Improvement for Patients & Providers Act, and other programs; worked with the regional HRSA office to improve coordination between aging offices and federal health centers; and worked in coordination with CMS and other HHS divisions to support Medicare part D implementation.

Before coming to the Administration for Community Living, he was with the Alabama Department of Senior Services where he served in a variety of capacities, including the department assistant director. Prior to that, Derek worked as a social worker with the Alabama Department of Human Services, and as a habilitation treatment specialist with the Alabama Department of Mental Health supervising direct care staff in carrying out habilitation plans and direct care for older adults within an intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ICF-IID).



Julia Lothrop serves as the Acting Regional Director and Executive Officer in the Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA) for the Region VI Office of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS). The Regional Office is responsible for the implementation of Secretarial and Departmental initiatives in a five-state region serving Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and 68 Federally recognized tribes.

Prior to this, Ms. Lothrop was Special Assistant to the Consortium Administrator for Survey & Certification and Quality Improvement with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). During her time with CMS, she assisted with the Medicare national immunization campaign, served as a member of the original Medicare Part D enrollment team, assisted with rural initiatives and served as public affairs specialist.

Ms. Lothrop began her federal career as an Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist for the Office of the Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Lothrop earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Master of Science degree in Gerontology from Baylor University in Waco, Texas. After an internship with AARP, she was employed as Director for the Southwest Society on Aging.

As an Assistant Professor in the Department of Gerontology and Geriatric Services at UT Southwestern Medical Center, she served as the Education Core Director and Principal Investigator on a National Institutes of Health grant to develop health care professional materials for a national Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

Anthony McNeal is at the forefront of regulating America's vast and fast moving securities markets. He has spent nearly 30 years working to ensure that capital markets work fairly and efficiently to facilitate capital formation, informing policy-makers of market risks, and protecting our nation's investors from fraud.

Whether you are a business owner seeking information on accessing development capital or an investor saving for a home, your child's college fund, a comfortable retirement, or just seeking to accumulate wealth – the Commission's staff works for you.

Anthony graduated from the University of Oklahoma and after entering public accounting became a Certified Public Accountant and later a Certified Fraud Examiner. Anthony worked for several Fortune 500 companies before joining the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission where he manages examinations of investment advisers, brokers and mutual funds.



LCDR Traci M. Murray has been a registered nurse for 10 years with experience in clinical research, epidemiology, and nursing education. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree with honors from Texas Christian University. Soon after, she became the first BSN-to-PhD graduate at University of Texas at Tyler. LCDR Murray explored her public health interests as a CDC Public Health Associate assigned to the Florida Department of Health where she gained valuable experience during the state's Zika crisis.

In 2017, LCDR Murray became a Commissioned Nurse Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service. She currently serves as the Region VI Assistant Regional Administrator for SAMHSA in Dallas. As a Commissioned Officer, LCDR Murray has been active in the Black Commissioned Officers Advisory Group and Commissioned Officers Association. She is also a committed volunteer in her church's Preventive Medicine ministry and a long-time member of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc. LCDR Murray recently completed a Master's in Public Health with a global health emphasis at University of North Texas Health Science Center.



Jeri Pickett is the Regional Administrator for the Health Resources and Services Administration in HHS Region 6, based in Dallas, Texas. She is responsible for executing the mission of HRSA's Office of Regional Operations across 5 states: "to improve health equity in underserved communities through on-the-ground outreach, education, technical assistance and partnering with local, state and federal organizations."

Jeri has a Master's degree in Health Care Policy and Administration

from Mercer University. Prior to her appointment as Regional Administrator, she was the Director of the National Hansen’s Disease Program in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. In addition to a career in the federal government, she spent 12 years in the private sector as a senior consultant working for “Big 4” global consulting firms.



A graduate of Texas A&M University Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health, **Melissa Scarborough** earned her Master of Public Health degree with a Community Health & Management emphasis in addition to her Health Education Specialist certification. Ms. Scarborough then completed a two-year intensive training program as a Presidential Management Fellow and has now been with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for over 18 years serving in numerous roles to develop expertise in a variety of programs and projects throughout the agency.

Serving as a Local Engagement and Administration Staff at CMS Dallas, Ms. Scarborough works with both traditional and healthcare provider partners to ensure the most accurate and up-to-date information is shared by providing training, staffing exhibits at conferences, speaking at meetings, compiling/distributing weekly newsletters, and more.



Kelle Slaughter is a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Investigator. Prior to joining the FTC, Kelle served as the Director of Investigations at the Better Business Bureau Serving North Central Texas and was an Investigator with the Texas Office of Attorney General Consumer Protection Division. During her almost 20 year investigative career, Kelle has initiated and conducted hundreds of consumer protection investigations, supported numerous enforcement actions, and imparted presentations to consumers, businesses, and law enforcement.

Kelle holds Masters Degrees in both Criminal Justice & Conflict Resolution, and in Higher Education from Dallas Baptist University.



Elizabeth Sobel Blum is a senior advisor of community development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, where she promotes community and economic development and fair and impartial access to credit. Her areas of focus include workforce development, health, early childhood education, community development finance and small business development. For example, Sobel Blum’s research, publications and collaborations help the Bank in its efforts to connect workforce development and health entities with the community and economic development sectors.

Elizabeth led the development of the Dallas Fed’s [Advance Together™ program](#) and her publications include “[Regional Talent Pipelines: Collaborating with Industry to Build Opportunities in Texas](#),” “[Engaging Workforce Development: A Framework for Meeting Community Reinvestment Act \(CRA\) Obligations](#)” and “[Healthy Communities: A](#)

[Framework for Meeting CRA Obligations.](#)” Sobel Blum is a graduate of Leadership ISD (’20) and Leadership Dallas (’19) and serves on the national advisory committee of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Systems for Action research program. She earned an MBA from the University of Texas at Dallas, an MA from American University and a BA from Northwestern University.



Synthia Taylor is the Regional Director for the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Relations Service, Southwest and Southeast Regions. She assists state and local government, private and public organizations and community groups with addressing racial tensions, civil disorder, and with restoring racial stability within communities.

With more than 29 years of federal service, Synthia has worked for the Centers for Disease Control as an Alternative Dispute Resolution Specialist and with U.S. Customs Service as an Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist. She is a skilled facilitator, trainer and public speaker on topics related to mediation, alternative dispute resolution, and cultural diversity. She has managed a federal shared neutrals program and has mediated a variety of disputes including those associated with racial/ethnic conflicts and employment discrimination complaints.