



Presenters

2015 NAUIAP Training Conference



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Naomi M. Barry-Pérez

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Naomi M. Barry-Pérez currently serves as the Director of Civil Rights for the U.S. Department of Labor. In these roles she has been responsible for administering the Department of Labor's Internal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) programs and ensuring Equal Opportunity (EO) in the Department's financially assisted and conducted programs. In addition to her many accomplishments, Ms. Barry-Pérez spearheaded development of the Department of Labor's Policy Guidance to federal financial assistance recipients regarding the prohibition against national origin discrimination affecting LEP individuals. She also created the Department's plan for improving the accessibility of federally conducted programs for LEP persons. Ms. Barry-Pérez holds a Bachelor's Degree in Politics (cum laude) from Mount Holyoke College and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. In addition, she held a Public Interest Law Fellowship at the Georgetown University Law Center where she received a Juris Doctor Degree.

Frank E. Brown

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Frank E. Brown has served as Chairman of Florida Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission since July 1, 2013. With twenty-six years of labor and employment law and litigation experience in both the public and private sectors, including extensive trial experience, he has been recognized as a peer-selected outstanding practitioner in a number of publications, including Best Lawyers In America, Florida Super Lawyers, Florida Trend's "Legal Elite," Chambers USA, and Martindale-Hubbell. He has been board certified by The Florida Bar in Labor and Employment Law since the certification was first established in 2001. He is the incoming Chair of The Florida Bar Labor and Employment Law Section.

Betty Castillo

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Betty Castillo has worked with the US Department of Labor (USDOL) since March 1990. She currently holds the position of Chief, Division of Unemployment Insurance Operations, in the Employment and Training Administration's Office of Unemployment Insurance. Prior to working at USDOL, she worked for the New Mexico Employment Security Commission; now called the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions. She has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of New Mexico.

Marisa de la Paz

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Marisa de la Paz is the Director of Multilingual Services for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD), a position she has held for 23 years. Her office is the language facilitation authority for EOLWD and its 5 departments throughout all levels of the organization, including unemployment insurance. In addition to being EOLWD's Language Expert, Marisa is also the interdepartmental liaison for translations, interpretations, and best practices. She developed and continues to coordinate EOLWD's Language Access Plan. Her innovation regarding language accommodations has led to other Massachusetts agencies adopting and mirroring her work. Born in Spain, Marisa lived and studied in France, Belgium and England then came to United States 25 years ago for graduate school. A linguist by trade, Marisa speaks 7 languages and is now also studying Mandarin. She has an avid interest in world cultures and languages and enjoys traveling with her two children.

Ralph Dorsey

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Mr. Dorsey was appointed Director of Employment Security Appeals Referee Section in December 2009, after holding the position of Principal Appeals Referee for six years. Mr. Dorsey has been at the Department of Labor since September 1990, starting out as an Appeals Referee in the Hartford office of the Appeals Division before transferring to the Bridgeport office in 1995. Before coming to the Department of Labor Mr. Dorsey worked as an associate attorney at Day, Berry and Howard for several years. Prior to law school he worked as a case worker for the State of New Jersey, Department of Mental Health and as a case worker for the Hudson County Income Maintenance Department. He graduated from Dartmouth College and Northeastern University School of Law.

Stephanie C. Garcia

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Stephanie joined the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) in September 2006 and currently serves as the Chief of the State and Federal Team in the Division of Unemployment Insurance Operations, Office of Unemployment Insurance. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Labor, Stephanie was a senior manager for the State of California Employment Development Department overseeing unemployment insurance programs for 14 years. She has the following degrees: Bachelor of Arts, University of La Verne, California; Master of Science, California State University Fullerton, California.

Gay M. Gilbert

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Gay joined the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA) in November 2000 and currently serves as the Administrator of the Office of Unemployment Insurance overseeing the nation's federal-state Unemployment Insurance program. Previously, Gay also served as ETA's Administrator for the Office of Workforce Investment providing federal oversight of America's workforce investment system. Prior to joining the U.S Department of Labor, Gay was a senior official for the State of Ohio overseeing workforce programs and unemployment insurance for ten years. Gay also served as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Columbus, Ohio, and eight years with the West Virginia Department of Human Services. She has the following degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Michigan State University; Master of Social Work, West Virginia University; and Juris Doctor, Ohio State University.

Amy Hohnstein

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After relocating from Colorado to Las Vegas in 1989, Amy began her career in unemployment as a hearings representative for the Gibbens Company. Amy survived the transition from Gibbens Company to Gates McDonald and then shortly thereafter she assisted Carol Cook in opening an office of Employers Unity in Las Vegas. In 2002 Amy left Employers Unity and became a hearing officer in the Las Vegas appeals office. After several years of conducting in-person hearings, she was promoted to the Manager of the Las Vegas Appeals office. In 2008 Amy relocated to Boise, Idaho and began working again as a hearing officer, but this time conducting all telephone hearings. Three years ago she was promoted to the position of Idaho Appeals Bureau Chief.

Robert Johnston

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Mr. Johnston is the Supervisor of the State Conformity and Compliance Team within the Office of Unemployment Insurance. He has been with the Department of Labor since 1984 and has held his current position since January of 2003. Mr. Johnston has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics from Whittier College and a Master's of Public Administration from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Lynne M. Knox

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Lynne M. Knox has served as Chairperson of the Employment Security Board of Review in the Connecticut Department of Labor since 2003. She was formerly employed as Counsel to the Board from 1989 through her permanent appointment as Board Chairperson. She also was employed as an Assistant Attorney General for the Connecticut Office of the Attorney General, representing the Department of Children and Youth Services from 1988 through 1989. She earned her J.D. degree from Western New England College School of Law; and M.Ed. from Lesley College; and a B.A. degree from Connecticut College. She is the past Chair of the Connecticut Bar Association's Young Lawyers' Labor and Employment Committee. She also served for two years on the Connecticut Bar Association's Labor and Employment Executive Committee and chaired the Unemployment Compensation subcommittee. In her capacity as Chair of this subcommittee, she helped create a pro bono unemployment compensation project that provides free or reduced-cost representation to claimants and employers.

Amy Stillman Kulig

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Ms. Kulig was appointed to the position of Counsel, CT DOL Employment Security Division Board of Review, in March 2005, having served in the position of Acting Counsel for two years. She previously worked as an appeals referee and as the managing attorney of a satellite office of Greater Hartford Legal Services. While working for Legal Services, Ms. Kulig was a special master at the Hartford Superior Court. Ms. Kulig received certification as a mediator from the National Judicial College and has been a teaching assistant for the mediation course at NJC. She graduated cum laude from Middlebury College and received her J.D. degree from the University of Connecticut School Of Law.

Steven J. Massey

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Mr. Massey is a U.I. Program Specialist on the State Conformity & Compliance Team of the Division of Legislation within the Office of Unemployment Insurance. He has been with the Department of Labor's Office of Unemployment Insurance since 2004. Prior to working for the Department of Labor he worked for the State of Florida as the unemployment Appeals Referee Supervisor from 1989 to 2004. Mr. Massey has a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Florida International University, and a Juris Doctor Degree from Nova Southeastern University School of Law in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

John McGucken

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Mr. McGucken is a U.I. Program Specialist on the State Conformity & Compliance Team and has been with the Department of Labor's Office of Unemployment Insurance since 2001. He previously has served as an appeals hearing officer and special examiner for the Board of Appeals from 1972 to 1993 and served as agency Counsel for the Maryland Office of Unemployment Insurance in 1993 until joining the staff at the US Department of Labor. Mr. McGucken completed his undergraduate studies at Mount Saint Mary's University and received his Juris Doctor Degree from the University of Baltimore in 1970.

Alice S. Mitchell

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Alice S. Mitchell currently serves as Chief of the Board of Review (HAA) for the Georgia Department of Labor, a position she has held since May, 2014. Her prior experience includes Chief of the Appeals Tribunal (LAA) for the Georgia Department of Labor (2002-2014) and Director of the Appellate Division (LAA) for the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (1992-2002). She currently serves as Past President of NAUIAP, (2013-2014 President) and member of Board of Governors since 2003. Ms. Mitchell is a graduate of the University of Alabama (BS and JD) and the University of Central Oklahoma (MA, political science). She is a member of the Alabama, Oklahoma and Georgia bar associations and was a founding member of the Ruth Bader Ginsberg American Inns of Court chapter in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Ms. Mitchell's legal experience also includes service as an Assistant Attorney General for the Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General and Chief Administrative Law Judge for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. During her tenure as Chief of the Georgia Appeals Tribunal, the Tribunal received the USDOL's award for "Excellence in Appeals" for large states in 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2013.

Jayson Myers

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Mr. Myers has spent his entire professional career in one aspect or another of unemployment insurance appeals in the State of New York. He has served as an Unemployment Insurance Referee at both the Lower and Higher Authority and as the senior (supervising) Unemployment Insurance Referee also at both levels. In 2000, he was named as Senior Unemployment Insurance Referee for Training. From 2006 to 2010, he served as acting Executive Secretary of the New York Unemployment Insurance Appeal Board and then as permanent Executive Secretary after being appointed by the Governor. In 2010, he shifted to the position of Chief Administrative Law Judge to fill a vacancy in that position. Chief Judge Myers is responsible for the training and professional development of the judicial staff at both levels of appeals. He also advises the Board Chair on important legal issues.

Steve Ockrassa

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Steve Ockrassa currently serves as Chief Hearing Officer for DES Office of Appeals in the State of Arizona. Prior to being hired as a Hearing Officer in November 1991, Steve had been in private practice, later became a city prosecutor, deputy county attorney and acting city attorney. Just prior to accepting the position with the DES he spent 3 1/2 years as City Attorney in Williams, Arizona. After 4 years as a hearing officer, he was elevated to a supervisor position, supervising up to 10 hearing officers plus support staff. Beginning in 2008, Steve participated in interviewing and hiring over 50 new hearing officers, and as Trainer, trained the majority of the new hires; arranged and participated in multiple internal training conferences; provided appeal familiarization sessions for department UI adjudicators; taught two sessions of UI administrative processes at Summit Law School in phoenix; appeared as part of a public lawyer panel; and conducted a mock UI hearing at an Equifax client function.

Nicholas R. Parico

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Nicholas R. Parico, Esq. graduated from Boston College in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in Business, concentrating his studies in Computer Science and Management Information Systems. In 2007, Attorney Parico graduated from Seton Hall University School of Law and spent one year as a judicial law clerk in the New Jersey Superior Court – Essex County, Criminal Division and Family Division. After returning to Connecticut in 2008, Attorney Parico spent one year volunteering at the Sawyer Law Firm and another year as a document review attorney with Axinn Veltrop & Harkrider LLP. In 2011, he joined the Connecticut Department of Labor – Employment Security Appeals Division where he continues to grow as both an attorney and unemployment appeals hearings officer while leveraging his business and information technology background.

Corey T. Pitts

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Corey joined the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration in September 2013 and currently serves on the State and Federal Team in the Office of Unemployment Insurance's, Division of Unemployment Insurance Operations, as Program Specialist for Lower Authority Appeals, Interstate Benefits and Combined Wage Claims. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Labor, Corey was a Program Manager with the State of South Carolina's Department of Employment and Workforce overseeing a variety of unemployment insurance and workforce programs for 13 years.

Mark Richmond

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Born and raised in Boise, Idaho Mark graduated from Boise State University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. After working for the Idaho Department of Correction for two years he was hired on as a hearing officer with the Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole in 1995. In 1997 Mark moved to the Idaho Transportation Department. In 2002 Mark completed the Administrative Law Judge certification program and obtained his Certified Hearing Official certificate from the National Association of Hearing Officials in 2004. Mark was elected to the "NAHO" Board of Directors in 2005 where he represented the Western Region of the United States through 2010. After a few years as Lead Hearing Examiner at the Idaho Transportation Department, Mark dabbled in self-employment. He then saw the light in 2012 and was hired back on by the State of Idaho as a Hearing Officer at the Idaho Department of Labor.

Nicole Roberson

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Ms. Roberson is a U.I. Program Specialist on the State Conformity and Compliance Team, Division of Legislation, Office of Unemployment Insurance. She has been with the Department of Labor since 2011. Prior to working for the US Department of Labor, she worked for the Employment and Development Department in State of California. Ms. Roberson has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Relations from California State University.

Cheri Ruch

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Cheri Ruch became a referee for the Idaho Industrial Commission in 1997. Ms. Ruch has been an active member of NAUIAB since 1998 contributing to the agenda committee and as a speaker for several annual conferences. She served on the Special Projects Committee that developed the NAUIAB Model Code of Judicial Conduct. She served terms as a member of the Board of Governors (BOG) in 2001-2002 and 2004-2007. Ms. Ruch returned to the BOG in 2014. Ms. Ruch was a member of the faculty of the University of Phoenix Online Campus 2001-2007. There, she taught courses in employment law and critical thinking skills to undergraduate business students, as well as a graduate course in conflict resolution skills for the workplace. Ms. Ruch started her legal career as a Staff Attorney with the Bankruptcy Administrator's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina. In addition to her law degree from Vermont Law School in South Royalton, Ms. Ruch holds an M.P.A. from Boise State University and is an alumna of the National Judicial College.

Scott B. Sanders

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Since October 2014, Mr. Sanders began serving in his new role as Executive Director of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA). NASWA assists in the coordination of program activities for all state unemployment insurance and workforce agencies in helping individuals become reemployed. Mr. Sanders previously served as the Commissioner for the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. During his tenure at the Department, Mr. Sanders was instrumental in implementing Jobs for Hoosiers (helping unemployed individuals return to work faster) and launching a modernized UI computer system that integrated benefits, tax and appeals. Mr. Sanders was also active in the passage of Indiana's UI Trust Fund Solvency Reform legislation and in the implementation of the nation's largest Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) drop-out prevention program. Mr. Sanders earned a bachelor's degree from Miami University and a master's in business administration from Northwestern University's J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management.

Suzanne Simonetta

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Suzanne Simonetta is the Chief of the Division of Legislation in the Office of Unemployment Insurance in the U.S. Department of Labor. She is responsible for ensuring state unemployment compensation (UC) laws conform to Federal requirements; assisting with development of the Administration's UC legislative proposals, regulations, and policy; and providing technical assistance to congressional staffs on UC legislation. Ms. Simonetta has worked in the Division of Legislation for 14 years on a variety of initiatives including the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Emergency Unemployment Compensation, and the Unemployment Compensation Integrity Act. Currently, her work focuses on implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, with particular emphasis on confidentiality and disclosure of wage records. Ms. Simonetta completed her undergraduate studies with honors at Cornell University (double major: Government and Italian Studies) and her graduate studies at Syracuse University (Political Science).

Thomas Stengle

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Tom Stengle has served as the Budget Team Leader with the Office of Unemployment Insurance's Division of Fiscal and Actuarial Services at USDOL since 2005. His responsibilities include the formulation, allocation, and execution of unemployment insurance administrative resources.

Clyde Stevens

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Clyde Stevens holds a Bachelor Degree in Mechanical Engineering from General Motors Institute, a Master's in Business Administration from Michigan State University, and a Law Degree from Oklahoma City University. He joined the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission as a Hearing Officer in 2009; was promoted to a Supervisor of Hearing Officers in March, 2014; and effective July 1, 2015, will become Director of Appeals. Clyde had 42 years of private industry experience, prior to joining the OESC, 41 with General Motors Corporation. He served the final 25 years in private industry as the Labor Relations Manager at the General Motors plant in Oklahoma City. In this position Clyde served as the Management interface with the local chapter of the United Auto Workers. This position involved the administration of the various collective bargaining agreements, and other company policies and procedure, in addition to serving as the Management spokesperson in local collective bargaining.

Pamela A. Toguchi

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Since 2009, Pam Toguchi has been the State of Hawaii's Chief Appeals Officer/Administrator for the Employment Security Appeals Referees' Office, preceded by six years as an appeals officer in the same agency. Her background also includes five years with the state attorney general's office in civil rights defense and general litigation, as well as a brief time in private practice. Pam has been a panel member on the USDOL's national quality review team for four of the last five years, as well as a contributor to the current redrafting of the review handbook. She graduated from the University of Hawaii with an English degree and from the University of California Hastings College of the Law with a juris doctorate degree. In her off hours, she is a golf "fan/addict" who is still pursuing her first hole-in-one.

Allan A. Toubman

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He is the founder and principal consultant for the Administrative Justice Institute. He retired in 2006, after 23 years as Chief Administrative Hearing Officer for the Maine Department of Labor. The Institute provides administrative law training and consulting to state employment security agencies. Since 2005, it has provided the Certification Appeals Professional training at NAUIAP conferences. Allan is also on the faculty of the National Judicial College. He earned a B.A. degree with Distinction and a Juris Doctor with Honors degree from the University of Connecticut. Allan is the author of "The ABCs of Hearsay in Administrative Proceedings", 5 MAINE B.J. (Nov.1990) and "Due Process Implications of Conducting Unemployment Compensation Hearing by Telephone: The Case for an Individualized Approach" 29 U. OF MICHIGAN J. OF LAW REFORM 407(1996), and a co-author of the National Judicial College

Deskbook on Evidence for Administrative Law Judges (McNeil, 2005). Allan sails and kayaks in Penobscot Bay Maine with Kathy.

Joseph J. Vitale

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Joe is a Senior IT executive with over 40 years of diversified expertise in technology infrastructure, data architecture and telecommunications. He is experienced in leading project managers and program management on large information technology projects including UI IT Modernization initiatives. Joe spent 37 years with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and was instrumental in establishing the Division of Information Technology within NJLWD. He served six years as the CIO for the Department. When the Information Technology Support Center (ITSC) moved under the National Association of Workforce Agencies (NASWA) in September 2009 Joe became its first Director under NASWA. Joe has restructured ITSC with a strong customer focus. His goal is to create an organization that provides accurate efficient cost effective and timely service to the states and encourages the states to work together and share their knowledge and resources.

Agnes Wells

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Ms. Wells is a U.I. Program Specialist on the State Conformity & Compliance Team of the Division of Legislation within the Office of Unemployment Insurance. She has been with the Division of Legislation since January 2008, prior to that she was a Workforce Analyst on the Federal Legislation Team. Before coming to USDOL, Agnes worked at the Virginia Employment Commission's Prince William office from 2003 to 2008. From 2000 to 2003, Agnes served as an Employment Services Specialist in the Georgetown office of the Delaware Department of Labor's Division of Employment and Training. Prior to 2000, she worked as a recruiter for Manpower and Randstad USA. Agnes received her bachelor's degree from Cornell University in May 1995.

Ron Wilus

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After working at the Defense Intelligence Agency and Bureau of Economic Analysis for several years, Ron Wilus joined the Unemployment Insurance Service in 1977 and has served in various capacities including: Benefit Financing Group Chief, Budget Officer, and Chief of Automated Data Processing. He currently serves as Chief of the Division of Fiscal and Actuarial Services with primary responsibility for budget, reporting, statistical modeling and projections for the UI Program. Ron lives with his wife and two children in Falls Church, Virginia.

Liz Wyman

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Liz Wyman was appointed the Chief Administrative Hearings Officer for the Maine Department of Labor in January 2014. She supervises ten hearings officers who conduct hearings in unemployment cases in which it must be determined whether a claimant is eligible for or qualified to receive unemployment benefits. Liz graduated from the University of Maine School of Law in 1993, magna cum laude. She served a one-year clerkship with the Maine Supreme Judicial Court before working in private practice for a large Portland law firm. In 1998, she went to work for the Maine Attorney General's Office, where she served as legal counsel for the Maine Department of Labor until taking her current position. Liz has published two articles: *The Unenforced Promise of Equal Pay Acts: A National Problem and Possible Solution from Maine*, 55 *Maine Law Review* 23 (2003) and *Understanding and Applying the "ABC Test" To Determine Liability for Unemployment Compensation*, *Maine Bar Journal* (Winter 2004).