Eighth Annual Key Executive Leadership Conference:  
*Journey Through Transition in Turbulent Times*  
Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C.  
May 17, 2017

|PLENARY SPEAKER BIOS|

**MORNING PLENARY SPEAKER**

**Now is the Time**

**Patrick Malone, Ph.D**  
*Director, Key Executive Leadership Programs*

Patrick Malone, Ph.D, is the Director of American University’s Key Executive Leadership Programs. He is a frequent guest lecturer on leadership and organizational dynamics in state and federal agencies, professional associations, and universities. He has extensive experience working with federal sector leaders from DHHS, EPA, IRS, USDA, HUD, DHS, and DoD among others. Professor Malone also regularly presents in international forums to government leaders from the Republic of Vietnam, Panama, Poland, Belgium, and Mauritius. His research interests and scholarship include work in public service motivation, leadership, ethics, and organizational behavior. He is one of only fifty researchers in the country certified to score the Subject/Object qualitative research methodology developed at Harvard University.

Dr. Malone spent twenty-two years in the Department of Defense where he served in a number of senior leadership and policy roles including as a professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; Academic Director; and Dean of Academics for Navy Medicine. His most recent publications include “Selfies in the Workplace: Narcissists and the Public Manager,” “Making Assumptions? Try the Power of Inquiry,” “The Challenges That Set Public Service Apart” and “Enhancing Your Leadership by Tapping into Staff Attitudes.”

**LUNCHTIME PLENARY SPEAKER**

**Leading Across Generations: “How to Build Intergenerational Trust and Synergy”**

**Jeffrey Vargas**  
*Chief Learning Officer, Commodities Futures Trading Commission*

Jeffrey Vargas is the Chief Learning Officer and the Director of the Office of Talent Management and Leadership Development for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC).

He is responsible for all things learning – including ensuring that CFTC executives and staff have the necessary technical, managerial and leadership skills to effectively overseeing the 600 trillion dollar swaps, options and futures financial marketplace.
Jeff is known for his ability to cultivate a culture of learning. He is a learning strategist that applies economic analysis to the design, development and deployment of training programs. Over the last few years, Jeff and his team have created cutting-edge learning initiatives including the creation of a curriculum of 32 courses that are customized peer-to-peer learning engagements called the Commission Learning Circles; empowering divisions to procure and host 30 plus division specific internal technical training programs on the financial marketplace, and finally deploying a best-in-class, 360 assessment and executive coaching program where more than 40% of the Commission senior leadership team are voluntarily participants.

Prior to joining the CFTC Jeff served as the Chief Learning Officer for the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) where he provided the strategic learning vision for the 4000 NNSA employees who have the responsibility for overseeing the Nation’s nuclear weapons complex.

Jeff also spent more than a decade in the United States Department of Energy (DOE), where he work on strategic human capital management, training, recruitment and diversity issues, working directly with DOE’s senior management team.

Jeff is a researcher, author and nationally sought after speaker on the subject of intergenerational trust, understanding generational differences, and building intergenerational synergy. Since 2005 he has spoken at more than 65 agencies on this issue and has connected with more than 9000 federal employees. He is a passionate generational evangelist who works to help organizations identify ways to improve their communication and cross-generational engagements.

He received his undergraduate degree in Economics from the University of Maryland, and later went on to complete a graduate program in learning and development at Georgetown University. In April 2015 he graduated from the Federal Executive Institute in Charlottesville, Va. He lives with his wife and three kids in Northern Virginia.
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**CLOSING PLENARY PANEL**

Transitions so far, Embracing Fear and the Workforce, and Humble Leadership – What is Working, and What is Not?

**Moderator:**

*Bill Valdez*

*President, Senior Executives Association*

Bill Valdez was appointed as the President of the Senior Executive Association (SEA) in September 2016. As President, Bill sets SEA’s overall strategic direction and is focused on strengthening the Senior Executive Service (SES) through legislative and policy initiatives, building a leadership pipeline for the Executive Branch, and establishing SEA as a thought leader in the Washington, DC policy debates that impact not only the SES, but all civil service employees.

Bill retired from Federal service as a career Senior Executive in July 2014. His career with the Department of Energy spanned over 20 years and he has extensive knowledge in the areas of R&D portfolio analysis and evaluation, energy/environmental technologies and policies, small business development, supply chain analysis, science and engineering workforce development, budget planning and execution, diversity and equal opportunity issues, science policy, human capital processes and policies, procurement processes and policies, corporate and strategic planning, and contract management.

Bill held the positions of Acting Director, DOE Office of Economic Impact and Diversity; Director of Business Services, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy; and Director of Planning and Analysis, and Director for Workforce Development within DOE’s Office of Science. In addition, Mr. Valdez was co-chair of the National Science and Technology Council’s Science of Science Policy Interagency Working Group from 2005-2014, and was a senior advisor at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in the 1990s.

Bill is an Adjunct Faculty at American University’s School of Public Affairs, where he specializes in Federal government evaluation and strategic planning and is co-editing “The Handbook of Federal Government Leadership and Administration,” to be published in 2017. He also serves on the board of directors and scientific advisory committees of non-profit and for-profit organizations, such as YEDF, I-Com, LaborVoices, Fuelcor and ipCrossing.

Bill was awarded the Presidential Rank Award (meritorious) in 2007, was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2006, and was elected to Senior Executive Association’s Board of Directors in 2005 and served as Chairman from 2011-13.

Prior to working at DOE, Mr. Valdez worked as a Senior Project Manager in private industry where he provided strategic planning services to Asian and European multinational corporations.
Mr. Valdez received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Texas and his Master of Arts in International Economics and Energy Policy from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Panel Speakers:

Michael Breslin
Deputy Assistant Director, Office of Investigations, United States Secret Service

Michael Breslin currently serves as a Deputy Assistant Director of the United States Secret Service’s Office of Investigations. In this position, Mr. Breslin oversees the planning and coordination of investigative responsibilities of the Secret Service. Mr. Breslin develops, directs, and coordinates policy for all investigative matters under Secret Service authority. Mr. Breslin oversees the administrative and budgetary activities of the Office of Investigations Headquarters Divisions to include more than 163 domestic and foreign field offices consisting of over approximately 3,000 personnel. Mr. Breslin oversees and exercises fiscal control of an approved budget of $637 million with direct execution of over $79 million annually.

Prior to this assignment, Mr. Breslin served as the Special Agent in Charge of the United States Secret Service’s Criminal Investigative Division. In this position, Mr. Breslin oversaw the planning and coordination of domestic and international criminal investigations involving counterfeiting, financial, electronic and cybercrimes. These investigations included the counterfeiting of US and foreign currency, bank fraud, money laundering, access device fraud, computer fraud and identity crimes. Mr. Breslin provided strategic oversight to the 139 Secret Service domestic and 24 foreign field offices. Additionally, Mr. Breslin was responsible for the administration and resourcing of 39 Electronic Crime Task Forces (ECTF) and 46 Financial Crimes Task Forces (FCTF).

Mr. Breslin began his Secret Service career in 1995, as a Special Agent assigned to the New York Field Office. Mr. Breslin has since served in numerous supervisory positions which include Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge of the Presidential Protective Division, Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge of the Washington, D.C. Field Office, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Administrative Operations Division, Assistant Special Agent in Charge of The Office of Human Resources and Training and Assistant Special Agent in Charge of The Vice Presidential Protective Division.

Mr. Breslin served as the Event Coordinator for the National Special Security Event Papal visit to Philadelphia in September 2015 and was appointed directly by the Secretary of Homeland Security to serve as the Federal Coordinator for the Papal Visit to the Mexico-U.S. Border in 2016.

Mr. Breslin’s undergraduate degree is a Bachelor of Arts from Saint John’s University, Queens, NY. He also holds a Master of Science Degree in National Security Strategy and a Graduate Certificate in Business.
Transformation and Decision Making from The Industrial College of the Armed Forces (2011) and a Master of Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice (1995). In January 2015, he completed The Key Executive Leader Certificate program at American University’s School of Public Affairs. Mr. Breslin is a member of the Senior Executive Service.

John W. Gill
Deputy Director, Center for Leadership Development, Human Resources Solutions, U.S. Office of Personnel Management

John W. Gill is the Deputy Director at the U.S. Office of Personnel Management’s Center for Leadership Development. As the Center’s Executive-In-Residence he is leading the effort to stand up the Presidential Executive Fellows program, which brings top private sector leaders in to the government on a limited term basis to help federal agencies solve their most pressing national challenges. Additionally, John is leading the strategy design of the Federal Human Resources Capability Improvement initiative, with specific design and implementation responsibility for the HR curriculum.

John began with the federal government in 2013 as the Chief Human Capital Officer for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The ninety-thousand employee federal agency includes the Centers for Disease Control, Food and Drug Administration, National Institutes of Health, among others. In this role, he was responsible for the development, delivery, and governance of agency-wide human resources strategy, policies and programs.

John joined the federal government with an extensive background in private sector human resources and administrative management. His last position was with Rolls-Royce plc. He began with Rolls-Royce in 2001 as Executive Vice President, Human Resources for the Americas, responsible for regional HR strategy and policy setting and delivery of programs and services to the businesses and sites across the Americas. John later was appointed Executive Vice President for Rolls-Royce’s global Energy Sector and finally, Executive Vice President for developing countries and emerging markets.

Prior to Rolls-Royce, John spent 20 years with Lockheed Martin Corporation. In his last three years he served as Vice President, Resources and Services for the 21,000-person Aeronautics Sector. There, he had responsibility for human resources, facilities and administrative services. Previously, he held senior human resource positions in each of the corporation’s Electronics, Space and Information Sectors.
John was a member of the White House Senior Executive Service Reform Advisory Group. The Group provided thought leadership that helped shape the Obama administration’s 2015 Executive Order on Strengthening the Senior Executive Service.

John is an adjunct professor with the Georgetown University Master’s program in Human Resources, and is on the U.S. Advisory Board of the University of Maryland’s Smith Business School Office of Executive Programs. He earned his B.A. at Columbia University and his M.B.A. at Florida Technical University.

**Anita McBride**

*Executive-in-Residence, Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies, School of Public Affairs, American University*

With service spanning more than 30 years as a White House advisor, chief of staff, diplomacy advisor and human rights advocate, the influence of Anita McBride’s body of work is recognized in Washington and around the globe each day. Through her appointments to posts including the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, George W. Bush Presidential Library and Institute and the Board of the White House Historical Association, among others, McBride brings a powerful, non-partisan impact to all of the projects and programs in which she is involved.

Currently, McBride is Executive-in-Residence at the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies in the School of Public Affairs at American University in Washington, DC, where she directs programming and national conferences on the legacies of America’s first ladies and their historical influence on American politics, policy and global diplomacy. She also serves as an advisor to the university’s president and the Office of Development and Alumni Relations.

She served as an assistant to President George W. Bush, as well as Chief of Staff to First Lady Laura Bush. McBride directed the first lady’s travel to 67 countries in four years to support U.S. foreign policy objectives in human rights, women’s empowerment, global health and education, and human freedom, including historic visits to Afghanistan, the Middle East and the Thai-Burma border.

She co-founded the RAND African First Ladies Initiative and Fellowship program, partnering with African first ladies to support their efforts as champions of change in their countries, as well as train their staff and advisors in strategies for managing an effective first lady’s office.

She is an advisor to the Laura W. Bush Women’s Initiative at the George W. Bush Institute and a consultant to several other global non-profit institutions. She also is a member of the US-Afghan Women's Council, the
International Republican Institute’s Women’s Democracy Network, the National Italian American Foundation, and is a Founding Advisor of RightNow Women PAC.

McBride began her political career as a campaign volunteer for Reagan for President in 1980 and went on to work as a finance field representative for Senate and House campaigns as well as the Reagan-Bush campaign in 1984. She is a consultant to HBO's Emmy-award winning series, Veep, and is a frequent speaker, print source, contributor and news commentator on the operations and history of the White House and its occupants.

Reginald Wells
Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources, Social Security Administration

Reginald F. Wells was named Deputy Commissioner of the Social Security Administration’s (SSA) Office of Human Resources effective July 15, 2002 after serving short tenures as Deputy Associate Commissioner for Disability Program Policy and Senior Advisor in the Office of Disability and Income Security Programs. Dr. Wells also serves as the Chief Human Capital Officer for SSA. In his capacity as Deputy Commissioner for Human Resources, Dr. Wells oversees a staff complement of 400 employees with an operating budget of $100 million.

Dr. Wells served as Deputy Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities from October 1994 to April 2002. He shared with the Commissioner full responsibility for planning and directing 25 federal staff and programmatic activities, including the University Centers, Developmental Disabilities Councils, Protection and Advocacy Systems and Projects of National Significance with a program budget of over $122 million.

From October 1997 to May 1998, Dr. Wells served as the Acting Commissioner of the Administration on Developmental Disabilities in the United States Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Prior to his appointment in the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Dr. Wells had 10 years of extensive public sector experience with the District of Columbia’s (D.C.) Department of Human Services.

In 1980, Dr. Wells received a Ph.D. in Psychology from Temple University in Philadelphia. He also earned his M.A. in psychology from Temple University and B.A. in psychology and sociology from American International College.