



## Opening Remarks: Lessons of Leadership with Laura Liswood

Secretary General, Council of Women World Leaders, Former Senior Advisor,  
Goldman, Sachs & Co. & Author of *The Loudest Duck*



In August 1996, Laura Liswood co-founded the Council of Women World Leaders with President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir of Iceland located in Washington, DC at the United Nations Foundation. Ms. Liswood is the Secretary General of the Council, which is composed of women presidents, prime ministers, and heads of government.

In 2001, Liswood was also named Managing Director, Global Leadership and Diversity for Goldman Sachs. Working on issues of globalization, leadership and workforce diversity, she was a Senior Advisor to the firm until 2016.

From 1992 to 1996, Liswood interviewed 15 current and former women presidents and prime ministers, which is chronicled in her book and video documentary, *Women World Leaders*.

Liswood's professional experience includes consulting for the Boston Consulting Group, CEO/President of the American Society for Training and Development, executive positions at TWA and Westinghouse. She was appointed by the US Secretary of Defense for a three year term on the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS). After the events of September 11, 2001, she became a reserve police officer for the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department and retired as a sergeant in 2014. She is on the board of directors of the Smithsonian Friends of the National Zoo.

Liswood holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.A. from California State University, San Diego. She holds a J.D. degree from the University of California, Davis, School of Law, and is admitted to practice law in California and Massachusetts.

Liswood is the author of three books: *The Loudest Duck: Moving Beyond Diversity*, *Women World Leaders*, and *Serving Them Right*.



## Session I: 1:45PM - 2:45PM

### Quantum Negotiation: The Art of Getting What You Need with Sirin Koprucu

Global Mindset Facilitator, StrategicStraits & International Educator, Executive Education Program, Thunderbird School of Global Management



Sirin Koprucu is a certified Global Mindset® facilitator and also an international educator in the Executive Education program of Thunderbird School of Global Management helping leaders improve curiosity, confidence, strategic thinking and success with increased cultural, market and global awareness. She is a Quantum Negotiator, and assists business professionals and teams in working well together to meet and exceed goals. She is a design thinking enthusiast and helps businesses grow in new markets with an innovation mindset.

Sirin started her career in the global pharmaceutical industry in Switzerland, the UK and Turkey, and has led StrategicStraits since its inception in Washington, DC, in 2006. She works with Fortune 500, entrepreneur clients, government and nonprofit sector clients.

A connector, entrepreneur and performance partner at heart, Sirin served the corporate and nonprofit business communities in numerous volunteer roles. Currently, she is a member of the International Advisory Council at the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), member of the International Roundtable Steering Committee at the Washington Networking Group (WNG) and a friend of the Maryland-DC District Export Council.

After spending 14 years in Capitol Hill, DC, Sirin now lives in Chevy Chase, MD with her family and enjoys making new friends and encountering new experiences.



## Session II: 3:00PM - 4:00PM Future of Excellence Panel

### Panelists

**Liza Morris**, Consultant Alkemi, LLC, Advisor to the Dean AU School of Public Affairs, & Panel Moderator

**Gwen Sykes**, Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Secret Service

**Dr. Colleen Shogan**, Senior Vice President & Director, David Rubenstein Center for White House History at the White House Historical Association, Vice Chair of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission & Adjunct Professor of Government, Georgetown University

**Mona Papillon**, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

**Cynthia Dunn**, Director, Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, Internal Revenue Service, TE/GE

**Mia Beers**, Division Director, Humanitarian Policy and Global Engagement Division Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance



Liza Morris is an award-winning senior executive with more than 20 years of success in storytelling, branding, and marketing communications in the health science and social science space. She works with organizations to build partnerships, raise awareness, change perceptions, drive engagement, successfully navigate crisis situations, and measure results.

Liza launched her consultancy, Alkemi LLC, in 2014 with a nod toward the seemingly magical transformation that can occur when clients are connected with the right strategies, messages, people, and ideas.

Over the past several years, Liza has supported clients including American University's School of Public Affairs, where she serves as advisor to the Dean. Previously, she spent 18 years in health science communications— leading offices in New York and Washington, D.C. for Spectrum Science Communications and Feinstein Kean Healthcare (an Ogilvy company) and serving as head of corporate communications for FHI 360, a nonprofit global health and development organization.

Liza graduated from American University with a BA in Journalism and earned her MS in Communications Management at Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications. She serves on the Board of Directors for The Progeria Research Foundation and has been curating TEDx events since 2011. Liza has received numerous awards, including the 2006 Rising Star by Healthcare Businesswomen's Association and the 2017 Alice Paul Award from the Women & Politics Institute. Her work has also been recognized by the Platinum PR Awards and the PRSA Thoth Awards.



Gwen Sykes is the United States Secret Service Chief Financial Officer. In this role, she is responsible for the execution, development and stewardship of the Secret Service's resources and currently manages a financial team that includes budget, financial management, relocation and financial systems experts. Ms. Sykes began working with the Secret Service in May 2012, bringing with her a wealth of financial management skills and talent for organizational transformation and enhancement. Among her many accomplishments, Ms. Sykes is the first African American female to serve as the Chief Financial Officer at NASA, the National

Aeronautics and Space Administration. Nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the United States Senate, she was responsible for the financial management and health of this \$16 billion agency.

Ms. Sykes led more than 500 finance professionals, located across ten geographically dispersed locations throughout the United States, in the development and execution of financial policies, processes and procedures. She has also served as Yale University's Chief Financial Officer, the first in that university's 306-year history, and Chief Financial Officer for Morehouse College. Previous government experience includes working within the Department of Defense and in the office of U.S. Senator Ted Stevens. She has been recognized for her achievements by Black Enterprise, Newsweek, the Today Show and the National Black Caucus of State Legislators.





Colleen Shogan is the Senior Vice President and Director of the David Rubenstein Center for White House History at the White House Historical Association. She is the Vice Chair of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, and an Adjunct Professor of Government at Georgetown. Colleen previously worked for over a decade at the Library of Congress, serving as the Assistant Deputy Librarian for Collections and Services, the Deputy Director of the Congressional Research Service, and the Deputy Director of National and International Outreach. Prior to joining the Library, Colleen served as a policy staffer in the Senate. She came to Capitol Hill in

2005 through the American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellowship program as the William E. Steiger fellow. Before working in Congress, Colleen was Assistant Professor of Government and Politics at George Mason University. Colleen previously served as the President of the National Capitol Area Political Science Association and was an elected member of the APSA Council, the governing body of the organization. Colleen is also a mystery writer and has published five novels. She has a B.A. from Boston College and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University.



Cynthia D. Dunn currently serves as the Director of the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Tax Exempt and Government Entities, within the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Cynthia has held this position in Washington, DC since 2004. She started her federal government career in 1980 as a GS-01 Clerk Typist under the Stay-in-School Program. She began her career in the field of Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity in 1992. Before her exciting career in the IRS, Cynthia also held several employment positions at agencies such as Export-Import Bank, Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Defense. Cynthia attended the University of

Maryland-College Park and the European Division, Nuernberg, West Germany. She honorably holds multiple life memberships with the following employee organizations: Blacks in Government, Federally Employed Women, Society of American Indian Government Employees, Federal Asian Pacific American Council, and Deaf in Government. Cynthia is a proud recipient of the 2018 "Woman of the Year" award given by the National Image, Inc. and the recipient of the 2018 "Champion for Diversity" award given by Federally Employed Women (FEW). Cynthia resides in Waldorf, MD. She has two sons and four grandchildren. In addition to Cynthia Dunn's multiple years in the federal government, her hard work and dedication has given her the opportunity to present and provide resourceful information for those who are looking for guidance in their careers. Cynthia has conducted training sessions since 2004. Those who attend the sessions will gain amazing insight on how to be successful in the workplace.



Mona Papillon is the Deputy Chief Operating Officer at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In that capacity, she oversees the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and the Office of Communication and Legislative Affairs. She also serves as the alter-ego of the Chief Operating Officer in the overall management and oversight of the day-to-day operations of the Commission with a special focus on budget and internal grievance and litigation matters. Ms. Papillon also specializes in a broad range of employment matters and serves as an advisor to the Chair as well as a senior liaison to the Commission's

internal and external stakeholders.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Papillon was a Senior Attorney-Advisor in the Office of the Chair and the Office of Legal Counsel for Advice and External Litigation. In addition to her operational portfolio, Ms. Papillon currently oversees EEOC's employee engagement and diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Prior to joining the Commission, Ms. Papillon was a litigator in the labor and employment group at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld, LLP. In 2012, Ms. Papillon was detailed to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau where she provided legal and professional support to set up the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion (OMWI) under its first Director, Stuart Ishimaru.

Ms. Papillon earned her Bachelor of Science degree in International Relations from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and earned her Juris Doctor degree from Columbia University Law School.



Mia Beers serves as the Humanitarian Policy and Global Engagement Division Director for USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), the lead federal office responsible for coordinating the U.S. Government's response to international disasters. With a mandate to save lives, alleviate suffering, and reduce the social and economic impacts of disasters, OFDA monitors, mitigates, and responds to global hazards and humanitarian needs as they arise. Ms. Beers heads an international team based in Washington D.C., New York, Geneva, Rome and Atlanta. Her current work focuses on humanitarian policy and best practices,

donor and multi-lateral engagement, global programs, interagency coordination and training, strategic communications and public-private engagement.

Ms. Beers was posted overseas for fourteen years working on disaster responses in the Horn of Africa, Southern Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Haiti.

Ms. Beers is on the Board of Directors of Heartland Alliance International and currently represents USAID on the Advisory Group for the Overseas Development Institute and previously on the ALNAP Steering Committee for five years. Ms. Beers holds a Bachelor's degree in international affairs from George Washington University and a Master of Public Administration with distinction from American University's Key Executive Leadership Program. She is also a graduate of the MIT Seminar XXI Program and the Foreign Service Institute's National Security Executive Leadership Seminar. Ms. Beers has won numerous honor awards for her response work overseas, including the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America group medal for her work on the U.S. Ebola Disaster Assistance Response Team.



## Closing Energizer: What's Your Legacy with Angela Tennison

Founder, The Leaders Coaching Institute



Angela Tennison honed her leadership skills at the highest level – in The White House. She helped Senator Obama run for President, and then spent seven years serving in his administration. She was the first African-American woman to serve as White House Usher.

In her role in the White House Executive Residence, she managed staff, logistics, and operations for the 44th President and First Family. Angela concluded her political appointment as the first and only Leadership Development Director at the US Department of Education.

With nearly two decades of combined, diverse experiences in corporate, government, political, and entrepreneurial sectors, and armed with two coaching certifications, she brings a unique perspective to developing leaders and navigating varied organizational structures. Her style of leadership coaching is described as strategic and comprehensive, yet fun and compassionate.

Tennison is the founder of The Leaders Coaching Institute where she coaches high-level leaders and those on their way to lead and leave a life of impact they can be proud of.

Tennison earned an MA in Education and Human Development from The George Washington University, along with an MBA and BS in Finance from Winthrop University.