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OCT. 18-22, 2021

BANKING AND THE ECONOMY: A FORUM FOR MINORITIES IN BANKING



Speaker and Panelist Biographies

(ordered in alignment with their session time)



Esther George

President and Chief Executive Officer – Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Esther George leads a workforce of more than 2,000 employees at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City’s headquarters in Kansas City and Branches in Denver, Oklahoma City and Omaha. Throughout the seven-state Tenth District, the Kansas City Fed plays a role in national monetary policy, supervises financial institutions, and provides payment and financial services to depository institutions and the U.S. Treasury.

Ms. George joined the Bank in 1982 and spent much of her career in the Division of Supervision and Risk Management. She began by becoming a commissioned bank examiner and eventually served 10 years as the District’s chief regulator. She was directly involved in the Tenth District’s banking supervision and discount window lending activities during the banking crisis of the 1980s and post-9/11.

She is a former chair of the Federal Reserve System’s Community Banking Organizations Management Group. Ms. George has also served as the acting director of the Federal Reserve’s Division of Banking Supervision and Regulation at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in Washington, D.C.

Ms. George also is the host of the Bank’s annual Jackson Hole Economic Policy Symposium and has participated in the Bank for International Settlement’s Financial Stability Institute programs in Lima, Abu Dhabi, Beijing and Malaysia.



Neel Kashkari

President and Chief Executive Officer – Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Neel Kashkari has been president and chief executive officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis since Jan. 1, 2016. He is a voting member on the Federal Open Market Committee, bringing the Ninth District’s perspective to monetary policy discussions in Washington, D.C.

In addition to those responsibilities, Mr. Kashkari oversees Minneapolis Fed operations and leads its many initiatives. Among them, he was instrumental in establishing the Opportunity & Inclusive Growth Institute, whose mission is to ensure that world-class research helps to improve the economic well-being of all Americans.

Most recently, he has joined with retired Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Alan Page to propose amending Minnesota’s constitution to make high-quality public education a fundamental right. This effort supports the Fed’s mandate to achieve maximum employment, with education being a key to obtaining a good job.

Under Mr. Kashkari’s leadership, the Minneapolis Fed also released an action plan on “Ending Too Big to Fail,” which calls for tighter bank regulations to avoid future taxpayer bailouts of large financial institutions.



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Darrick Hamilton

Henry Cohen Professor of Economics and Urban Policy & Founding Director at Institute on Race and Political Economy – The New School

Darrick Hamilton is a university professor, the Henry Cohen Professor of Economics and Urban Policy, and the founding director of the Institute for the Study of Race, Stratification and Political Economy at The New School. Mr. Hamilton recently has been profiled in *The New York Times*, *Mother Jones* magazine and *The Wall Street Journal* and in *Politico Magazine's* 2017 "50 Ideas Shaping American Politics and the People Behind Them" issue. He also is a member of the Marguerite Casey Foundation in partnership with the Group Health Foundation's inaugural class of Freedom Scholars.

Mr. Hamilton has been involved in crafting policy proposals, such as Baby Bonds and a Federal Job Guarantee, which have sparked legislative proposals at the federal, state and local levels. He has been a member of the economic committee of the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Force; testified before several U.S. Senate and House committees, including the Joint Economic Committee on the nation's potential policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic-induced health and economic crises.



Terry Fitzgerald

Vice President and Assistant Director of Economic Analysis – Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Terry J. Fitzgerald is vice president and assistant director in the Research Division of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. In this role he leads the Economic Analysis Group, advises the Bank's president on monetary policy, coordinates policy briefings in preparing for Federal Open Market Committee meetings, and provides support for other key policy initiatives and for the bank's board of directors.

Mr. Fitzgerald speaks regularly to public audiences on the role of the Federal Reserve in promoting a strong economy. His Fed career spans more than 30 years. He worked at the Minneapolis Fed while attending graduate school. He returned to the bank as a visiting scholar in 2001 and as a full-time economist in 2006 before being promoted to assistant vice president in 2009 and vice president in 2012.



Darrin Williams

Chief Executive Officer – Southern Bancorp, Inc.

Darrin Williams is chief executive officer of Southern Bancorp Inc. He oversees the strategic direction and operations of each of Southern Bancorp's three Community Development Financial Institutions: Southern Bancorp Inc., a bank holding company; Southern Bancorp Bank, a rural development bank; and Southern Bancorp Community Partners, a 501(c)(3) development finance and lending organization.

With \$1.9 billion in assets, more than 65,000 customers and 52 locations, Southern Bancorp's markets extend throughout the Mid-South with a focus on net worth building strategies of homeownership, entrepreneurship and saving.



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George Ashton
Managing Director – Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

George Ashton leads LISC's multidimensional team and registered investment advisor pursuing a range of investments that create jobs, fuel small businesses, revitalize commercial areas, improve housing, expand local incomes and make communities safer and stronger. Early in his career at LISC, Mr. Ashton helped launch and manage over a dozen local and national impact funds, direct investments and community investment accelerator initiatives.

Mr. Ashton previously was co-founder and president of Sol System, a renewable energy investment firm. Prior to Sol System, Mr. Ashton spent seven years at Fannie Mae, where he traded mortgage-backed securities. Mr. Ashton also is the founding member of Hope Investment Group, an investment organization focused on investing in entrepreneurs of color.



Joanne Kim
Chief Executive Officer and President – Commonwealth Business Bank

Joanne Kim is president, chief executive officer and a member of the board of directors for Commonwealth Business Bank (CBB Bank), a Korean American community bank serving a diverse customer base. Ms. Kim has led CBB Bank since 2011. Under her leadership, CBB Bank has grown to \$1.8 billion in total assets. Headquartered in Los Angeles, CBB has 10 full-service branches across Southern California, Texas and Hawaii and several LPOs in other states.

Previously, Ms. Kim was president and chief executive officer and a member of the board of directors for Wilshire Bank and its holding company.

Ms. Kim is a member of the board of directors for Western Bankers Association and AbilityFirst and has been a member of the Twelfth District's Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council. She has been selected as a "Top Women in Banking" in 2019 and "500 Most Influential People in LA" for the past two consecutive years by *LA Business Journal*.



Erik Sprink
Chief Executive Officer and President – Coastal Community Bank

Eric M. Sprink is president and chief executive officer of Coastal Community Bank (CCB) and Coastal Financial Corp. Under his leadership, Coastal's assets have grown from less than \$200 million when he joined the company in 2006 to more than \$2 billion.

In addition to meeting the needs of local business clients, Coastal is delivering partner banking to fintechs. Coastal recently was selected as one of 11 financial institutions collaborating with Google to launch Coastal's new consumer digital platform. Because of the company's relationships with fintechs, Mr. Sprink is a frequent speaker and advocate for bank/fintech partnerships. He has worked with many regulatory bodies as the banking industry evolves and faces disruption. Mr. Sprink is a past chairman of the Community Bankers of Washington and is involved with numerous local nonprofits.



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Mary Ellen Iskenderian
Chief Executive Officer and President – Women’s World Banking

Mary Ellen Iskenderian is president and chief executive officer of Women’s World Banking, a global nonprofit devoted to providing financial tools and resources to low-income women in the developing world. She joined Women’s World Banking in 2006 and leads its global team, based in New York. She also is a member of the Investment Committee of its two impact investment funds.

Ms. Iskenderian has spoken widely and published extensively on the topic of equality of economic opportunity and women’s financial inclusion.

Prior to Women’s World Banking, she worked for 17 years at the International Finance Corp., the private sector arm of the World Bank. Before that she had worked for Lehman Brothers. Ms. Iskenderian is a permanent member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a member of the Women’s Forum of New York and the UN’s Business and Sustainable Development Commission.



Liz Joynt-Sandberg
Second City Works

Liz Joynt-Sandberg is head of Comedy Arts at DePaul University. She is also a comedy writer, performer, director and educator based in Chicago. She is a lead designer and facilitator for Second City Works, where she teaches clients to leverage an improvisational mindset to solve real world problems.

Ms. Joynt-Sandberg has toured nationally and internationally as a comedic performer and educator and has written for The Second City Network, The Huffington Post, *Rebellious Magazine* and others. Her essay "Hummingbird" appears in the anthology *Listen to Your Mother* (Putnam 2015).

She is on the faculty of The Second City Training Center and performs regularly with The Best of Second City, iO Chicago, The Improvised Sondheim Project, The Revival Theater, The Annoyance and others. She formerly was on the comedy faculty at Columbia College Chicago.



La Toya Lewis
Vice President of Innovation – Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago

La Toya Lewis is vice president of innovation for the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. The Innovation team works to cultivate a culture of curiosity and innovation to enable the identification and development of creative solutions to challenging problems.

Ms. Lewis joined the Chicago Fed in 2013 to lead Supervision & Regulation’s Systemwide Records Management Technology efforts. Prior to the Fed, she was a program manager and management consultant in the financial services industry.

Ms. Lewis also is a member of the board directors for Trilog Behavioral Healthcare, which helps people recover from mental illness.



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Colette Campbell
Chief Talent Acquisition and Diversity Officer – Bremer Bank

Colette Campbell is chief talent acquisition and diversity officer at Bremer Bank. Prior to joining Bremer, Ms. Campbell was on faculty in the areas of business, human resources and human development and owner of a consulting firm that offered training and coaching to executives and organizations.

She was raised in Canada by Jamaican-born parents and has lived and/or taught on almost every continent in the world, providing her with a rich world perspective.



Greg Cunningham
Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer – US Bank

Greg Cunningham is senior executive vice president and chief diversity officer for U.S. Bank and a member of the Managing Committee. Mr. Cunningham joined the bank in 2015 as vice president of customer engagement. His diversity, equity and inclusion expertise has been featured in a number of national and regional media outlets. In 2018, *Ebony Magazine* included Mr. Cunningham on its “Power 100” list and in 2020 he was included in the “Person of the Year” issue by *Twin Cities Business Magazine*.

Prior to joining U.S. Bank, Mr. Cunningham worked 16 years at Target Corp., most recently leading Lifestyle Marketing. Among his outside interests, he is a member of the National Board of Directors for the United Negro College Fund.



Kianga Lee
Vice President of Administrative Operations – Independent Community Bankers of America

Kianga Lee is vice president of administrative operations for the Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA). She provides management of association business operations and project coordination while working closely with the executive vice president/COO. She also assists ICBA’s government relations department in managing and developing policy positions.

Ms. Lee joined ICBA in 2004 as the payments and technology administrative assistant and has served in several roles, including payments and technology coordinator and operations manager. Prior to that, she was a teacher’s assistant for the District of Columbia Public School System.



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Kleber Santos

Senior Executive Vice President, Head of Diverse Segments, Representation & Inclusion – Wells Fargo

Kleber Santos is senior executive vice president and head of Diverse Segments, Representation & Inclusion of Wells Fargo and a member of its Operating Committee. He is focused on creating a more diverse and inclusive working environment and partnering with Wells Fargo’s business leaders to deliver products and services designed to meet the needs of diverse customer segments.

Prior to joining Wells Fargo, Mr. Santos worked for 15 years in a number of senior roles at Capital One, most recently as president of Retail and Direct Banking from March 2017 to October 2020. He chaired Capital One’s Retail and Direct Banking Diversity Council and served as executive sponsor of Capital One’s Hispanic/Latinx associates and allies employee affinity group. Prior to joining Capital One, Mr. Santos was an engagement manager with McKinsey & Co.



Caroline A. Wanga

Chief Executive Officer – ESSENCE; Chief Growth Officer – ESSENCE Ventures

Caroline A. Wanga is chief executive officer of ESSENCE, a media, technology and commerce company dedicated to Black women and communities. She also is chief growth officer for ESSENCE Ventures, parent company of ESSENCE. Ms. Wanga leads the brand’s ongoing innovation intended to provide its communities with needed platforms, content and resources.

Ms. Wanga joined ESSENCE Ventures in 2020 from Target Corp., where she was chief culture, diversity and inclusion officer. Before starting at Target, she had several roles in nonprofits.

Ms. Wanga is a member of the Executive Leadership Council, the Talladega College Board of Trustees and the American Airlines Community Council. She has been a member of the Intersectionality, Culture and Diversity Advisory Board for Twitter and co-chair of the Retail Industry Leaders Association Diversity & Inclusion Initiative. She has been recognized as a “Top Executive in Corporate Diversity” by *Black Enterprise* and one of the “Most Powerful Women in Corporate America” by *Savoy*.



Alene Tchourumoff

Senior Vice President of Community Development and the Center for Indian Country Development – Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Alene Tchourumoff is senior vice president of Community Development and the Center for Indian Country Development. She leads the Bank’s engagement with communities throughout the Ninth District to promote economic opportunity for low- and moderate-income people and those living in Indian Country. Key focus areas include early childhood development and affordable housing.

Prior to joining the Bank in December 2018, Ms. Tchourumoff was chair of Minnesota’s Metropolitan Council, where she built partnerships with local governments and community groups to advance transit, housing and other infrastructure. Previously, she was Minnesota’s first state rail director, led Hennepin County Public Works’ Planning Department and worked in China and Southeast Asia on public policy and public health initiatives.



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In 2020, she was recognized as a “Women in Business” honoree by *the Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal*. She is a member of the Minnesota State Attorney General’s task force on improving women’s economic security.



Ditu Kasuyi
Advisory Board President – Urban Financial Services Coalition

Ditu Kasuyi is president and chief executive officer of Kasuyi and Associates LLC, an executive coaching firm in Richmond, Virginia. The company works with professionals to develop aptitudes for influence within their companies, families and communities. Mr. Kasuyi is certified in the John C. Maxwell and Franklin Covey Coaching methodologies, as well as the Prosci Change Management Methodology.

A longtime member of the financial community, Mr. Kasuyi is a member of the Corporate Advisory Board of Urban Financial Services Coalition (UFSC), a past president of the Corporate Advisory Board of UFSC, and a past National President of UFSC.