



NHC Annual Budget Forum

Advocacy strategies for
housing stakeholders

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2018 Speakers

Amy Clark is senior director of marketing and communications at the National Housing Conference, where she leads the development and execution of NHC's strategic communications efforts to elevate housing affordability as a first-tier issue on the national agenda. At NHC, she manages brand, marketing and media relations efforts as well as leading the organization's communications program, which includes research, online resources and training and education for the housing community. Previously, Amy was communications director at the National Low Income Housing Coalition, and deputy director and communications director at the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, a statewide affordable housing advocacy organization. She began her career as speechwriter to the Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Seattle.



Amy has a bachelor's in international affairs from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and a master's in public administration from the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington.



Susan F. Dewey is the executive director of the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA). The Board of Commissioners of VHDA appointed her to this position, effective June 15, 1999. Prior to this, Susan served for three years as a VHDA commissioner.

Susan directs all operations of VHDA, an \$11 billion independent, self-supporting public-private partnership that is responsible for addressing the statewide housing affordability needs of low and moderate-income Virginians. VHDA provides a variety of rental and homeownership lending and grant programs, and free homeownership education. VHDA also administers the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit program and a statewide Housing Choice Voucher Program.

Previously, Susan worked for the Department of the Treasury for 17 years and was the State Treasurer of Virginia from 1996-1999. She directed all operations of the Department of the Treasury and the Treasury Board. As State Treasurer, Susan served on 16 state Boards and Authorities dealing with numerous public policy issues.

Susan currently serves on the Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development, the Virginia Housing Policy Advisory Council, the Virginia Local Initiatives Support Corporation Local Advisory Committee (member of the host committee and past vice chair, the Board of Housing Virginia (executive committee At-Large member and past chair), the Virginia Commonwealth University Real Estate Circle of Excellence (conference committee and past president), the Executive Committee of the Virginia Council on Economic Education (past chair), Venture Richmond, the William and Mary Real Estate Foundation and the Virginia Chamber of Commerce Foundation (Advisory Board).

Susan's previous affiliations included the National Council of State Housing Agencies Board of Directors (past president), the Advisory Board of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, the Fannie Mae Housing Impact Advisory Council, the Board of the Virginia Foundation for Housing Preservation, the Affordable Housing Magazine Editorial Board, the National Association of Realtors Housing Opportunity Advisory Board, the Excellence in Virginia Government Awards Steering Committee, the Statewide Transportation Analysis and Recommendation Task Force, the Institute of Internal Auditors (Board of Directors), the National

Association of State Treasurers (past treasurer), the Virginia Executive Institute Alumni Association (past president) and membership in several professional and community organizations.

Susan's awards include the 2000 Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises Friend of Housing Award, the Commercial Real Estate Women Richmond's Top 20 Women Award in 2010, Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission's 2010 Daniel M. Stone Humanitarian Award, one of the ten 2010 Richmond YWCA Outstanding Women Awards, one of the three Richmond women to receive the 2010 Executive Women in Business Award from Style Magazine, one of Housing Wire's Influential Women 2011, the Better Housing Coalition Groundbreaker of the Year Award 2012 and a recipient of the Richmond Boomers Magazine, Boomers & Shakers Award in 2013.

Susan is a CPA and received her bachelor's and master's in business administration from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. She and her husband reside in Chesterfield County, Virginia.

David M. Dworkin joined NHC as President and CEO in January 2018. Prior to joining NHC, David worked as a Senior Housing Policy Analyst at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, where he advised senior Treasury Department officials on matters related to housing and community development. His expertise includes credit availability; housing finance reform, mortgage servicing, affordable housing, access to credit, residential housing vacancy, abandonment and demolition and community stabilization strategies. He also served as a member of the White House's Detroit interagency team, where his responsibilities included developing and implementing strategies to assist in the City of Detroit's revitalization.



Previously, he managed the Capital Magnet Fund (CMF) at the Treasury Department's CDFI Fund, which disbursed \$80 million in grants for economic revitalization and community development through investment in and assistance to community development financial institutions (CDFIs) and nonprofit housing organizations.

Prior to joining the Treasury Department, he was CEO and Founder of Affiniti Strategies, a political consulting firm that assisted clients build political relationship capital. Mr. Dworkin served in a number of leadership positions at Fannie Mae, where he served General Counsels Robert Zoellick and Thomas Donilon.

His service in the administration of President George H.W. Bush included the State Department's acting deputy assistant secretary for legislative affairs. As national security advisor to Rep. Rod Chandler of Washington, he was recognized by Secretary of State James A. Baker III for his key role in the negotiation of the Bipartisan Accord on Central America, which led to the end of Nicaragua's civil war and inauguration of its first democratically elected government.

Mr. Dworkin was a freelance foreign correspondent and photographer for The Detroit News, where he covered the war in Afghanistan. In 1984, he was the first Western journalist to cross the Safed Koh mountain range with the rebels fighting in the region known as Tora Bora.

He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife Hayley Hoffman.



Rebekah King leads NHC's policy agenda, working to advance federal housing policy to better serve the housing needs of low- and moderate-income people as well as strengthen the housing finance system and connect people to opportunity through housing. Rebekah directs NHC's advocacy around affordable housing in appropriations, tax, regulatory and other policy areas and represents NHC in policy forums. She leads NHC's task forces and working groups to develop new policy solutions in affordable housing and works with NHC members and coalition partners to connect with agency and legislative policymakers. She writes and produces NHC policy materials including regulatory comments, coalition statements, blog posts, publications and the Washington Wire, NHC's weekly update to its members. Rebekah King joined NHC as a policy associate in August 2014. Before joining NHC, Rebekah worked with Howard County, Maryland's HOME program, primarily on CHDO and compliance issues. She also worked as a research associate at Energy Programs Consortium, drafting briefs and policy materials on residential energy efficiency finance. Rebekah started her career as a policy and program analyst with the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, supporting the agency's foreclosure prevention programs, annual reporting, policy initiatives and program oversight. Rebekah believes in affordable housing as a platform for families to improve their lives and the important role of federal policy in supporting affordable housing.

She received her master's degree in city and regional planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2008 and her bachelor's from James Madison University in May 2006.

Benson F. (Buzz) Roberts is president and CEO of the National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders (NAAHL). NAAHL is the national alliance of leading banks, community development financial institutions (CDFIs) and other capital providers for affordable housing and inclusive neighborhood revitalization. Buzz was the director of the Office of Small Business, Community Development and Housing Policy at the U.S. Treasury Department from 2011 to 2015. He was previously senior vice president for policy and program development at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation, the nation's largest nonprofit investor in low-income community development. Buzz has helped to create the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, the New Markets Tax Credit, the Act, the Capital Magnet Fund (a Treasury-HUD partnership to finance affordable rental housing) and bond guarantees for CDFIs. He has been a board member of several national nonprofit organizations and coalitions and has written extensively about affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization.



Ali Solis is president and CEO of Make Room, Inc., a national advocacy nonprofit organization giving voice to America's struggling renters. She works closely with the White House, U.S. Congress, state and local policy leaders and industry stakeholders to advance solutions that address rental housing affordability. Ms. Solis was recently successful in gaining bipartisan support for legislation that commemorates September as the National Month for Renters.

During her career in housing, she has led successful national and local campaigns through multi-sector coalitions that mobilize for action.

Ms. Solis previously served as the senior vice president, public policy and corporate affairs executive for Enterprise Community Partners, Inc., where she was the chief external affairs officer responsible for government affairs, policy development, research, communications and business development.

She is an INROADS alumnus and University of Maryland graduate.

Joseph M. Ventrone is vice president & deputy chief for regulatory affairs of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR). Mr. Ventrone oversees all of NAR's regulatory advocacy initiatives and the Real Estate Services Program – an effort directed to serving the special and varied business needs of large brokers. Under his leadership, the regulatory and industry relations department develops and analyzes policy on housing, real estate finance, business and technology, environment and commercial real estate.

Mr. Ventrone's expertise in housing issues spans over 30 years and includes stints in the private sector, top federal agencies and on Capitol Hill during both Democratic and Republican administrations.

Prior to joining NAR in 2003, Mr. Ventrone was a senior policy advisor at the Federal Housing Finance Board, where he liaised with Congress and trade associations for the independent regulatory agency that oversees the \$700 billion Federal Home Loan Bank System.

Mr. Ventrone was also a member of the Bush-Cheney transition team at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, where he assisted with the design and the development of the transition briefing book for Secretary-designate. He then served as a special advisor to Secretary Mel Martinez, focusing on housing policy and congressional relations.

In Congress, Mr. Ventrone shepherded some of the most significant federal housing, mortgage finance and urban affairs legislation to pass Congress. His achievements include the American Home Ownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000, the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act, the Homeowners Insurance Availability Act, establishment of the Committee on Affordable



Housing and Health Care Facility Needs of Senior Citizens, the Section 8 program, the McKinney Act and the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act.

Mr. Ventrone joined the United States House of Representatives as a professional staff member in 1983. In 1988, he became minority deputy staff director for housing and two years later he was named deputy staff director. In 1995, he became deputy staff director for the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services (now the Committee on Financial Services).

Before joining the House, Mr. Ventrone was a loan realty officer and housing program specialist for the Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1974 to 1983. Mr. Ventrone began his career as a research analyst with the Housing Opportunities Council of Metropolitan Washington in 1972.

A native of Providence, Rhode Island, Mr. Ventrone graduated from Curry College with a bachelor's in 1971. He earned his master's in public administration (urban affairs) from American University in 1973.