

## ***Rebecca Vallas***



### ***Senior Fellow Center for American Progress***

Rebecca Vallas is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, where she has spent the past five years helping to build and lead CAP’s Poverty to Prosperity Program in a range of roles including as the program’s policy director and vice president —and along the way, helping to launch the organization’s criminal justice reform and disability justice work. She is also a cofounder of the Clean Slate Initiative, which is now helping leaders in over a dozen states expand and automate criminal record-clearing to help justice-involved individuals move on with their lives and have a fair shot at jobs and housing. Prior to joining the Center for American Progress, Vallas spent several years representing low-income individuals and families at Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, where she began her work advocating for the rights of Social Security disability beneficiaries as a Skadden Fellow, and as the deputy director of government affairs at the National Organization of Social Security Claimants’ Representatives (NOSSCR).

Ms. Vallas has appeared on MSNBC, CNN, C-SPAN, CNBC, Fox News, PBS, and Al Jazeera America, and NPR, as well as several local television and radio outlets; her work has been featured in the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, and a wide range of national and local news outlets; and she has testified before Congress on several occasions. Ms. Vallas is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance – for which she currently serves as Secretary of the Board—and was the inaugural recipient of the National Legal Aid & Defender Association’s New Leaders in Advocacy Award. She was twice named one of Forbes Magazine’s “30 Under 30” for Law & Policy as well as Emory University’s “40 Under 40,” and is a 2019-2020 Rockwood “Leading from the Inside Out” Fellow.

Vallas received her law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law, where she was elected to the Order of the Coif.

***Melissa L. Harris***



***Deputy Director  
Disabled and Elderly Health Program Group, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid  
Services***

Melissa Harris has been with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) since the summer of 1995, and is currently a Deputy Director for the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group (DEHPG).

Prior to this role, Melissa was a Senior Policy Advisor in DEHPG, developing and implementing a myriad of policies advancing home and community-based services as an alternative to institutional placement.

Before joining the Office of the Group Director, she was the Director of the Division of Benefits and Coverage from 2012 to 2015, in which she was responsible for overseeing implementation of most Medicaid benefits, including benefits provided to individuals in the Medicaid expansion population, and the establishment of national benefit policy.

***Leonie Heyworth, MD, MPH***



***Director of Synchronous Telehealth  
VHA Telehealth Services, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs***

As Director of Synchronous Telehealth, Dr. Heyworth partners her clinical experience with her research and dedication to telehealth expansion for the six million Veterans who rely on Veterans Affairs (VA) for health care. Dr. Heyworth currently practices primary care at VA San Diego. She is board certified in internal medicine and is an Associate Professor at the University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Heyworth supports national synchronous telehealth programs, policies, and initiatives to enable front-line care teams across the VA enterprise to deliver quality and accessible video telehealth.

Previously, she has served as lead on the phased integration of video telehealth into Primary Care as Acting Telehealth Lead and served as the Acting Chief Consultant for the VHA Office of Primary Care. In these roles, she supported the expansion of Tele-Primary Care and expansion of video telehealth and mobile application use in Primary Care and clinical call centers, and played a key role in the enterprise-wide roll out of VA Video Connect. She was a founding leader of the VA Telehealth Emergency Management Team, established in response to Hurricanes Harvey and Maria in 2017.

Her scholarly interests include clinical innovation and systems improvement with multiple peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Heyworth earned her MD from Harvard Medical School and completed a residency in Internal Medicine and Primary Care at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She completed her MPH in Clinical Effectiveness from the Harvard School of Public Health in conjunction with a General Medicine Fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital and VA Advanced Fellowship at the Center for Healthcare Organization and Implementation Research (CHOIR) at VA Boston.

## ***Vickie Kennedy***



### ***Assistant Director for Insurance Services Washington's Department of Labor and Industries***

Vickie Kennedy became L&I's Assistant Director for Insurance Services in April, 2013. Vickie has been with L&I in the workers' compensation field for more than 45 years. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC) and also chairs the IAIABC's Disability Management and Return to Work Committee.

Ms. Kennedy recently joined other national workers' compensation experts on the Advisory Council for the Workers' Compensation Benchmarking Study.

She has been recognized as an exceptional leader in public service as a 2016 recipient of the Governor's Leadership in Management Award and as the 2017 Agent of Change Award with Washington's Department of Labor and Industries.

## ***Suzy Rosen Singleton***



### ***Chief, Disability Rights Office, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau Federal Communications Commission***

Suzy Rosen Singleton is the Chief of the Disability Rights Office of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and a native user of American Sign Language. Since 2016, she has overseen rulemaking proceedings and stakeholder activities to ensure accessible emergency communications, modern communication technologies, and video programming for millions of individuals with disabilities.

Prior to 2016, used disability policy expertise as a litigator for the California Center for Law and the Deaf, government affairs counsel of the National Association of the Deaf, special education law compliance officer of the U.S. Department of Education, the ombuds of Gallaudet University, and as an attorney with the FCC.

Ms. Singleton received a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. She holds a Juris Doctor from the UCLA School of Law. Suzy is a member of the bar of the District of Columbia.

***Jill Yu***



***Branch Chief, Office of Field Policy and Management  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development***

Ms. Yu currently services as the Branch Chief for Place-Based Initiatives for the Office of Field Policy and Management at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As Branch Chief, she oversees the implementation of current and previous secretarial initiatives, such as the EnVision Centers Demonstration, Promise Zones Initiative, and ConnectHome USA.

Ms. Yu's career with the federal government began as a Presidential Management fellow in 2014. She served in a variety of federal offices including HUD's Real Estate Assessment Center, HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, and the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Prior to federal service, Jill was a Staff Attorney with the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, and she continues to represent families pro bono via the Children Law Center of Washington, DC.

