



## Top Obama Gay Appointees Emerge

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As the new Obama administration swings into action, at least 11 high-level LGBT appointees appear poised to join the effort.

Of greatest interest to New Yorkers is the news that Fred Hochberg, who last year left his post he held since 2003 as dean of the Milano School for Management and Urban Policy at the New School University, is likely to become the head of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. The bank is the nation's official export credit agency, helping to finance distribution of American goods to international markets. During its 70-year history, it has supported more than \$400 billion in US exports.

Hochberg's pending appointment was reported by ABC News on January 9 and heralded in a press release the same day from the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which helps identify and elect openly LGBT candidates for public office.

Hochberg has long been active in Democratic and gay circles in New York, and led the Small Business Administration during President Bill Clinton's second term. He is a past board chairman of the Human Rights Campaign, the Washington-based national LGBT lobbying group.

As of press time on January 22, Hochberg had not responded to an email message seeking comment.

On January 14, the Washington Post reported that John Berry, director of the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington and a former assistant secretary of the Interior under Clinton, is in the final stages of vetting for the post of director of the Office of Personnel Management. OPM, known for nearly 100 years until 1979 as the Civil Service Commission, oversees the federal civil service workforce, which numbers about 3 million.

Joe Solmonese, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, hailed Berry's pending appointment as "the highest-ranking" LGBT federal government posting in history, and said, "In his new role, John will make critical decisions regarding the implementation of fair workplace policies for millions of federal workers."

Obama's first LGBT hire was also a particularly high profile pick. Nancy Sutley, who has been Los Angeles' deputy mayor for energy and environment, was named as chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality on December 15. Along with the new head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Lisa Jackson, the incoming Energy secretary, Steven Chu, and the White House energy czar, Carol M. Browner, the EPA head under Clinton, Sutley will serve as one of the administration's key advisors on environmental issues.

In Los Angeles, Sutley was credited with increasing municipal use of wind and solar power and reducing the number of diesel trucks serving the port.

On January 5, the Obama transition team announced the appointment of Bradley J. Kiley as director of the Office of Management and Administration, basically overseeing the day-to-day functioning of the West Wing. Kiley was a deputy assistant in that office in the Clinton administration, and more recently served as vice president of finance and operations at the Center for American Progress, a liberal policy research and advocacy organization.

Kiley will take the post held in the Clinton administration by Virginia Apuzzo, a longtime lesbian activist in New York, who at that time had the highest executive branch position ever achieved by an openly LGBT person.

The Advocate, on January 8, reported that Brian Bond, who formerly headed the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and also worked for the Democratic National Committee, will become the deputy director of the White House Office of Public Liaison. That office is a politically sensitive operation that oversees the administration's relationship with a wide variety of constituencies, including the LGBT community. Bond is expected to be the key White House go-to guy on gay issues.

**Dave Noble, who served as director of LGBT voter mobilization in the Obama campaign, is widely reported to be the president's choice for White House liaison to NASA. Prior to joining the Obama campaign, Noble led the Capitol Hill lobbying efforts for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and he has also worked for the National Stonewall Democrats.**

Karine Jean-Pierre, who was a regional political director in the Obama campaign, has been tapped to be the White House liaison to the Labor Department. Jean-Pierre joined the campaign after serving as the Washington press secretary for Congressman Anthony Weiner, a Brooklyn-Queens Democrat now running for mayor.

Vice President Joe Biden's director of administration will be Moe Vela, a Denver Civil Service commissioner who advised Vice President Al Gore on Hispanic Affairs from 1996 until 2000.

David Media, who was deputy CEO of the 2004 Democratic National Convention and more recently worked at the US Global Leadership Campaign, which aims to increase US investments in overseas development and diplomacy, will serve as First Lady Michelle Obama's deputy chief of staff.

Anthony Bernal, who did scheduling and advance work for Clinton and Gore, will be director of scheduling for Dr. Jill Biden, the vice president's wife.

Ambassador Mark Dybul, the Bush administration's global AIDS coordinator, responsible for overseeing the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, will be staying in that post under Obama.

A physician, Dybul had expected to move on, but earlier this month sent a note to his colleagues, "I wanted to let you know that I have been asked to rescind my resignation, so I will be continuing in the coordinator position beyond the inauguration."