

27TH ANNUAL  
ANGELS  
IN ADOPTION<sup>®</sup>

*Celebration*



**CCAI**  
CONGRESSIONAL COALITION ON ADOPTION INSTITUTE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025  
CAPITAL TURNAROUND | WASHINGTON, D.C.

# Program

## **Welcome from CCAI**

*Kate McLean, Executive Director*

## **Adoption Caucus Bipartisan Call to Action**

*Senators Amy Klobuchar and Kevin Cramer, and  
Representatives Robert Aderholt and Danny K. Davis*

## **Message from the Board of Directors**

*Susan Hirschmann, Board Vice Chair*

## **Lived Expert Testimony**

*Alexis Corazon Rodriguez, 2025 Foster Youth Intern*

## **2025 National Angels in Adoption® Corporate Award**

*Ferring Pharmaceuticals*

## **Closing Remarks**

*Mary Landrieu, Board Member*

# What's Inside

Welcome from CCAI	4
About Us	5
Our Programs	6
Our Partners	7
The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Caucus Members	8
2025 National Angel in Adoption Honoree	10
2025 Angels in Adoption Honorees	11
Advisory Council	13
Board of Directors	14
2025 Partners	28
How to Engage	50

# Welcome

As we celebrate the 27th year of the Angels in Adoption® Program, Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) is proud to work alongside the Adoption Caucus on this annual public awareness program to recognize the extraordinary work and impact of our Angel honorees on behalf of children in need of safe, nurturing, and permanent families. For over two and a half decades, the Angels program has connected the powerful commitment of leaders in Congress to the extraordinary leadership and impact of so many individuals across the country on behalf of adoption and foster care.



This year, there are 68 incredible Angels in Adoption® and participating Members of Congress from 44 states. Our Angels are adoptees, former foster youth, foster parents, kinship caregivers, adoptive parents, lawyers, nurses, law enforcement officers, volunteers, nonprofit leaders, and fierce advocates – all champions in their communities across the United States. CCAI is honored to help give a platform to these champions on Capitol Hill.

We have sincere gratitude for the leadership from our Board of Directors and Advisory Council, as well as support from faithful partners. We give thanks to: Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Retail Orphan Initiative, Sara and Joel Fagen, American Council of Life Insurers, Apollo Global Management, Constellation Energy, Monolith, Arnold & Porter, and Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, with special thanks to our Signature Sponsor, Casey Family Programs.

Thank you for joining us for tonight's event! We look forward to celebrating this special night with you.

In community,

**Kate McLean**  
*Executive Director*

# About Us

**Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute** (CCAI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization founded in 2001 to eliminate the barriers that prevent children from safe, nurturing, and permanent families. For more than twenty years, CCAI has served as a trusted, principal source of the information, expertise, and resources needed by members of Congress' Adoption Caucus, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA), on permanency issues in the United States and around the world.

Although the CCA and CCAI are distinct entities, they are closely linked in partnership. Both CCA and CCAI are deeply committed to bipartisanship, strengthening families, and permanency. CCAI's initial and continued mandate includes service to the caucus.

**Knowledge is power.** CCAI's main purpose and expertise is bringing awareness and education to the U.S. Congress by providing experiential and interactive resources and opportunities to the active membership of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption (CCA) to stay up to date on child welfare policy information. CCAI's programs are led by voices of both experience and professional expertise. CCAI's programs provide policymakers the knowledge they need to use the power they have to make a difference on behalf of vulnerable children and families.



For three decades, since establishing in 1985, CCA Members have led Congress in the passage of historic legislation that has dramatically impacted the lives of children, youth, and families including: Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act, Family First Prevention Services Act, The Adoption and Safe Families Act, John H. Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood, Promoting Safe and Stable Families Act, Intercountry Adoption Act, and more.

# Our Programs

**CONGRESSIONAL RESOURCE PROGRAM** (CRP) is CCAI's primary means of sharing objective, relevant, and timely information to help educate policymakers on information critical to federal adoption, child welfare, and permanency policy both domestically and internationally. In an effort to better serve children in need of families, CCAI's Congressional Resource Program also provides ideal opportunities for policymakers to communicate directly with experts with lived experience in adoption and foster care. Since its founding, CCAI's educational efforts have helped produce over 100 pieces of child welfare and adoption-related legislation.

Through CCAI's signature public awareness program, **ANGELS IN ADOPTION**®, Members of Congress have an opportunity to recognize individuals, families, and organizations from across the country who have made extraordinary contributions to adoption, permanency, and child welfare. Once selected, the Angels travel to Washington, D.C. to both celebrate their hard work and dedication to the issues and participate in special events designed to engage them in using their lived experience to effect change such as meeting with federal policymakers, participating in policy roundtables, and receiving advocacy training. Since 1999, thousands of Angels have traveled to Washington, D.C. to take part in this program, and these extraordinary leaders return home more empowered and better equipped to effect change on behalf of vulnerable children and families.

Since its founding in 2003, **FOSTER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**® is a congressional internship for individuals who have experienced the U.S. foster care system. Throughout the program, CCAI coordinates advocacy trainings, networking events, meetings with policymakers and child welfare experts, and other professional and personal development opportunities. The program participants also research federal policy recommendations oftentimes based on their experiences in foster care and present their policy research and recommendations to the U.S. Congress, Administration, Department of Health & Human Services, and private sector. Many of these policy recommendations have been passed into law. Moreover, the Foster Youth Interns leave Washington, D.C. with experience and skills that continue to bolster their careers and provide a foundation for them to become lifelong advocates for youth in foster care.

**20/20 VISION** is a public-private partnership delegation model designed to build relationships and increase positive dialogue among Members of Congress, foreign and domestic government officials, and private sector leaders to share information and improve adoption and child welfare policy and practice around the globe. The 20/20 Vision program facilitates ongoing communication, education and fact-finding trips between government entities both domestically and internationally. CCAI also hosts foreign leaders and dignitaries from around the globe in the nation's capital and coordinates meetings with congressional leadership. CCAI's 20/20 Vision delegations have visited California, Florida, Ohio, Ethiopia, Chile, Romania, Russia, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Uganda, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, and others.

# Our Partners

## Premier Partners

(\$100,000+)

Arnold & Porter  
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

## Signature Partners

(\$50,000-\$99,999)

Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

## Champion Partners

(\$30,000 - \$49,999)

Annie E. Casey Foundation  
Apollo Global Management  
Bloom Energy  
Constellation Energy  
Duke Energy  
Sara and Joel Fagen

## Leader Partners

(\$25,000 - \$29,999)

American Council of Life Insurers  
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck  
Retail Orphan Initiative

## Gold Partners

(\$10,000 - \$24,999)

American Beverage Association  
American Retirement Association  
ConocoPhillips Company  
Eden and Marty Durbin  
Elevance Health  
nailsaloon  
Samuel J. Marchio  
Susan and David Hirschmann  
Susan K. Neely

## Bronze Partners

(\$5,000 - \$9,999)

AHIP (America's Health Insurance Plans)  
Altria  
American Electric Power Foundation

ATHOS Media Strategies

AxAdvocacy

Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Brown Advisory

Capitol Hill Consulting Group

Chevron

Continental Strategy

CVS Health

Dell Technologies Inc.

Entergy

Forbes Tate Partners

Kelly Mohs Gage

LSG

Marriott

Megan and Todd Okesson

Mehlman Consulting Inc.

Novus Public Affairs

PLUS Communications

Russell W. Sullivan

Show Hope

Stephen L. Ferguson

Targeted Victory

Tarplin, Downs & Young

The Russell Group

Tiber Creek Group

Tyson Foods Inc.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

## Friend Partners

(\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Andrea McDaniel Smith

Anthony Pritzker Family Foundation

Cathy Barre

Center for Adoption Support and Education

Darcy Bradbury

DLA Piper

Gift of Adoption

Greenlight Strategies

Joyce Rogers

Karen and Gary LaBranche

Madeleine M. Landrieu

Mair Strategies

Mary Landrieu and Frank Snellings

Pharmaceutical Care Management Association

Reid Vineis

# Congressional Coalition on Adoption Caucus Members

## 119th Congress

*U.S. Senate Co-Chairs: Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) & Kevin Cramer (R-ND)*

*U.S. House Co-Chairs: Reps. Donny K. Davis (D-IL) & Robert Aderholt (R-AL)*

### Alabama

Rep. Robert Aderholt (R)\*  
Rep. Barry Moore (R)

### Alaska

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R)

### Arizona

Rep. Ruben Gallego (D)  
Rep. David Schweikert (R)  
Rep. Andy Biggs (R)

### Arkansas

Sen. John Boozman (R)  
Sen. Tom Cotton (R)  
Rep. Bruce Westerman (R)  
Rep. French Hill (R)

### California

Sen. Adam Schiff (D)  
Rep. Nanette Diaz  
Barragán (D)  
Rep. Ami Bera (D)  
Rep. Julia Brownley (D)  
Rep. Ken Calvert (R)  
Rep. Judy Chu (D)  
Rep. Jared Huffman (D)  
Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R)  
Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D)  
Rep. Doris Matsui (D)  
Rep. Linda Sanchez (D)  
Rep. Brad Sherman (D)  
Rep. Eric Swalwell (D)

### Colorado

Rep. Joe Neguse (D)

### Connecticut

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D)  
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D)  
Rep. Jim Himes (D)

### Delaware

Sen. Christopher Coons (D)  
Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D)

### District of Columbia

Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton  
(D)

### Florida

Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R)  
Rep. Kat Cammack (R)  
Rep. John Rutherford (R)  
Rep. Vern Buchanan (R)

### Georgia

Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R)  
Rep. David Scott (D)

### Idaho

Sen. James Risch (R)

### Illinois

Sen. Richard Durbin (D)  
Rep. Danny Davis (D)\*

### Indiana

Rep. Andre Carson (D)  
Rep. Erin Houchin (R)  
Rep. Rudy Yakym (R)

### Iowa

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R)

### Kansas

Sen. Jerry Moran (R)  
Rep. Sharice Davids (D)

### Kentucky

Rep. James Comer (R)  
Rep. Andy Barr (R)

### Louisiana

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R)  
Sen. John Kennedy (R)  
Rep. Mike Johnson (R)  
Rep. Julia Letlow (R)  
Rep. Steve Scalise (R)

### Maine

Sen. Susan Collins (R)  
Sen. Angus King, Jr. (I)  
Rep. Chellie Pingree (D)

### Maryland

Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D)

### Massachusetts

Rep. Stephen Lynch (D)  
Rep. Seth Moulton (D)

### Michigan

Sen. Gary Peters (D)  
Rep. Bill Huizenga (R)  
Rep. John Moolenaar (R)  
Rep. Tim Walberg (R)  
Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D)

# Caucus Members

(continued)

## Minnesota

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D)\*  
Sen. Tina Smith (D)  
Rep. Pete Stauber (R)  
Rep. Tom Emmer (R)  
Rep. Angie Craig (D)  
Rep. Betty McCollum (D)

## Mississippi

Sen. Roger F. Wicker (R)  
Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R)  
Rep. Trent Kelly (R)

## Missouri

Sen. Josh Hawley (R)  
Rep. Ann Wagner (R)  
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D)  
Rep. Jason Smith (R)  
Rep. Sam Graves (R)

## Montana

Sen. Steve Daines (R)

## Nebraska

Rep. Don Bacon (R)  
Rep. Adrian Smith (R)

## Nevada

Sen. Jacky Rosen (D)

## New Hampshire

Sen. Maggie Hassan (D)

## New Jersey

Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D)  
Rep. Christopher Smith (R)  
Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D)  
Rep. Lamonica McIver (D)

## New York

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D)  
Rep. Joseph D. Morelle (D)  
Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D)

## North Carolina

Sen. Thom Tillis (R)  
Rep. Greg Murphy (R)  
Rep. David Rouzer (R)

## North Dakota

Sen. Kevin Cramer (R)\*

## Ohio

Rep. Dave Joyce (R)  
Rep. Joyce Beatty (D)  
Rep. Mike Carey (R)

## Oklahoma

Sen. James Lankford (R)  
Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R)  
Rep. Stephanie Bice (R)

## Oregon

Sen. Ron Wyden (D)  
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D)

## Pennsylvania

Rep. Brendan Boyle (D)  
Rep. Mike Kelly (R)  
Rep. Glenn Thompson (R)  
Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R)  
Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R)

## Rhode Island

Rep. Seth Magaziner (D)

## South Carolina

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R)  
Rep. Joe Wilson (R)  
Rep. Ralph Norman (R)

## South Dakota

Sen. John Thune (R)  
Sen. Mike Rounds (R)  
Rep. Dusty Johnson (R)

## Tennessee

Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R)

## Texas

Rep. John Carter (R)  
Rep. Joaquin Castro (D)  
Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D)  
Rep. Sylvia Garcia (D)  
Rep. Tony Gonzales (R)  
Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D)

## Utah

Rep. Blake Moore (R)

## Virginia

Sen. Mark Warner (D)  
Rep. Rob Wittman (R)  
Rep. Don Beyer (D)  
Rep. Ben Cline (R)  
Rep. H. Morgan Griffith (R)

## Washington

Sen. Patty Murray (D)  
Sen. Maria Cantwell (D)  
Rep. Adam Smith (D)

## West Virginia

Rep. Carol D. Miller (R)

## Wisconsin

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D)  
Rep. Glenn Grothman (R)  
Rep. Mark Pocan (D)  
Rep. Bryan Steil (R)  
Rep. Gwen Moore (D)

# 2025 National Angels in Adoption Honoree

## Ferring Pharmaceuticals



Ferring Pharmaceuticals is a privately-owned, research-driven biopharmaceutical company focused on developing life-changing innovations that help people live better lives. Grounded in a 70-year commitment to science and research, Ferring is relentless in its pursuit of therapies that help people build families, stay healthy, and fight disease. With a strong focus on reproductive medicine and maternal health, Ferring has pioneered innovations that empower individuals and families to pursue their dreams of parenthood.

Beyond its groundbreaking science, Ferring has demonstrated extraordinary leadership in supporting adoption and foster care communities.

At Ferring, adoption is recognized as a gift for so many families, and the company is proud to support its people on their journey to parenthood—no matter their path. Ferring Pharmaceuticals has consistently been recognized by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption as one of the most adoption-friendly workplaces in the U.S. Their commitment to building families extends not only to the millions of patients they serve, but also to the hundreds of people they employ in the U.S. All Ferring parents—moms, dads, and adoptive parents—are offered paid parental leave to spend quality time with their growing families and adjust to life with a new child. In addition, the company's Adoption Assistance Program provides reimbursement for qualified adoption-related expenses, while its inclusive family-building benefits also extend to reimbursement for qualified expenses relating to surrogacy.

By combining cutting-edge medical advances with compassionate advocacy, Ferring Pharmaceuticals exemplifies the spirit of the Angels in Adoption® program and is helping to build a world in which every child has a safe, nurturing, and permanent family to call their own.

# 2025 Angels in Adoption Honorees

Anna's House Foundation

Melissa Appleton

Emily M Barrett

Heather and Josh Barkley

Rebekah Beltran

Kim Bigler

Sunny Blankinship

Katharine and Frank Block

Annette and Matthew Brandt

Lindsay and Travis Burton

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for  
Children of Baltimore

A New Beginning Adoption Agency

CASA of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

CASA of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties

CEDARS Youth Services

The Clifford House of Hope, Charles County

Department of Social Services

Jennifer and John Cockman

The Contingent

Claire and Joshua Cox

Carrie and Matthew Damschroder

Lynn Fraipont

Family Focus

Four Oaks Family and Children's Services

Foster Kinship

Emily and John Gibson

Elizabeth and Tyler Harbison

Jess and Becky Hermann

Helen's Hope Chest

House of Grace

Jackie and Marcus Isakson

Taryn Jacobus

Melissa and Daniel Jarvis

Jeremiah Tree Foundation

[Please click to read the  
2025 Angels in Adoption® biographies](#)

ANGELS  
IN ADOPTION®  
*Celebration*

# 2025 Angels in Adoption Honorees

(continued)

Vershunda Rena Jones  
Whitney Lam Johnson  
Kim and Ric Jordan  
Michael A Kalil  
Louise and Lee Kadinger  
Emily and Riley Krause  
J McLane Layton  
Tamara and Jeramy Lawson  
Misti and John Leathers  
Mike McHugh  
Liz Northcutt  
David Perez  
Johnny Peppers  
Ellie Robinson  
Mitch Rosenwald  
Tamara and Joey Rowell  
Amy and William Rush  
Christopher Scott  
Samantha and Dalton Scott  
Jeannie Schafer  
Tim Sexton  
Mary and Bill Singleton  
Ellen and Tony Smith  
Lisa Stockdale  
Kimberly and Donald Swanson  
Nicole Thalken  
Katrina and Rudy Villareal  
Stephanie and Kenneth White  
Kailah and Taylor White  
Beth Wilbur  
Christie and Nathan Winters  
Emily and Bill Wireman  
Jacqueline and Rodd Wohlfeil  
Maggie and Nick Zehring  
Karen Zilberstein

[Please click to read the  
2025 Angels in Adoption® biographies](#)

ANGELS  
IN ADOPTION®  
*Celebration*

# Advisory Council

Allison Coble

Amnoni Myers

Bethany Haley

Christopher Baker Scott

Dan Berger

Daniel Heimpel

Debbie Riley

Emily Chapman Richards

Hope Cooper

Ian Forber-Pratt

Isabel Rodriguez Stasa

Jaia Lent

Jane Krienke

Jedd Medefind

Jennifer Perry

Kamilah Bunn

Kathy Kovarik

Lauren Behsudi

Lisa M. Boudreau

McLane Layton

Nicole Taylor

Philip Goldman

Rebecca Vahle

Rita Soronen

Sharen Ford

Steven Olender

Taylor Vitello

Zach Laris

# Board of Directors

**Susan Neely** (Chair)

Former President & CEO, American Council of  
Life Insurers

**Susan Hirschmann** (Vice Chair)

CEO, Williams & Jensen

**Brian Graff** (Treasurer)

CEO, American Retirement Association

**Marty Durbin** (Secretary)

Senior Vice President of Policy, U.S. Chamber of  
Commerce

**Bill Bailey**

CEO, Radiance Technologies

**Sara Fagen**

CEO and Co-Founder, Tunnl

**Kelly Gage**

Director of Transformational Gifts, Nomi Network

**The Honorable Mary L. Landrieu**

Former U.S. Senator of Louisiana / Senior Policy  
Advisor, Van Ness Feldman LLP

**Sam Marchio**

Vice President, Federal & External Affairs,  
Elevance Health, Inc.

**Ashley O'Connor**

Managing Partner, Strategic Partners & Media

**Joyce Rogers**

Senior Vice President of Government and  
External Relations, AmeriHealth Caritas

**Andrea McDaniel Smith**

Partner, CarterBaldwin Executive Search

**Russ Sullivan**

Shareholder, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck,  
LLP

# Board of Directors

## Susan K. Neely, Chair



Susan K. Neely is the former president and CEO of the American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI), the nation's leading trade association dedicated to providing products and services that contribute to Americans' financial and retirement security. As president and CEO, Neely drove public policy and advocacy on behalf of ACLI's member companies that represent 95 percent of industry assets and serve 90 million families.

Neely has long been recognized as a leading voice in public policy and advocacy in Washington, D.C. She served as special assistant to President George W. Bush and helped create the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and later became the first DHS Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. Neely was a senior executive at the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA), where she designed award-winning national advocacy programs and initiatives, like HIAA's groundbreaking Harry & Louise campaign.

Most recently, she led the American Beverage Association (ABA) for 13 years as president and CEO. Under her leadership, ABA instituted first-of-their-kind initiatives with President Clinton's Global Initiative and First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign. These partnerships decreased calories from beverages sold in schools by 90 percent, put transparent calorie labels on millions of beverage containers, and reduced sugar consumed from beverages in the American diet.

Neely has been named Trade Association CEO of the year by two different national organizations. She is a past chair of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Association Committee of 100 of the largest trade associations and the American Society of Association Executives.

A native of Iowa, Neely holds an undergraduate degree in journalism and French civilization from the University of Iowa and a master's degree in public administration from Drake University. She is the mother of two children, Eve and Ben.

# Board of Directors

## Susan B. Hirschmann, Vice Chair



Susan B. Hirschmann is Chairman of the Board and CEO of Williams & Jensen, having served as a Principal in the firm since 2002. Williams & Jensen is consistently ranked as one of the top lobby firms and is proud to be one of Washington, D.C.'s oldest independent lobbying firms. Hailed as one of D.C.'s premier lobbyists, Susan has a reputation for effective advocacy and creative strategies. She has helped clients achieve success on issues ranging from health care and taxation to financial services, transportation, education, and appropriations.

Whether it was working with a client to secure tax permanency for 529 education savings accounts, which was the first Bush Era tax cut to be made permanent; running the coalition to pass Medicare Part D; securing a rare Jones Act Waiver; or securing funding for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) after it had been removed from the President's budget; Susan's ability to win on tough issues is why her clients believe that there is no one better at "snatching victory out of the jaws of defeat."

Additionally, Susan brings a breadth of expertise in third-party coalition building and grassroots organizing. Her experience in state, local, and national youth politics and her years spent working for a national activist women's organization gave her the background to found Integrated Legislative Strategies – an organization which pairs grassroots programs with legislative strategy, and where she oversees dozens of field staff across the country and works to build successful coalitions. Prior to joining Williams & Jensen, Susan was Chief of Staff to the Majority Whip of the House of Representatives. During her time working for House Leadership, she worked with Congress and the White House to develop and execute strategy on major trade, health care, and tax issues. This experience gave her an intimate understanding of and ability to advise clients on the intricacy of the inner workings of the Hill.

Susan has been recognized for her achievements in D.C. She has been named her one of D.C.'s top lobbyists, one of the most powerful women in Washington, and one of the top 100 most highly regarded staffers on Capitol Hill.

# Board of Directors

## Brian H. Graff, Treasurer



Brian H. Graff, Esq., is the Chief Executive Officer of the American Retirement Association, the umbrella organization for the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries (ASPPA), the ASPPA College of Pension Actuaries (ACOPA), the National Association of Plan Advisors (NAPA), the National Tax-deferred Savings Association (NTSA), and the Plan Sponsor Council of America (PSCA). Graff oversees the American Retirement Association's operations, and working with the Board of Directors, charts the strategic direction for the organization.

Graff also serves as the Executive Director of ASPPA and NAPA. The American Retirement Association is a national organization of more than 25,000 retirement plan professionals who provide advisory and administrative services for qualified retirement plans covering tens of millions of American workers. In addition to representing the interests of its members before Congress and federal regulatory agencies on a combined basis, the American Retirement Association annually conducts more than a dozen industry conferences, and annually administers more than 5,000 examinations leading to various industry-related professional credentials.

Graff actively speaks on behalf of the retirement plan system and has been quoted in *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and interviewed by various television outlets. He has testified on retirement policy issues before Congress and various federal regulators on numerous occasions.

An attorney (District of Columbia) and certified public accountant (New York-inactive), Graff was formerly Legislation Counsel to the U.S. Congress Joint Committee on Taxation where he provided policy and technical analysis relating to employee benefits, health care and Social Security to members of Congress. While working for Congress, Graff participated in the development of legislation, including the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. Prior to working on Capitol Hill, Graff was associated with the Washington, DC, law firm, The Groom Law Group, which specializes in employee benefits. Graff received his doctoral degree in law, cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia.

# Board of Directors

## Marty Durbin, Secretary



Martin (Marty) Durbin is Senior Vice President for Policy, overseeing the U.S. Chamber's well-respected Policy Division. Durbin also serves as President of the U.S. Chamber's Global Energy Institute, leading the strategic development and implementation of the Chamber's climate, energy, and sustainability policy, and highlighting the role of the business community in both strengthening our energy security and accelerating the clean energy transition.

Durbin brings more than 28 years of trade association leadership representing highly regulated energy and manufacturing industries. Prior to joining the US Chamber in 2019, Durbin was Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer at the American Petroleum Institute (API), overseeing the integration of API's advocacy assets. He previously served as President and CEO of America's Natural Gas Alliance (ANGA) where he led the natural gas industry's market expansion through a comprehensive lobbying, grassroots and media campaign.

Durbin earlier served in senior positions with the American Chemistry Council and the American Plastics Council and began his career in legislative positions for Senator Alan J. Dixon (D-IL) and Representative Rick Boucher (D-VA).

Known for his bipartisan approach to advocacy, Marty serves as a Fellow with the Bipartisan Policy Center's (BPC) Governance Project, and on BPC's Direct Air Capture Advisory Council. He is currently Board Chairman of A Wider Circle, a grassroots nonprofit dedicated to ending poverty, and serves on the Board of the Congressional Coalition for Adoption Institute. In 2021 and 2022 he made Washingtonian's Most Influential list.

Durbin received a B.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland, College Park. He is married and has three children.

# Board of Directors

## Bill Bailey



Bill Bailey joined Radiance Technologies in 2001 and sets the strategic direction of Radiance, a more than \$300M 100% employee-owned small business with core competencies in developing advanced technologies, integrating systems, performing technical intelligence, and providing engineering services to the U.S. Department of Defense, armed services, intelligence agencies, and other U.S. government agencies.

Bill has approximately 42 years of technical and military experience supporting various intelligence, research, information operations, electronic warfare, and cyber-related projects. He also has 26 years of industry experience as a project engineer, project lead, and program manager and 14 years of military experience as a B-52 aircraft maintenance technician and Research and Development Engineer at the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC) and the Phillips Laboratory, now the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL).

Bill graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a BS in Electrical Engineering, received a MBA from Florida Tech, and has completed several relevant courses in Intelligence, Information Operations (I/O), Cyber and Electronic Warfare (EW), as well as completed advanced courses in engineering and business management.

# Board of Directors

## Sara Fagen



Sara Fagen is an American technology and data entrepreneur with a background in political strategy and public affairs. Sara co-founded Tunnl in 2020 where she serves as CEO, leading the fast-growing Tunnl team in their mission to streamline and maximize the ad-targeting experience for strategists and buyers alike by putting all of the audience insights they need across social media, programmatic digital, streaming TV, and linear TV all in one configurable platform that accommodates direct integrations into buying platforms of choice.

In 2013, Sara co-founded Deep Root Analytics, the premiere micro-targeting solution for political campaigns. Deep Root Analytics was a natural extension of Sara's years serving as a partner at DDC Public Affairs in Washington D.C., where she helped clients solve some of their toughest public affairs and political challenges. Sara became a Partner at DDC in 2011 after the company acquired BlueFront Strategies, an issue advocacy firm that Sara founded. In 2014, Sara helped lead the sale of DDC to Omnicom Group Inc. (OMC).

In 2008, Sara co-founded Resonate Insights, a disruptive real-time consumer intelligence platform that brings together real-time survey data and insights on over 230 million consumers and online behavioral data all in one platform.

Before finding her stride as an entrepreneur, Sara led a successful career in government and campaign politics. Sara served as White House Political Director for President George W. Bush. During her years in the White House, Sara was involved in helping enact some of President Bush's most significant legislative accomplishments. Sara also played a key role in President Bush's 2004 re-election campaign in which she served as a senior strategist directing opinion research and paid media.

Sara's commentary can be seen across popular news programming including CNBC and NBC News' Meet the Press where she is a regular contributor.

# Board of Directors

## Kelly Gage



Kelly is an accomplished public speaker, educator, advisor, and philanthropist, with nearly 20 years of experience with foundations and NGOs dealing with human trafficking, public media, arts and culture, education, and community development. She is passionate about fighting exploitation in women and children. Prior to joining Nomi Network, Kelly served as an Associate Professor in the Department of Apparel, Merchandising and Design at St. Catherine University.

Kelly holds a doctorate in apparel studies from the Department of Design, Housing, and Apparel at the University of Minnesota, a master's degree in Art History from the University of St. Thomas and a bachelor's degree in economics from Northwestern University. She has also sat on the boards of the World Childhood Foundation, an organization that combats the sexual exploitation of women and children, and the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Aside from being an analytical thinker and an impeccable dresser, Kelly is the proud mom of two sets of twins.

Kelly shows excellent relationship building and management skills throughout professional, academic, and social circles and utilizes her vast experience mentoring, coaching, and serving as a valuable resource to colleagues, students and graduates. Kelly's particular areas of international expertise are Brazil, Cambodia, and India. Her areas of specialization include Afro Brazilian slave dress, major gifts development, relationship building, development of grant-making programs, and Portuguese. Kelly was a board member at the Carlson Family Foundation between 1197 to 2003 as well.

# Board of Directors

## Mary Landrieu



Senator Mary Landrieu served in the United States Senate for three terms, first elected in 1996. As a member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee – and then, ultimately, as Chair of that Committee – she passed several important pieces of legislation; most notably the landmark Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA); the Israel American Energy Alliance; and the RESTORE Act – the single largest federal investment in the Gulf Coast in U.S. history.

She also served on the Senate Armed Services Committee, Appropriations Committee, and chaired the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. In her role as Chair of the Small Business Committee, she was the lead sponsor of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010, which helped to create and retain over 650,000 American jobs. During her time in the Senate, Landrieu was known for her bipartisan approach to addressing national challenges and for her passionate advocacy for her home state of Louisiana, particularly in the aftermaths of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Prior to serving in the U.S. Senate, she served in the Louisiana State Legislature from 1979 – 1987. For eight years, she successfully championed causes related to women and children, flood protection, and education reform. In 1987, she was elected State Treasurer and served with distinction for two terms. Strong fiscal management, pension fund diversification, debt limitation, and the creation of the first-ever municipal investment fund (now valued at over \$2 billion) are some of her noteworthy accomplishments.

Senator Landrieu serves on the Board of Directors of CenturyLink, the second largest US communications provider to global enterprise customers. In the non-profit space, she serves on the boards of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools; Resources for the Future; and chairs the Board of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (which represents over 175 Members of Congress who work in a bipartisan fashion, supporting and finding families for orphan children here in the US and around the world).

She graduated from Louisiana State University and is married to Frank Snellings, an attorney and real estate broker in Washington, DC. They have two grown children and one grandchild.

# Board of Directors

## Sam Marchio



Samuel J. Marchio is Vice President of Federal & External Affairs for Elevance Health, Inc. As a member of the Executive Leadership Team, Mr. Marchio leads the company's advocacy activities before the U.S. Congress (House and Senate), and all national organizations and coalitions. Mr. Marchio also provides strategic legislative and political support to the company and manages Elevance's Political Action Committee and grassroots capabilities. Mr. Marchio joined Elevance

(formerly Anthem, Inc.) in January 2011 with 10-years of bipartisan legislative, communications, political, and management experience as a senior congressional aide and veteran of five congressional campaigns.

Prior to joining Anthem, Mr. Marchio served as Chief of Staff for former U.S. Congressman Michael A. Arcuri (D-NY). In this capacity, Mr. Marchio served as the Congressman's chief legislative, communications, and political advisor. Mr. Marchio also oversaw Congressman Arcuri's work on the influential House Rules Committee, which is responsible for interpreting and implementing the rules of legislative debate and decorum in the U.S. House of Representatives. In that role he developed and executed strategy for the successful passage of 12 amendments to legislation debated by the House of Representatives.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Marchio spent five years working for former U.S. Congressman Sherwood L. "Sherry" Boehlert (R-NY), Chairman of the House Science Committee, in a variety of increasingly responsible roles, including Communications Director and Senior Legislative Assistant. Mr. Marchio joined Congressman Boehlert's office in 2001 while in college and served until December 2006 when Boehlert retired after 24 years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Marchio also serves on the National Board of the National Kidney Foundation, and as Secretary of the National Board. Mr. Marchio earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with studies focused on Public Administration and Political Philosophy from Utica College of Syracuse University in 2001. He resides in McLean, VA with his wife Shana (Stribling) Marchio and their 5-year old son, Sammy.

# Board of Directors

## Ashley O'Connor



Ashley O'Connor is a veteran leader in political advertising and is recognized as an industry expert on messaging to women. With more than 25 years of experience, Ashley has helped dozens of candidates, C-suite executives, non-profits, and corporations navigate tough public affairs battles and win hard-fought elections.

As the Managing Partner at Strategic Partners & Media, Ashley leads an in-house production team and a full staff of digital specialists, designers, developers, and strategists to help clients tell their story and reach exactly the right audience with their message.

Ashley has produced and directed hundreds of advertisements for political campaigns across the country, from presidential races to local elections. An award-winning producer, Ashley's work includes the acclaimed 2004 Republican National Convention keynote video, "The Pitch," that introduced President Bush, as well as "The Surge: The Untold Story," a documentary of the Surge in Iraq which won the 2010 Military Channel Award at the GI Film Festival.

An expert on messaging to women, Ashley is a frequent speaker and presenter at academic and industry conferences. She has lectured on politics and advertising at some of the nation's top universities, including the Harvard Kennedy School, the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics, and her alma mater, Mount Holyoke College. In 2014, Ashley was selected to Campaign & Elections magazine's "The Influencers 50" list.

Ashley served two terms on the board of the YWCA of Anne Arundel County, the only domestic abuse shelter and youth human trafficking shelter in the county, and remains active with the organization to this day. She is also an avid equestrian and a baseball mom; when not out riding or on the diamond with her son, Ashley and her husband are sponsoring midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy, entertaining with friends and family or enjoying time on the Chesapeake Bay.

# Board of Directors

## Joyce Rogers



Joyce Rogers is a senior executive with legal, public policy, government affairs, and political experience. Joyce has a strong track record of legislative and regulatory successes. Currently, Joyce is the Vice President of US Policy and Public Affairs at Pfizer. She leads Pfizer's US Policy and Public Affairs teams. Previously, Joyce was the Chief Government Affairs Officer for Advocate Aurora Health (AAH). Joyce leads AAH's federal and state advocacy.

AAH is the 10th largest not-for-profit integrated health care system in the United States and a national leader in clinical innovation, health outcomes, consumer experience, and value based care.

Before joining AAH, Joyce served as the the senior vice president of government affairs at AARP. Joyce led AARP's federal and state advocacy. In this role, she worked with elected officials, patient advocacy groups, private sector companies and industry associations. Joyce was a partner at Williams & Jensen, a Washington, DC-based law firm and represented Fortune 500 companies, trade associations, non-profits, and small businesses.

Prior to Williams & Jensen, Joyce was an associate at Verner Liipfert. Early in her career, she worked for two Members of Congress, including House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer. Throughout her career, Joyce has worked on presidential, gubernatorial, congressional and local campaigns. Joyce serves on the Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ) Board of Directors and the Franklin Center for Global Policy Exchange Board of Directors. Joyce is a graduate of Williams College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School and admitted to the District of Columbia and State of Maryland Bar Associations.

Joyce has certificates from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth's Executive Management Program, Leadership and Strategic Impact Program; Georgetown University McDonough School of Business, AARP Agile Leadership Program; and Executive Leadership Council's Institute for Leadership & Research, Strengthening the Pipeline Program.

# Board of Directors

## Andrea McDaniel Smith



Andrea McDaniel Smith leads the Washington, D.C. office for CarterBaldwin Executive Search and serves clients in the nonprofit, education, international and economic development, philanthropy, and public policy sectors.

Andrea joined CarterBaldwin in 2015 following more than 15 years of distinguished work in public service, and nonprofit organizations. Andrea served in the White House Office of Presidential Personnel, advising George W. Bush on his appointments to government agencies.

She also played a key leadership role in the recruitment and assessment of hundreds of senior individuals as the Deputy White House Liaison at the U.S. Department of State.

Following her government service, Andrea moved to Kigali, Rwanda and co-founded a nonprofit organization focused on education and community-based development. That experience led her to co-produce the award-winning documentary film, *Mama Rwanda*, which tells the story of women overcoming extreme poverty through entrepreneurship. She then spent a season at the Aspen Institute, promoting entrepreneurship and education in the Middle East and North Africa.

Andrea serves on the Board of Directors of The Veritas Forum and Faith and Law in Washington, D.C. Andrea, her husband, Adrian, and their young son and daughter split time between Washington, D.C. and Gering, Nebraska, where Adrian represents the 3rd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

# Board of Directors

## Russell Sullivan



Russell Sullivan provides strategic counsel, offering comprehensive solutions from an administrative, regulatory and legislative perspective on client's most complex matters. He brings a unique perspective to a wide variety of issues for a broad range of industries, including tax, healthcare, energy, pensions, transportation, education, trade and economic development, as well as matters involving the nonprofit and for-benefit enterprise sectors.

In addition to providing strategic legal counsel, Russ advises clients on business planning and public affairs. Russ joined the Senate Finance Committee staff in 1999 before rising to staff director in 2004, a role in which he served until he retired in 2013. From that position, he saw some of the most important and complex issues within the business community come before the committee. Along with advising former committee chair Sen. Max Baucus, Russ also helped devise and implement strategies on the 2001 tax cuts, the JOBS Act of 2004, the Medicare Modernization Act of 2004, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 and the Affordable Care Act of 2009.

Russ has served as legal or designated guardian for 22 teenagers over the past two decades.

# Our Partners

***CCAI would like to thank the following 2025 partners for their continued support of our work to ensure every child knows the love and support of a permanent family. These partners support CCAI and our ongoing work throughout the year.***

AHIP (AMERICA'S HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS)	FORBES TATE PARTNERS
ALTRIA	GIFT OF ADOPTION
AMERICAN BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION	GREENLIGHT STRATEGIES
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LIFE INSURERS	JOYCE ROGERS
AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER FOUNDATION	KAREN AND GARY LABRANCHE
AMERICAN RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION	KELLY MOHS GAGE
ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION	LSG
ANTHONY PRITZKER FAMILY FOUNDATION	MADELEINE M. LANDRIEU
APOLLO GLOBAL MANAGEMENT	MAIR STRATEGIES
ARNOLD & PORTER	MARRIOTT
ATHOS MEDIA STRATEGIES	MARY LANDRIEU AND FRANK SNELLINGS
AXADVOCACY	MEHLMAN CONSULTING INC.
BLOOM ENERGY	NAILSALOON
BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD ASSOCIATION	NOVUS PUBLIC AFFAIRS
BROWN ADVISORY	PHARMACEUTICAL CARE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK	PLUS COMMUNICATIONS
CAPITOL HILL CONSULTING GROUP	REID VINEIS
CATHY BARRE	RETAIL ORPHAN INITIATIVE
CENTER FOR ADOPTION SUPPORT AND EDUCATION	RUSSELL W. SULLIVAN
CHEVRON	SAMUEL J. MARCHIO
CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY	SARA AND JOEL FAGEN
CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION	SHOW HOPE
CONSTELLATION ENERGY	STEPHEN L. FERGUSON
CONTINENTAL STRATEGY	SUSAN AND DAVID HIRSCHMANN (INTEGRATED
CVS HEALTH	LEGISLATIVE STRATEGIES)
DARCY BRADBURY	SUSAN K. NEELY
DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION	TARGETED VICTORY
DELL TECHNOLOGIES INC.	TARPLIN, DOWNS & YOUNG
DLA PIPER	THE RUSSELL GROUP
DUKE ENERGY	TIBER CREEK GROUP
EDEN AND MARTY DURBIN	TYSON FOODS INC.
ELEVANCE HEALTH	U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOUNDATION
ENTERGY	

*Premier Partners*

**Arnold & Porter**

# Premier Partners

CONRAD N.



FOUNDATION

# Signature Partner



Dave Thomas  
Foundation  
*for Adoption*®

*Champion Partners*



THE ANNIE E. CASEY  
FOUNDATION

Apollo

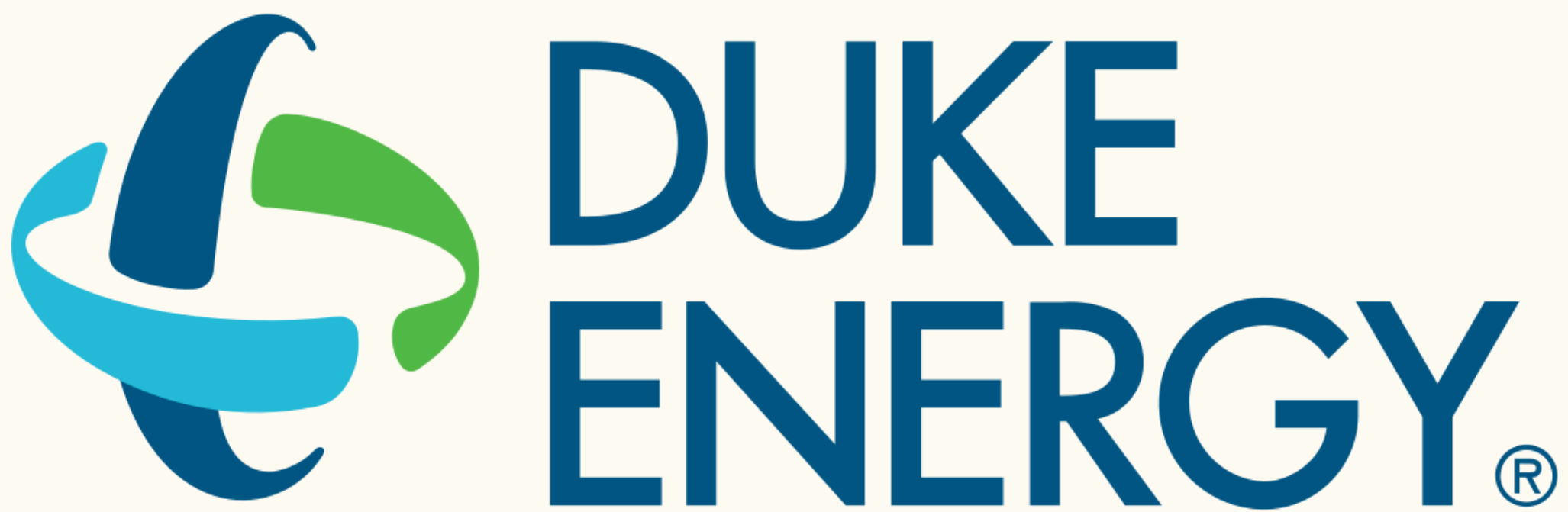
*Champion Partners*

**Bloomenergy®**



**Constellation®**

*Champion Partners*



*Sara & Joel  
Fagen*

# Leader Partners



Financial Security for Life

## *We're all in.*

Bringing together law, policy  
and business acumen to solve  
your toughest challenges.

**Brownstein**

VISIT [BHFS.COM](https://www.bhfs.com) TO LEARN MORE

ANGELS  
IN ADOPTION®  
*Celebration*

35

# Leader Partners

**Paul Singer inspired the Retail Industry to come together and help orphans and foster children.**

**Celebrating Our 17<sup>th</sup> Year in 2025!**



**RetailROI has helped over 300,000 children worldwide!**

***You CAN Make the Difference. Will YOU Get Involved?***



# Gold Partners



AMERICAN  
**RETIREMENT**  
ASSOCIATION

Working for America's Retirement

*Gold Partners*



*Eden and Marty  
Durbin*

Gold Partners



Gold Partners

Samuel J. Marchio

Susan and David  
Hirschmann

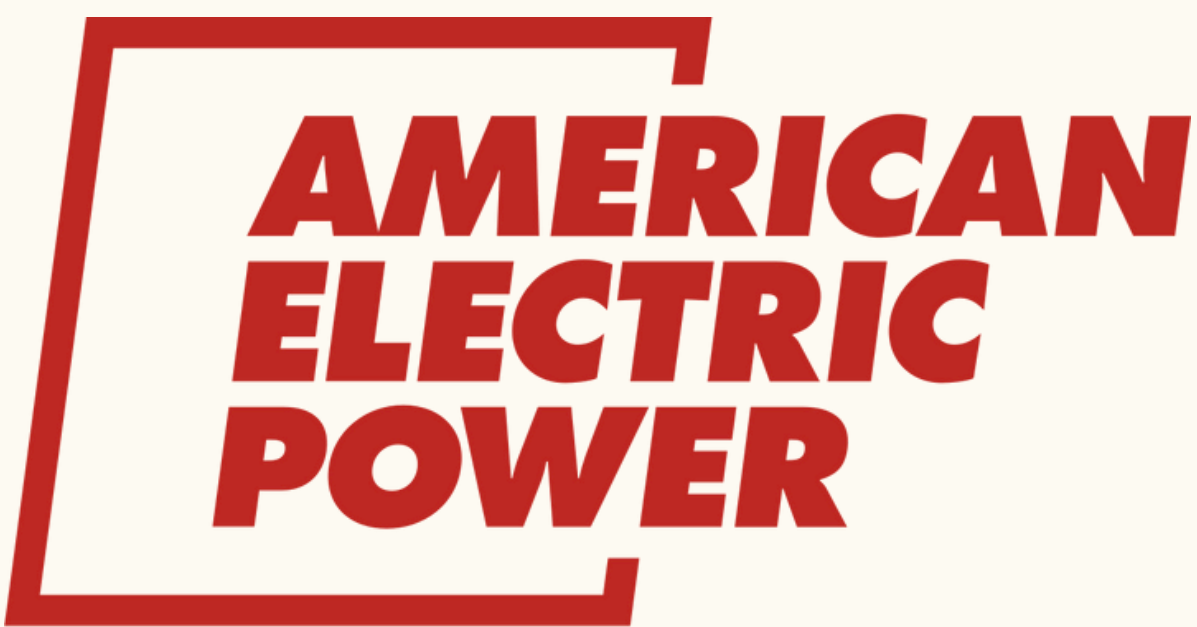
Gold Partners

Susan K. Neely

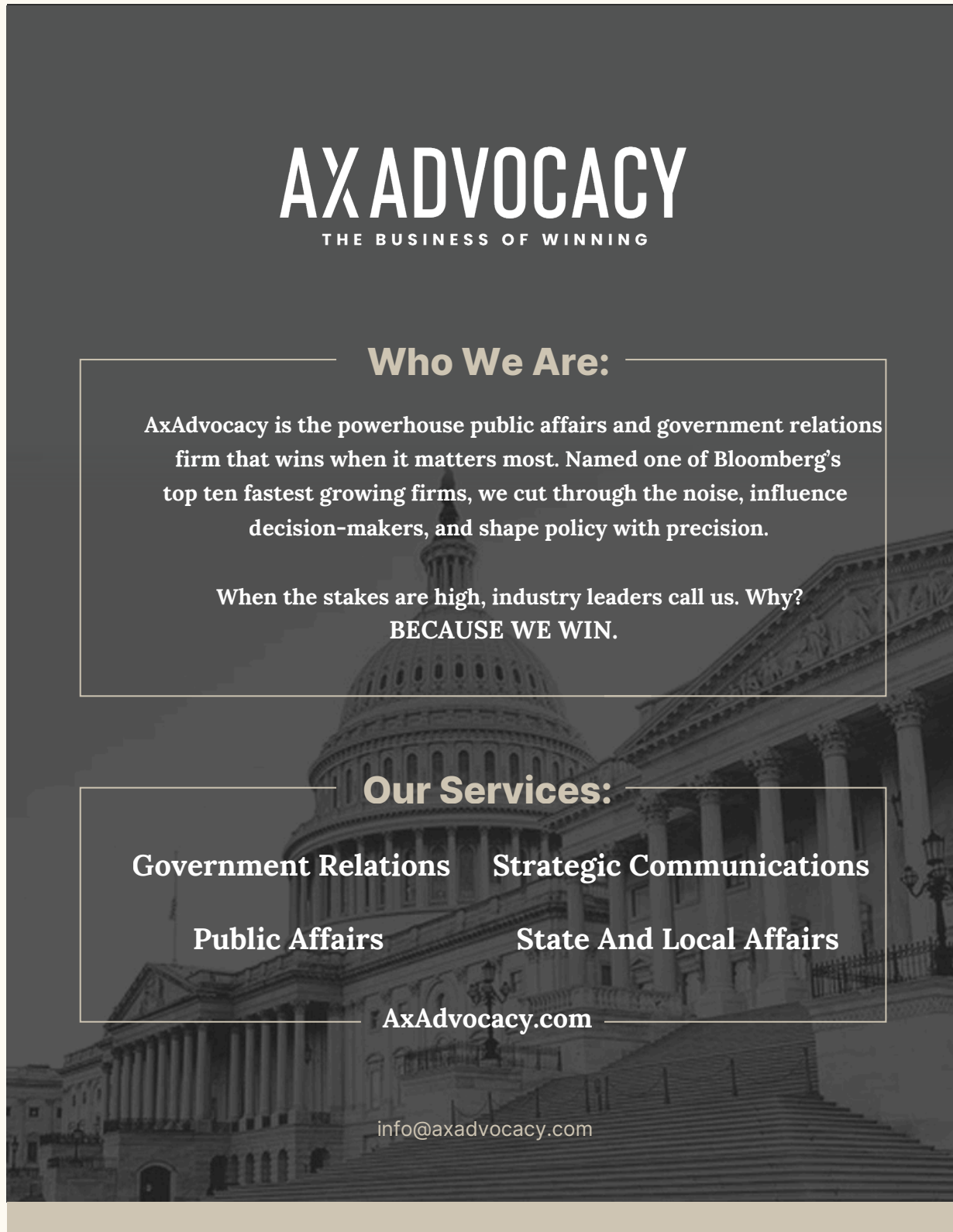
# Bronze Partners



Altria



# Bronze Partners



# AXADVOACAY

THE BUSINESS OF WINNING

## Who We Are:

AxAdvocacy is the powerhouse public affairs and government relations firm that wins when it matters most. Named one of Bloomberg's top ten fastest growing firms, we cut through the noise, influence decision-makers, and shape policy with precision.

When the stakes are high, industry leaders call us. Why?  
**BECAUSE WE WIN.**

## Our Services:

Government Relations	Strategic Communications
Public Affairs	State And Local Affairs

**AxAdvocacy.com**

info@axadvocacy.com

**BlueCross  
BlueShield**  
Association



**Brown**ADVISORY  
Thoughtful Investing.

chcg  
Capitol Hill Consulting Group

ANGELS  
IN ADOPTION®  
*Celebration*

# Bronze Partners



# Bronze Partners

*Kelly Mohs  
Gage*



## Bronze Partners



MARRIOTT

*Megan and  
Todd  
Okesson*



MEHLMAN  
CONSULTING



ANGELS  
IN ADOPTION  
*Celebration*

46

*Bronze Partners*



*Russell W. Sullivan*

SHOW  HOPE

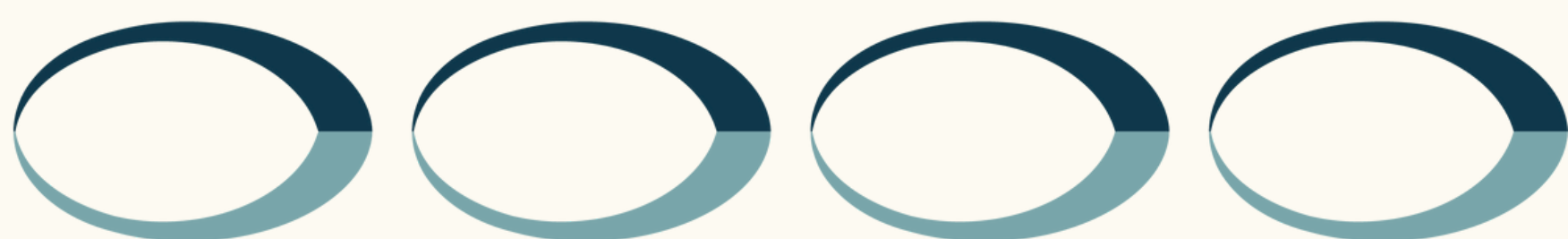
*Stephen L. Ferguson*

# Bronze Partners

## Targeted Victory



**TIBER CREEK GROUP**



# Bronze Partners



U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Foundation

# JOIN US IN *making a difference*

All of CCAI's programs empower and provide a platform for advocates with lived expertise to speak up for federal policy reforms that positively impact children and youth around the world. Join the CCAI team — along with other individuals, corporations, and foundations — in supporting one of our outreach programs:

**CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**ANGELS IN ADOPTION®**

**FOSTER YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM®**

**20/20 VISION**

Please contact Lisette DuFore Benz, Programs Coordinator, at [lisette@ccainstitute.org](mailto:lisette@ccainstitute.org) or (202) 544 - 8500 ext. 12 for more information and ways you can make an impact.



**[www.ccainstitute.org](http://www.ccainstitute.org)**

**TEXT "CCAI" TO 53555**

ANGELS  
IN ADOPTION®  
*Celebration*

**50**