

Biographies

Yanira Cruz, Ph. D. is president & CEO of the National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA). She currently serves on the NSCLC Board of Directors and the boards of the Consumer Health Foundation and the American Society on Aging. She also holds an adjunct faculty appointment at The George Washington University School of Public Health. Before joining NHCOA, she served as executive director and chief operating officer of the Hispanic-Serving Health Professions Schools (HSHPS) in Washington. She joined HSHPS after serving as director of the Institute for Hispanic Health at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR). Cruz received her Bachelor of Science in Biology and holds a master's degree in Public Health and a doctorate in Public Health from the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services.

Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) represents Arizona's 3rd Congressional District serving his sixth term since his election in 2002. He is ranking member of the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulations and is currently co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and 1st vice chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Prior to his election to Congress, he was an elected member of the Pima County Board of Supervisors from 1989-2002. Before that, he served on the Tucson Unified School District Governing Board and served as its chair from 1983-86. Grijalva directed the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center from 1975-86. He is a graduate of the University of Arizona.

Gerald (Jerry) McIntyre is a directing attorney at NSCLC with more than 30 years of experience in legal services advocacy. He joined the NSCLC staff in 1993, and has since provided support and co-counseling to countless legal services and other elder law attorneys on Social Security and SSI issues. Before joining NSCLC, he worked as a staff attorney at Bronx Legal Services; as Executive Director of Southern Tier Legal Services in Bath, NY; and as a lecturer and staff attorney at Cornell Law School. Prior to his law career, McIntyre was a Peace Corps volunteer in Guatemala. A graduate of Harpur College, State University of New York at Binghamton, he received his law degree from Yale Law School.

Paul Nathanson, the founding executive director of the National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC) from 1972-1980, returned to lead NSCLC in 2008. In between, he was the director of the University of New Mexico (UNM) Institute of Public Law, and a member of the UNM law school faculty; he is now an emeritus professor. Nathanson has also served as National Secretary of the Gray Panthers and is a past Chair and a current member of the Board of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM). Nathanson is a graduate of Duke University (JD) and the University of Chicago (MCompLaw).

Zoe Paolantonio is the full time staff attorney at Whitman-Walker Health's Max Robinson Center in South East Washington DC. Prior to joining Whitman-Walker Health, Zoe served as an Equal Justice Works Fellow at the Northeastern University Domestic Violence Institute, providing legal services to victims of domestic violence in the Emergency Department of Boston Medical Center. As a law student, she worked at Health Law Advocates, the leading health care access organization in Massachusetts. She lives with her family in Washington, D.C. Zoe received her law degree from New England School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts and her BA from Ithaca College in Ithaca, New York.

T.J. Sutcliffe is a Policy Advocate at The Arc and works with members of Congress, their staff and coalition partners to support passage of laws that advance the interest of people with disabilities. She also teaches at the Catholic University of America's School of Social Service. Previously, Sutcliffe spent six years at the director of Advocacy and Public Policy at The Arc of the District of Columbia and, before that, she worked at So Others Might Eat as the coordinator and director of SOME's Advocacy and Social Justice Program. She is a graduate of Johns Hopkins with a masters in Social Work from The Catholic University of America.

Neera Tanden is president and CEO of the Center for American Progress (CAP). She currently serves on the NSCLC Board of Directors. Tanden previously served as senior advisor for health reform at the Department of Health and Human Services and also was part of President Obama's health reform team. Prior to that, Tanden was the director of Domestic Policy for the Obama-Biden presidential campaign and formerly served as policy director for the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign and earlier as legislative director for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY). A frequent guest on national television news program, Tanden is a graduate of UCLA and received her law degree from Yale Law School.