



AAPI Young Leaders Summit 2020

Day III: Public Service

Wednesday, July 22, 2020 @ 4 PM ET

Through a series of interviews and conversations including opportunities for Q&A, we will introduce you to AAPIs in this Administration and throughout the federal government. From the White House to federal agencies, AAPIs continue to grow in representation and influence. Each of our speakers will share about their roles and the work that they do as well as discuss the importance of public service and what that means to each of them. We conclude with a special presentation on Census 2020.

AGENDA

Welcome Remarks

Tina Wei Smith, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Special Remarks

U.S. Representative Amata Radewagen (American Samoa)

Introduction of Guest Speakers

Crystal Chen, WHIAAPI Intern

Speaker Spotlight I

Derek Kan, Deputy Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

Speaker Spotlight II

Victorino G. Mercado, Performing the Duties of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities, US Department of Defense

Speaker Spotlight III

Keiko Matsudo Orrall, Commissioner of the President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs

Speaker Spotlight IV

Joseph Lai, former Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, White House

Speaker Spotlight V

Maya M. Noronha, Principal Policy Advisor to the Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Speaker Spotlight VI

Joyce Yoon, Deputy Director, U.S. Department of Transportation Office of White House Liaison

Speaker Spotlight VII & Special Presentation on Census 2020

Ali Ahmad, Associate Director for Communications, U.S. Census Bureau

SELECTED SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Amata Coleman Radewagen
U.S. Representative (American Samoa)

Amata Coleman Radewagen (Aumua Amata) was elected as American Samoa's third Member of Congress on November 4, 2014. She is the first woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives from American Samoa, the first Republican woman of Samoan descent in Congress and the highest elected Asian-Pacific Republican officeholder.

Congresswoman Amata serves on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee in a senior role as Vice Ranking Member of the full Committee, as well as two of its Subcommittees: The Subcommittee on Health, her top choice of assignments for the Veterans of American Samoa, along with the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. She has a similar senior role as a Member of the House Committee on Small Business, where she serves as Vice Ranking Member of the full Committee. Her two Small Business Subcommittees include the Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship; and the Subcommittee on

Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access. In her third Committee, she serves on the House Natural Resources Committee and two of its Subcommittees: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans and Wildlife, her top choice for the islands of American Samoa, along with the Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States.

Since the beginning of 2019, Aumua Amata has served on the President's Commission for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, appointed by President Trump. This is the second such appointment, as she also served in this role under President George W. Bush, appointed in 2001, as a White House Commissioner for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). At that time, she was the only Pacific Islander on the 15-member Commission. The Commission advised the President on AAPI issues and issued a landmark report on the health care needs of America's AAPI communities. Amata has been the featured speaker over the years at numerous Asian Pacific American Heritage observances, including those at numerous military bases in CONUS and Europe.

Prior to being a Member of Congress, the Congresswoman served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives Majority Leadership Staff for eight years, including Conference scheduling director and supervised the database created to reach out to Asian Pacific and other minority aspirants for congressional staff positions. She also served as scheduling director to U.S. Rep. Philip Crane (R-IL), the dean of the House Republican Conference at the time of his retirement. Earlier in her career, she served at the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. She also was the first executive assistant to the first delegate-at-large to Washington from American Samoa.



Derek Kan
Deputy Director
White House Office of Management and Budget

Derek Kan is the Deputy Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). In this capacity, Derek supports the President and OMB Director in the development and execution of the Federal budget and related policies and priorities. Previously, Derek was Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, where he served as a principal advisor to the Secretary and provided leadership in the development of policies for the Department. Mr. Kan also directed transportation policy development and worked to ensure that the Nation's transportation resources function as an integrated national system with a focus on safety and emerging technologies. Derek was confirmed by the Senate 90-7.

Prior to his appointment at the Department of Transportation, Mr. Kan served as the General Manager for Lyft in Southern California. He has also served on the Board of Directors of Amtrak since 2015, for which he was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate. Previously, he was Director of Strategy at a startup in Silicon Valley and worked as a management consultant at Bain & Company. Earlier in his career, he was a policy advisor to Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and chief economist for the Senate Republican Policy Committee. Before coming to Capitol Hill, Mr. Kan served as a Presidential Management Fellow at the White House Office of Management and Budget. Mr. Kan received a B.S. from the University of Southern California, an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics, and an M.B.A. from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he was an Arjay Miller Scholar. He and his wife have three children.



Vic Mercado
Performing the Duties of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities
US Department of Defense

He is responsible for advising the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy on national security and defense strategy; the forces, contingency plans, and associated posture necessary to implement the defense strategy; nuclear deterrence and missile defense policy; and security cooperation plans and policies. Mr. Mercado ensures that the Department's program and budget decisions support and advance senior DoD leaders' strategic direction, especially as articulated in defense planning guidance.

Mr. Mercado graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in May 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science. Mr. Mercado holds a master's degree in systems technology in Joint Command, Control and Communications from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Prior to his appointment as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Plans, Mr. Mercado served in the U.S. Navy for 35 years retiring in November 2018. His service at sea as a surface warfare officer included assignments aboard USS Leftwich (DD 984), USS Valley Forge (CG 50), USS Antietam (CG 54), and USS Curtis Wilbur (DDG 54), culminating with command of USS Decatur (DDG 73) during an accelerated deployment with the John C. Stennis Battle Group in support of Operation Enduring Freedom – Afghanistan and United Nations sanctions on Iraq. He subsequently commanded Destroyer Squadron 21 with additional duties as sea combat commander for the John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group.

Ashore, he completed a tour with the Navy's engineering and acquisition community as the command, control, communications and intelligence warfare systems engineering manager for the AEGIS Program Manager (PMS 400), served as an action officer and vice director, Navy Staff for Staff Operations and Special Events, Office of

the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) N09BX, as the national defense legislative fellow for Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and later led the Commander's Action Group for the Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet. On the Joint Staff, he served as the joint staff lead in the Joint Chiefs of Staff Strategy Group; as assistant deputy director, Global Strategic Partnerships (J-5); as executive assistant to the director, Strategic Plans and Policy (J-5); and as executive assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Following his tour on the Joint Staff, he served as the military assistant to the deputy secretary of defense.

Mr. Mercado's flag officer tours include deputy director, Surface Warfare Division (N96B) and Director, Assessments Division (N81) on the staff of the chief of naval operations, and as vice director, Strategy, Plans and Policy (J5) at U.S. Central Command. Afloat, he commanded Carrier Strike Group 8, including the transition from the Dwight D. Eisenhower to the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group. His final assignment on active duty was the director, Maritime Operations for U.S. Pacific Fleet.



Keiko Matsudo Orrall
Commissioner
President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islander

Keiko Matsudo Orrall became the first Asian American woman to be elected as a State Representative to the Massachusetts Legislature in 2011. Full of enthusiasm and energy, Keiko built relationships and worked tirelessly for her district in her four terms of public office as a State Representative. A graduate of Smith College, she served on the UMASS Center for Women and Public Policy Advisory Board, the Pay Equity Commission, the MA Caucus for Women Legislators, and has worked to support women in public office. As a State Representative, Keiko served on the Joint Committees on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, Labor and Workforce Development, Export Development, State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, Public Health, and the Judiciary.

Keiko was elected as the MA Republican National Committeewoman in 2016 and has been an advocate for diverse representation at all levels of the Republican Party. She worked with RNC Committee Members to establish the Asian American and Pacific Islanders Conservative Leadership Caucus.

She is currently the Executive Director of the MA Office of Travel and Tourism overseeing the hospitality industry, sports, and film at the statewide level. She is the Chairperson of the Massachusetts Marketing Partnership and Chairperson of the Restaurant Promotion Commission. She is active in the Asian American community participating in numerous national and international panels promoting Massachusetts on the global stage. She ran for MA State Treasurer in 2018 becoming the first minority woman to run for statewide office in Massachusetts.

She has received recognition and awards for her public service from various organizations including the Restaurant and Business Alliance, the cranberry industry, the American Legion, and the National Federation of Women Legislators. In 2019, Keiko was honored to receive the Order of the Rising Sun Award from the Japanese government. In January of 2020, she was sworn in as a Commissioner of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

Keiko is married to her husband of 30 years, Rep Norman Orrall, who is currently serving as a State Representative in the MA Legislature. They have two grown children. She is a devoted follower of Jesus and enjoys gardening and spending time with family.



Joseph Lai

Former Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs
White House

Joseph Lai is a Vice President at BGR Government Affairs where he focuses on commerce, financial services, international trade and defense issues for clients. Prior to joining BGR, Joe served as Special Assistant to President Trump for Legislative Affairs. Starting with the White House team in January 2017, Joe led President Trump's outreach to the U.S. Senate on economic issues including financial services and international trade.

A highlight of Joe's tenure at the White House was working with the Senate Republican leadership to develop the legislative strategy to ensure Senate passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. Joe also focused on building Senate support for the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) as well as working with the Senate on tariff and trade policy. During his three years at the White House, Joe managed the Senate confirmation process for senior members of the President's economic team, the Federal Reserve, key independent regulatory agencies, the Supreme Court and Cabinet members, including the current Secretary of Defense.

Prior to joining the White House, Joe served in the Senate for over a decade, most recently as legislative director and military legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS), current chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. While working for Senator Wicker, who is also a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Joe worked closely with the Pentagon and the military services, including the Air Force, Army and Navy. Joe helped lay the groundwork for Senator Wicker's successful efforts to expand the number of amphibious warships for the Navy and Marine Corps.

Joe also served as a policy advisor to U.S. Senators George Voinovich (R-OH) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE). In addition to his work on Capitol Hill, Joe led international trade and defense policy coordination for the Aerospace Industries Association. A native of Burlingame, CA, Joe received his Master of Arts from Yale University and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of California at Berkeley. He is fluent in Cantonese Chinese.



Maya M. Noronha

Principal Policy Advisor to the Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth, and Families
US Department of Health and Human Services

Maya M. Noronha is Principal Policy Advisor to Elizabeth Darling, Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Administration on Children Youth and Families handles Federal programs on adoption, foster care, adolescent pregnancy prevention, runaway and homeless youth, and family violence prevention services. She previously worked in the Office for Civil Rights within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, which enforces certain Federal civil rights in health care and human services, including laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, or nation origin in adoption and foster care.

Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2017, Maya practiced civil rights law, serving as outside counsel to Members of Congress, Governors, and State legislators. She also volunteered to provide free pro bono legal services on adoption and protection from child abuse and neglect. She is admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, District of Columbia, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She also had fellowships and internships in the White House, U.S. Senate,

U.S. House of Representatives, D.C. Superior Court, and for the Chief Judge of the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary.

Maya received her bachelor and law degrees from Georgetown University, where she had been elected the first Indian-American president of the Philodemic Debate Society. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, in the Alpha Phi Omega Honor Society, and a John Carroll Scholar. Forbes Magazine recognized Maya as one of its 30 under 30 in Law and Public Policy.



Joyce Yoon
Deputy White House Liaison
US Department of Transportation

Joyce Yoon is the Deputy White House Liaison at the U.S. Department of Transportation. Prior to joining the Department of Transportation, she worked at the U.S. Department of Labor as Communications Advisor in the Office of Public Affairs and Special Assistant in the Office of the Secretary, advising the Acting Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration. Ms. Yoon also worked in the U.S. House of Representatives for Congressman Tim Walberg (R-MI) and in the Michigan State Senate as a District Representative.

She graduated from Andrews University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and minor in Business Administration.



Ali Ahmad
Associate Director for Communications
U.S. Census Bureau

Ali Ahmad is the associate director for communications at the U.S. Census Bureau. He is responsible for leading the internal and external communications activities of the United States' largest statistical agency. This includes oversight of marketing, public affairs, congressional and intergovernmental affairs, partner engagement, and media relations.

The 2020 Census will not only be the largest civic engagement campaign in U.S. history, it will be the first decennial census with an online component open to all respondents. The Communications Directorate has a critical role in motivating self-response by deploying creative strategies to reach hard-to-count populations, recruiting national partners to help drive local outreach activity, protecting the Census Bureau's brand and public perception, and rapidly responding to questions and concerns from the American people.

Prior to joining the Census Bureau in 2018, Ahmad worked in several policy and communications positions at the federal, state, and local levels, and with a national trade association. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia, with a degree in economics and history.