

### **Kenneth Adams**

#### **President & CEO and Commissioner of New York State Department of Economic Development**

Kenneth Adams was confirmed by the Legislature as Empire State Development (ESD) President & CEO and Commissioner of the New York State Department of Economic Development on April 5, 2011. In these positions, Mr. Adams works to promote economic practices that attract business and create jobs throughout New York State. He also works closely with Lieutenant Governor Robert J. Duffy to implement the Regional Economic Development Councils across the state. Mr. Adams came to ESD from The Business Council of New York State, the state's leading business association, where he served as President and CEO since 2006. He led the organization in its mission of creating "economic growth, good jobs and strong communities across New York State." The Business Council represents nearly 2,500 member businesses, chambers of commerce and professional and trade associations, employing a total of more than one million New Yorkers. Prior to leading the Business Council, Mr. Adams was President of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and Director of the MetroTech Business Improvement District in Downtown Brooklyn. He was also the founding Executive Director of New York Cares, New York City's leading volunteer organization, from 1988 to 1994. Mr. Adams is a resident of Brooklyn, New York, where he lives with his wife and two children.

### **Irene M. Baker**

#### **Executive Vice President, Director of the Regional Councils for the Empire State Development (ESD)**

##### **Director of Cabinet Affairs in the Governor's Office.**

Irene Baker currently serves as the Statewide Director of the Regional Economic Development Councils for ESD and also serves as the Director of Cabinet Affairs in the Governor's Office. As Director of the Regional Councils at ESD, Ms Baker oversees the operation and processes of the 10 Regional Councils Statewide, created by Governor Cuomo. As Director of Cabinet Affairs, Ms. Baker serves as the liaison between the Governor's Office and the New York State Agency Commissioners. A magna *cum laude* graduate of St. John's University School of Law, Ms. Baker served as a judicial clerk to the Hon. Joseph M. McLaughlin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit; as litigation associate of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, LLC and as Chief of Staff to the President of Marsh & McLennan Companies Inc. Most recently, Ms. Baker served as Executive Counsel to Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo.

### **Thomas P. Brennan**

#### **Senior Vice President and Audit Director**

Thomas P. Brennan is Senior Vice President and Audit Director at Empire State Development (ESD). Mr. Brennan is a CPA with more than 30 years of audit experience, the last nine years in the public sector as ESD's Audit Director. Prior to joining the ESD, Mr. Brennan spent five years with Pannell Kerr Forster, CPA's, a mid-size CPA firm in NYC, eleven years at JPMorgan Chase, with seven of those years as Audit Vice President and 4 of those years as Audit Director of one of its new subsidiaries, five years at CrossLand Bank, as its Assistant Audit Director and three years at EAB as an Audit Manager. Mr. Brennan has an MBA in Finance from Hofstra University.

## **Joe Chan**

### **Executive Vice President, Business Development**

Joe Chan joined Empire State Development in October 2011 as Executive Vice President for Business Development where he is charged with business attraction, real estate development and several public/private projects in New York City. Prior to joining ESD, Joe served as the inaugural President of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, a local development corporation charged with growing Downtown Brooklyn as a 24/7 mixed-use community. He also served as a Senior Advisor to the New York City Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding, Director of Real Estate and Business Services at the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and Director of Economic Development for the Local Development Corporation of East New York. He also taught public school in the South Bronx as part of the Teach for America Program. Currently, Joe chairs the Board of Directors for the student enrichment program, Horizons at Brooklyn Friends School, and serves on the Board of Horizons National. He was a recipient of Crain's New York Business' "40 Under 40" award in 2008 and the 2009 Distinguished Alumni award from the NYU Wagner School of Public Service.

Joe is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of New York University's Metropolitan Studies Program and holds a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from NYU's Wagner School of Public Service. He lives in the Prospect Heights neighborhood of Brooklyn and has two daughters, Liv and Isela.

## **Harvey Cohen**

### **Vice President of Marketing**

Harvey Cohen has had a multi-faceted career in marketing, advertising and public affairs in government, non-profits and private industry. He formerly headed the I Love New York marketing campaign under Governor Mario Cuomo and he won numerous awards for creativity and effectiveness while he was a creative director at some of New York's top advertising agency. He also ran his own public affairs/marketing company representing many of New York's leading public figures and institutions.

## **Justin Ginsburgh**

### **Chief of Staff**

Justin Ginsburgh is Chief of Staff of Empire State Development. Prior to Empire State Development, Mr. Ginsburgh worked at Goldman Sachs in its Urban Investment Group, focusing exclusively on socially responsible investing in urban markets in the United States. Mr. Ginsburgh was also an Associate at the Boston Consulting Group and a Senior Project Manager at the New York City Economic Development Corporation, where he led projects on economic, real estate and infrastructure development policy. Mr. Ginsburgh holds a Bachelor of Arts with honors in history and economics from Northwestern University and a Masters of Business Administration from the Harvard Business School, where he graduated with high distinction and was elected a Baker Scholar. He is on the Board of Trustees for The Renaissance Charter School in Jackson Heights, Queens.

## **Sam Hoyt**

### **Regional President**

Sam Hoyt oversees efforts to recruit new business, as well as support existing business, for the Western region of New York State. Prior to joining Empire State Development, Mr. Hoyt served for almost 20 years as the Assembly representative for the 144th Assembly District located in Western New York. Mr. Hoyt's career in public service is marked by a commitment to community-centric change centering on four guiding goals: making state and local governments more efficient and accountable to taxpayers, revitalizing neighborhoods, increasing economic opportunity and developing waterfront. During his two decades in the Assembly, he served as Majority Whip and was a member of the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force. He also was a member of the following committees: Ways and Means; Transportation; Energy; Tourism, Arts and Sports Development; and Cities. Mr. Hoyt has also served as Western New York regional director for U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan and was marketing and promotions director for Buffalo Bisons Baseball. He currently serves as vice chair of the Buffalo and Fort Erie Peace Bridge Authority. Mr. Hoyt is a lifelong resident of Western New York and a graduate of the Park School and Buffalo State College. He lives in Buffalo with his wife of 22 years and their two sons.

## **Diana V. Lopez**

### **Executive Vice President Business Services**

Diana V. Lopez is Executive Vice President for Business Services at Empire State Development where she is responsible for our International and Tourism Divisions as well as our Office of Film and Television. Previously she was Senior Advisor to Assistant Secretary of State Jose W. Fernandez, Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and Senior Advisor to the Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs also at the State Department. Ms. Lopez has nearly 30 years of experience as a corporate lawyer, 17 years of which were at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP law firm in New York. Ms. Lopez developed the Latin America practice at Skadden and worked with numerous European clients representing a broad range of domestic and international clients — including purchasers, sellers, investors and financial advisors — in complex mergers, acquisitions, securities and other financing transactions. Prior to joining Skadden, Ms. Lopez was Associate General Counsel and Vice President for Sotheby's, Inc., a leading public international auction company for fine and decorative arts, a corporate associate at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP and a law clerk to The Honorable John E. Sprizzo, Southern District of New York.

Ms. Lopez earned a J.D. and M.S.F.S. from Georgetown University. She received her B.A. cum laude from Tufts University. Ms. Lopez is a native Spanish speaker and fluent in French.

Ms. Lopez is a resident of Brooklyn, New York, where she lives with her husband and three daughters.

### **Jen McCormick**

#### **Vice President of Policy & Research & Deputy Commissioner of Business Advocacy**

Jen McCormick is Vice President of Policy & Research and Deputy Commissioner of Business Advocacy at Empire State Development (ESD). She works on finding ways to increase economic prosperity for New Yorkers, by focusing on identifying and building on regional assets that lead to sustainable growth. Her division at ESD produces the demographic and economic analysis that contributes to the development and implementation of the State's economic development agenda. She has worked at the Office of the State Comptroller, the Senate Finance Committee, the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance, and the Fiscal Policy Institute. She has a BA in Social Justice from SUNY Empire State College and an MPA in Public Finance from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy.

### **James P. Rubin**

#### **Counselor on Competitiveness & International Affairs**

James P. Rubin is the Counselor for Competitiveness and International Affairs at the Empire State Development and has been nominated to be on the Board of Commissioners to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Mr. Rubin served under President Clinton as Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs and Chief Spokesman for the State Department from 1997 to May 2000. From 2000 to December 2008, Mr. Rubin worked in London as a broadcaster, professor, commentator and financial communications strategist. From 2008 to 2010, Mr. Rubin was adjunct professor of international affairs at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. From January to September 2011, he served as Executive Editor of Bloomberg View, the opinion section of Bloomberg News.

### **Austin Shafran**

#### **Vice President of Public Affairs**

In July 2011, Mr. Austin Shafran was appointed Vice President of Public Affairs for Empire State Development (ESD), where he manages the full scope of the agency's communication with the media and public, including its message development and communications operations. Mr. Shafran also serves as the agency's primary spokesperson, and senior adviser to President, CEO & Commissioner Kenneth Adams. Before joining ESD, Mr. Shafran spent three years as Press Secretary for the Senate Democratic Conference, where he managed their statewide press operations and served as chief spokesperson. Prior to his work for the Senate Democrats, Mr. Shafran worked in various capacities in governmental offices on the federal, city and state levels, and as a media specialist for a private sector consulting firm.

### **Frances A. Walton**

#### **Chief Financial and Administrative Officer**

Frances A. Walton is the Chief Financial and Administrative Officer of Empire State Development (ESD). She is responsible for Treasury, Budgeting, Accounting, Portfolio Management, Contract Administration/Subsidiary Finance, Loans & Grants, Project Finance, Administration, Management Information System and Human Resources. Prior to joining ESD, she served as Senior Vice President and Director of Mortgage Insurance Fund at the State of

New York Mortgage Agency wherein she directed the operation of the Mortgage Insurance Fund. Previous to that, Ms. Walton managed new business development and municipal banking activities covering the State of New York and other key markets for Chemical Securities; which followed her service as Director of Public Finance for Lebenthal & Co., Inc. From 1982 to 1992, Ms. Walton served in various management positions with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, subsequent to holding the position of Associate with Faulhaber & Company, a Boston-based management consulting and financial advisory firm. Ms. Walton received a Bachelor of Arts from Bard College and Masters in Public Administration from Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

**Kevin Younis**

**Senior Vice President Government Affairs**

Kevin Younis currently serves as the Deputy Commissioner & Senior Vice President of Governmental Affairs for Empire State Development and is the Regional President of the Capital, Mohawk Valley, and North Country regional offices. In these roles, Kevin works to promote the State's long-term economic development goals and objectives. Prior to joining ESD, Kevin was Director of Public Policy for the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) and also worked in the New York State Assembly from 1997 to 2002. Previous to his work in government, Kevin taught English in Taiwan and worked with a youth public service program in Syracuse.

He has a BA in History from SUNY Cortland, as well as a MPA from Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy.

Kevin is originally from Syracuse and is a lifelong resident of New York State.