

CHAIRMAN CHESTER HARDING

TERM: MARCH 10, 1913 – OCTOBER 31, 1914

As the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners, Lt. Col. Chester Harding was sworn in as a Commissioner of the District of Columbia Public Utilities Commission on March 10, 1913 by President Woodrow Wilson. Commissioner Harding took the constitutional oath of office alongside Cuno H. Rudolph. Harding served as the first Chairman of the Commission, and he held the position until 1914.

Chester Harding was born in Enterprise, MS on December 31, 1866. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1884 with a Bachelor's degree in Engineering. He subsequently graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1889. He was then commissioned in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was appointed Division Engineer of Gatun Locks Division in 1907, and as the Panama Canal Maintenance Engineer in 1915. He served as Governor General of the Panama Canal Zone from January 1917 to 1921, and later retired with the rank of Lieutenant General.

Chairman Harding passed away on November 11, 1936 at the age of 69. At the time of his death, he was remembered in the District of Columbia as a skilled engineer and for his honorable service in the United States Army.



*First
Chairman*

December 31, 1866

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November 11, 1936

COMMISSIONER CUNO H. RUDOLPH

TERM: MARCH 10, 1913 – JULY 19, 1913

As a member of the DC Board of Commissioners, Cuno H. Rudolph was sworn in as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia on March 10, 1913. by Woodrow Wilson. He remained in this position until July 19, 1913, and he later held the same position from March 15, 1921 to December 3, 1927 when he was asked to return from retirement by then President Warren Harding.

Mr. Rudolph was a native of Baltimore, MD where he was educated in private schools and business college. He came to Washington in 1899 and engaged in the hardware business until 1906, during which time he served as President of the hardware firm of Rudolph & West. From 1901 to 1913, he was Vice President of the National Metropolitan Bank. Later, he became Vice President of the Second National Bank. He remained on the Board of Directors until his death.

Commissioner Rudolph passed away on January 6, 1932. At the time of his death, he was prominently identified and remembered in the District of Columbia as a successful banker, businessman, and avid civic leader.





COMMISSIONER OLIVER P. NEWMAN

TERM: JULY 19, 1913 – AUGUST 31, 1917

As a member of the DC Board of Commissioners, Oliver P. Newman served as Commissioner of the District of Columbia Public Utilities Commission from July, 1913 until August, 1917. President Woodrow Wilson swore him in alongside Frederick Siddons on July 19, 1913.

Mr. Newman was born on February 1, 1882 in Nebraska. His career as a reporter with United Press afforded him the opportunity to cover President Wilson's campaign in 1912, and he also traveled with him to Bermuda prior to his presidential inauguration. After leaving his post with the Commission in 1917 to go into the Army, he served as a Major in France and as an aide to President Wilson during the Paris Peace Conference. Mr. Newman also worked as an assistant during the Roosevelt presidential campaign, and was eventually appointed administrator of the foreign debt of the Dominican Republic. For this work, then Dominican Republic President Trujillo awarded him the order of Merit of Juan Pablo Duarte, the Republic's highest honor. Mr. Newman remained fervent in his work concerning politics in the U.S. and Dominican Republic, campaigning for public health and housing issues in the District and continuing to act as a financial advisor to the Republic until his death.

February 1, 1882

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June 3, 1958

Commissioner Newman passed away on June 3, 1958, in Miami, FL.



COMMISSIONER FREDERICK L. SIDDONS

TERM: JULY 19, 1913 – JANUARY 20, 1915

As a member of the DC Board of Commissioners, Frederick L. Siddons was sworn in by President Woodrow Wilson as a Commissioner of the District of Columbia Public Utilities Commission on July 19, 1913, and he served in that capacity until January 20, 1915. He was sworn in alongside Oliver P. Newman.

Mr. Siddons was a native of England, but his parents were U.S. citizens. He became a resident of Washington, D.C. in 1878, and received a Bachelor's degree from Columbia University in 1887. He also received a Master's degree in Law from the same institution in 1888, and became a member of the D.C. Bar Association the next year. Thereafter, he began working as a lawyer for the U.S. Department of Treasury, and eventually started a private practice in the District. Beginning in 1898, he also worked as a Professor of Law at National University. He was a member of the Commission on Uniform State Laws for the District of Columbia, and in 1913 was named a Commissioner for the District. In December of 1914, Siddons was nominated by President Wilson to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Siddons was confirmed by the Senate on January 15, 1915, and retained his seat until the time of his death.

January 1, 1878 (Exact Date Unknown)

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June 19, 1931

Justice Siddons passed away suddenly on June 19, 1931.



CHAIRMAN CHARLES W. KUTZ

TERM: OCTOBER 31, 1914 – JULY 16, 1917

As the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners, Brig. Gen. Charles Willauer Kutz served as Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia from October 31, 1914 until July 16, 1917. President Woodrow Wilson administered the constitutional oath of office.

Charles W. Kutz was born in 1866 in Reading, PA and graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1893. He then served in the U.S. Army at various posts in and out of the country. First assigned to the Board of Commissioners in the District in 1914, Mr. Kutz served until 1917 when he was sent to France to command an Army Engineer regiment in World War I. At the end of the war, he briefly commanded Fort Humphreys (now Fort Belvoir) in Fairfax County, and then he was reassigned to the District Building in December, 1918. It was during this time that he was named the first Chairman of the District Zoning Commission, that was created in 1920. He also returned from retirement in 1941 to serve as the Engineer Commissioner of the District.

January 1, 1866 (Exact Date Unknown)

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January 25, 1951

Brig. Gen. Charles W. Kutz died on January 25, 1951 at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, after an illness of several months. At the time of his death, Mr. Kutz was notably remembered in the District for leading the zoning of the city while he was Chairman of the Zoning Commission and for his honorable service in the United States Army.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIRMAN

LOUIS BROWNLOW

TERM: JANUARY 26, 1915 – SEPTEMBER 15, 1920

As a member of the DC Board of Commissioners, Louis Brownlow served as Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia from January 26, 1915 until September 15, 1920. President Woodrow Wilson administered the oath of office. In July of 1917, Commissioner Brownlow was named Chairman of the Commission upon the departure of Chairman Kutz. Louis Brownlow remained Chairman until the end of 1918 after Mr. Kutz returned on December 16, 1918. Thus, Mr. Brownlow did not remain Chairman until his term ended on September 15, 1920.

Mr. Brownlow was born on August 29, 1879 in Buffalo, MO. Illness throughout his childhood kept him out of school, so he was educated at home by his schoolteacher parents. Louis began his career at the age of 14 as an editor of a countryside weekly newspaper. In 1900, he was hired by the Nashville Banner, wrote for the Louisville Courier-Journal in 1902, and was hired as city editor of the Louisville Times the next year at age 23. He continued to advance in his career from 1906-1915, working as a political writer and a foreign correspondent. After completing his term with the Public Utilities Commission and having excelled without formal education, he received Honorary Doctor of Law degrees from American University in 1938 and Syracuse University in 1958.

Mr. Brownlow died in Arlington, VA in September 1963 after delivering a speech at the Army Navy Country Club. In 1968, the National Academy of Public Administration created the Louis Brownlow Book Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the literature of public administration.



August, 29, 1879

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September 1, 1963



COMMISSIONER JOHN GEORGE DAVID KNIGHT

TERM: JULY 16, 1917 – DECEMBER 16, 1918

As the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners, Brig. Gen. John George David Knight served as Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission in the District of Columbia from July 16, 1917 until December 16, 1918. He was sworn in by President Woodrow Wilson.

John George David Knight was born in London, England on January 24, 1846. He attended the Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 1868. After entering the U.S. Army and advancing to the rank of General, he was named Chief of Staff to General Wood in the Philippines, and was promoted to Brigadier General in 1909. Shortly after that, he retired from the Army by operation of law. He then continued his career in the District, joining the Board of Commissioners in 1917.

January 24, 1846

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June 9, 1919

Brig. Gen. John George David Knight passed away on June 9, 1919, leaving behind a widow and two daughters.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM G. GARDINER

TERM: OCTOBER 9, 1917 – NOVEMBER 22, 1919

As a member of the DC Board of Commissioners, William Gwynn Gardiner, also known as W. Gwynn Gardiner, served as Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia from October 9, 1917 until November 22, 1919. He was appointed to both positions by President Woodrow Wilson.

Mr. Gardiner was born in Washington, D.C. in September 1875. He worked as a lawyer, and at the time of his death was believed to be the oldest practicing lawyer in the city. He served as a Commissioner for 2 years before returning to his law practice. He lived in the city until 1930 and then moved to a Maryland farm that had been in his family for 350 years. However, he actively practiced law in Washington until a few weeks before his death.

W. Gwynn Gardiner passed away on August 11, 1970. Mr. Gardiner was a member of the American Bar Association, the District Bar Association, and the Knights of Columbus.

September 1, 1875

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August 11, 1970





CHAIRMAN CHARLES W. KUTZ

TERM: DECEMBER 16, 1918 – OCTOBER 5, 1921

Returning to his position as a the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners after his service in World War I, Brig. Gen. Charles W. Kutz rejoined the PUC on December 16, 1918 and he served as Chairman of the PUC from January 1, 1919 until October 5, 1921. This was his second appointment to the Commission. President Woodrow Wilson administered the constitutional oath of office.

Charles W. Kutz was born in 1866 in Reading, PA and graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1893. He then served in the U.S. Army at various posts in and out of the country. First assigned to the Board of Commissioners in the District in 1914, Mr. Kutz served until 1917 when he was sent to France to command an Army Engineer regiment. At the end of the war, he briefly commanded Fort Humphreys (now Fort Belvoir) in Fairfax County, and then was reassigned to the District Building in December, 1918. It was during this time that he was named the first Chairman of the District Zoning Commission, created in 1920. He also returned from retirement in 1941 to serve as the Engineer Commissioner of the District.

January 1, 1866 (Exact Date Unknown)

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January 25, 1951

Brig. Gen. Charles W. Kutz died on January 25, 1951 at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, after an illness of several months. Mr. Kutz is notably remembered in the District for leading the zoning the city while he was Chairman of the Zoning Commission and for his honorable service in the United States Army.

COMMISSIONER JOHN T. HENDRICK

TERM: SEPTEMBER 17, 1920 – MARCH 4, 1921



November 12, 1876

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Date of Death Unknown

As a member of the DC Board of Commissioners, John Thilman Hendrick served as Commissioner of the District of Columbia Public Service Commission from September 17, 1920 until March 4, 1921. He was appointed to both positions by President Woodrow Wilson.

Commissioner Hendrick was born in Clarksville, TN on November 12, 1876. There is no biographical information available regarding his education or career, however he resided in the District for 27 years prior to being appointed to the D.C. Board of Commissioners. In an article in The Washington Post, dated September 15, 1920, he was described as being “eminently qualified” to fill the office for which he has been selected by his business experience and by his intimate knowledge of the needs of the community. The selection of Mr. Hendrick by President Wilson conformed to the bipartisan rule in appointing 2 civil Commissioners, with Hendrick being a Democrat and his counterpart, Mable Boardman, being a Republican.

At the time of his death, Mr. Hendrick was remembered for being a reasonable and competent administrator of municipal affairs during his term on the Board of DC Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER MABEL T. BOARDMAN

TERM: SEPTEMBER 25, 1920 – MARCH 4, 1921



*First Female
Commissioner*

October 12, 1860

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March 17, 1946

As a member of the DC Board of Commissioners, Mabel Thorp Boardman served as the first female Commissioner of the District of Columbia Public Utilities Commission from September 25, 1920 until March 4, 1921. President Woodrow Wilson appointed her to both positions.

Mabel Thorp Boardman was born into a very affluent family on October 12, 1860. Her mother, Florence Sheffield, was the granddaughter of Joseph Earl Sheffield, who was a major benefactor of Yale University. The family moved from Ohio to Washington, D.C. in 1887. As a socialite, she devoted her time to many philanthropies. During the Spanish-American War in 1898 she was active in recruiting nurses. In 1901, she was elected to the Executive Board of the American Red Cross and subsequently led the faction that ousted Clara Barton from the presidency of the organization in 1904. After her time on the D.C. Board of Commissioners, Ms. Boardman served as the Director of the Red Cross's Volunteer Service and oversaw its considerable expansion.

Mabel Thorp Boardman passed away on March 17, 1946. She is buried at the Washington National Cathedral, and in 1958 had a bay named in her honor at the Cathedral, called "Boardman Bay".

COMMISSIONER CUNO H. RUDOLPH

TERM: MARCH 15, 1921 – DECEMBER 3, 1927



Cuno H. Rudolph served a second term as a member of the DC Board of Commissioners and hence also as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia from March 15, 1921 to December 3, 1927 after President Warren Harding asked him to return from retirement.

Mr. Rudolph was a native of Baltimore, MD where he was educated in private schools and business college. He came to Washington in 1899 and engaged in the hardware business until 1906, during which time he served as President of the hardware firm of Rudolph & West. From 1901 to 1913, he was Vice President of the National Metropolitan Bank. Later, he became Vice President of the Second National Bank, and remained on the Board of Directors until his death.

Commissioner Rudolph passed away on January 6, 1932. at the time of his death, he was prominently identified and remembered in the District of Columbia as a successful banker, businessman, and avid civic leader.

CHAIRMAN CHARLES KELLER

TERM: OCTOBER 6, 1921 – APRIL 11, 1923



LIFESPAN
UNKNOWN

As an officer in the Army Corps of Engineers, President Warren Harding appointed Lieutenant Colonel Charles Keller as the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners and as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served as Chairman of the PUC from October 6, 1921 until April 11, 1923

We have been unable to locate biographical information for Chairman Keller.

COMMISSIONER JAMES F. OYSTER, SR.

TERM: MARCH 15, 1921 – MAY 19, 1925



February 14, 1851

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May 19, 1925

President Warren Harding appointed James F. Oyster to serve as a member of the DC Board of Commissioners and Commissioner of the District of Columbia Public Utilities Commission on March 15, 1921 and he served in both positions until May 19, 1925.

James Oyster, a native Washingtonian, was born on February 14, 1851. A dealer in butter, eggs, and cheese for the early part of his career, he dutifully attended to the needs of the residents of the District in one way or another, sometimes without compensation. Before being appointed to the DC Board of Commissioners, he served as President of the Board of Education, as member of the Federal Reserve Board for the twelfth district, and as Chairman of the Rent Commission. Throughout 50 years of devotion to the interests of the District of Columbia, he became thoroughly acquainted with the governance of the municipality, and he contributed good counsel to the solution of many problems.

Commissioner Oyster passed away on May 19, 1925, while still holding his post with the Board of Commissioners and the Public Utilities Commission. The office of District Commissioner was difficult to discharge to the satisfaction of the public, however, at the time of his death, Mr. Oyster was remembered for winning and holding public confidence to a remarkable degree.



July, 1875 (Exact Date Unknown)

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October, 1971 (Exact Date Unknown)

CHAIRMAN JAMES F. BELL

TERM: JUNE 25, 1923 – JUNE 23, 1927

President Warren Harding appointed James Franklin Bell as the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners, and as such, also as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. Col. Bell served as the Chairman of the District of Columbia Public Utilities Commission from June 25, 1923 until June 23, 1927.

Col. Bell was born in Amity, PA in July of 1875. He graduated in 1898 from Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, PA, and in 1902 from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. After graduating from West Point, He served in the Army from 1902 until 1923, when he joined the D.C. Board of Commissioners. He served as a lighthouse engineer in the Philippines, built levees on the Mississippi, served in France during World War 1, and eventually rose to head the Army Corps of Engineers.

Col. James Franklin Bell passed away in October of 1971. At the time of his death, he was remembered as a Commissioner who was courteous, fair-minded, and impartial.



COMMISSIONER FREDERICK A. FENNING

TERM: JUNE 5, 1925 – AUGUST 2, 1926

President Calvin Coolidge appointed Frederick Alexander Fenning as a member of the DC Board of Commissioners and thus also as a Commissioner of the District of Columbia Public Utilities Commission. Commissioner Fenning served from June 5, 1925 until his resignation on August 2, 1926.

There is no biographical information available for Commissioner Fenning, however, he was unfortunately asked to resign from his post as a member of the DC Board of Commissioners due to severe infractions during his term. The House Subcommittee on the District of Columbia issued a report in 1926 rigorously criticizing Mr. Fenning and stating that his continuance in office as a member of the D.C. Board of Commissioners was incompatible with the best interests of the District.

1874-1944 (Exact Dates Unknown)

COMMISSIONER SIDNEY F. TALIAFERRO

TERM: DECEMBER 11, 1925 – MARCH 7, 1927



March 4, 1875

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June 21, 1971

President Calvin Coolidge appointed Sidney F. Taliaferro to serve as a member of the DC Board of Commissioners and to be a Commissioner of the District of Columbia Public Service Commission. He served from December 11, 1925 until March 7, 1927.

Commissioner Taliaferro was born on March 4, 1875 in Salem, VA. He began working at the age of 13 for the Norfolk and Western Railroad, as an office assistant. In October of 1899, Mr. Taliaferro moved to Washington, D.C. with his family and worked for more than 11 years for the Frank H. Thomas Insurance Co., as a secretary. In 1913, he graduated from Georgetown University Law School with a Master's degree in patent law, having received his Bachelor's degree there as well. He worked as a lawyer for the next 13 years before joining the DC Board of Commissioners. After leaving the Public Utilities Commission in 1927, Mr. Taliaferro worked as a director of the Washington Gas Light Company for 22 years, and also as a vice president of Riggs National Bank for some time.

Sidney F. Taliaferro passed away on June 21, 1971. He enjoyed a robust career and left behind a legacy of steadfast commitment to the District of Columbia.



*January 1, 1875 (Exact
Date Unknown*

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December 30, 1923

COMMISSIONER PROCTOR L. DOUGHERTY

TERM: AUGUST 4, 1926 – MARCH 7, 1927

President Calvin Coolidge appointed Proctor L. Dougherty to serve as a member of the DC Board of Commissioners and as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from August 4, 1926 until March 7, 1927.

Proctor L. Dougherty was born in Dorchester, MA in 1875. In 1897, Mr. Dougherty received a degree in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He began his career shortly thereafter, working for District government as an architect and later for Otis Elevator Company. After the conclusion of his tenure with the Public Utilities Commission, Mr. Dougherty went on to become President of the D.C. Commission of Licensure in 1929 and the next year he was appointed director of the Eyesight Conservation Council. From 1943 until his retirement in 1958, he was a consulting engineer for a number of companies, representing them before the District government.

Proctor L. Dougherty passed away on December 30, 1923. The Young Members Society of the nation's capital, an organization created by Dougherty in 1903 under the direction of the Washington Society of MIT, changed their name to the Proctor Dougherty Society in 1989 in his honor.



*First PUC Commissioner not
on the D.C. Board of
Commissioners*

February 16, 1879

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June 20, 1963

CHAIRMAN

JOHN W. CHILDRESS

TERM: JUNE 23, 1927 – MAY 31, 1929

The reorganization of the PUC in 1926 enabled it to have two Commissioners who were separate from the members of the DC Board of Commissioners, President Calvin Coolidge appointed John W. Childress as Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia, and he served as Chairman from June 23, 1927 until May 31, 1929. Chairman Childress was the first PUC Commissioner who was not a member of the DC Board of Commissioners.

John W. Childress was born on February 16, 1879. He attended Princeton University in the early 1900s, but ultimately dropped out of school after his sophomore year so that he could get a job and help his ill father with the household finances. He eventually bought and operated a pump and valve factory in Alexandria, VA. Due to his lack of experience in the utility arena, Mr. Childress was not a popular candidate for the role of DC PUC Commissioner. However, national influence strongly initiated by Harley P. Wilson, the North American Co. representative at the time, ultimately secured his appointment to the role.

John W. Childress passed away on June 20, 1963.

COMMISSIONER HARRISON BRAND, JR.

TERM: MARCH 7, 1927 – JULY 21, 1930



August 24, 1891

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October 7, 1970

Col. Harrison Brand, Jr. served as a member of the DC Board of Commissioners and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of the District of Columbia from March 7, 1927 until July 21, 1930. President Calvin Coolidge appointed him to both positions after the reorganization of the PUC in 1926.

Harrison Brand, Jr. was born on August 24, 1891 in Ilion, NY. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy and entered the United States Army in 1909. Rising to the rank of Colonel during his service, he held a gold medal and certificate of merit and also served with the Army Corps of Engineers during World War I. After his time on the DC Board of Commissioners, Col. Brand, Jr. was employed by the Works Progress Administration in New York, and at the Washington Board of Trade when he returned to D.C. in 1939. He later worked for the Aerospace Industries Association of America, serving as its executive secretary, vice president, and general manager over a twenty year period when he retired in 1961.

Col. Harrison Brand, Jr. died from a heart attack on October 7, 1970. He is buried at Arlington National Memorial Cemetery.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM B. LADUE

TERM: JUNE 23, 1927 – JULY 21, 1930



November 26, 1868

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October 21, 1954

President Calvin Coolidge appointed Col. William B. Ladue as the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners and as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia, and he served both positions from June 23, 1927 until July 21, 1930.

Colonel Ladue was born in Adrian, MI on November 26, 1868. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1889, and was appointed to West Point in 1890 where he graduated first in his class in 1894. He was later commissioned in the U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers, becoming a full colonel in 1920. In 1924, he went from Panama to New York as district engineer there and came to Washington, D.C. to join the Board of Commissioners in 1927. Many improvements to the city were noted during Commissioner Ladue's term and he was often described as a Commissioner upon whom consumers could depend on as their champion.

Colonel William B. Ladue passed away on October 21, 1954 at the age of 85. Colonel Ladue compiled a record of achievements in Washington, D.C. during his career, and he was remembered dearly by residents of the District at the time of his death.

A black and white portrait of Harleigh H. Hartman, a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a suit and tie. The portrait is circular and set against a dark background.

COMMISSIONER HARLEIGH H. HARTMAN

TERM: MAY 31, 1929 – DECEMBER 15, 1931

President Herbert Hoover appointed Harleigh H. Hartman to serve as Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from May 31, 1929 until December 15, 1931.

Unable to locate biographical information for Commissioner Hartman.

*LIFESPAN
UNKNOWN*



December 13, 1863

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January 29, 1942

CHAIRMAN MASON M. PATRICK

TERM: JUNE 1, 1929 – SEPTEMBER 30, 1933

Maj. Gen. Mason M. Patrick served as Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia from June 1, 1929 until September 30, 1933. President Herbert Hoover appointed him to this position after his retirement from the U.S. Army.

Mason M. Patrick was born on December 13, 1863 in Lewisburg, WV. He graduated from the Military Academy at West Point in 1886, and received a degree in engineering in 1889. He worked as a member of the faculty at West Point beginning in 1892, and eventually reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1910. He served in World War 1 from 1917 until 1920, and was appointed Chief of the Air Service in 1921 with the permanent rank of Major General. He served in the Air Service until it was reorganized as the Air Corps in July of 1926, and retired from the Army in December of 1927. He remained in Washington, D.C. as an adviser to Presidents Herbert Hoover until he joined the D.C. Board of Commissioners in 1929.

Maj. Gen. Mason M. Patrick passed away on January 29, 1942 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on January 31, 1942.

COMMISSIONER JOHN C. GOTWALS

TERM: JULY 21, 1930 – AUGUST 22, 1934



November 4, 1884

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*January 1, 1946 (Exact Date
Unknown)*

Maj. John C. Gotwals served as Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia from July 21, 1930 until August 22, 1934. President Herbert Hoover also appointed him to be the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners.

John C. Gotwals was born on November 4, 1884 in Pennsylvania. He graduated from Pennsylvania State College in 1913, and was commissioned into the U.S. Army as an officer of the engineering corps. In 1917, he was ordered to France, where he served with such distinction that he merited the award of the Distinguished Service Medal in 1918, "for exceptional meritorious service". Prior to joining the Public Utilities Commission in 1930, Maj. Gotwals served as President of the Board of Road Commissioners of Alaska.

Maj. Gotwals passed away in 1946, however, the exact date is unknown. At the time of his death, he was remembered in the District for rendering conspicuous service to a position of great responsibility and for a remarkable career in the United States Army.

COMMISSIONER / CHAIRMAN

RILEY E. ELGEN

TERM: JANUARY 20, 1932 – FEBRUARY 28, 1941



January 21, 1880

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February 28, 1941

President Herbert Hoover appointed Riley E. Elgen to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He began his term on January 20, 1932 and he became Chairman on May 4, 1934. He remained as Chairman until February 28, 1941 after President Franklin D. Roosevelt reappointed him at the conclusion of his first term.

Commissioner Riley E. Elgen was born on January 21, 1880 in West Falls, MD. He was educated in the Maryland public school system, and he graduated from St. John's College in 1903. After graduation, he worked as an engineer in the railroad industry until 1916 for the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the Birmingham & Atlantic Railway systems. From 1916 until joining the Public Utilities Commission in 1932, he was associated with the Interstate Commerce Commission as a valuation engineer.

Commissioner Elgen's service with the PUC ended abruptly when he passed away on February 28, 1941.

COMMISSIONER RICHMOND B. KEECH

TERM: MAY 2, 1934 – OCTOBER 31, 1940



November 28, 1896

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April 13, 1986

Richmond B. Keech served as Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia from May 2, 1934 until October 31, 1940. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to the Commission.

A native Washingtonian, Mr. Keech was born on November 28, 1896. He received an LL.B. from Georgetown University Law School in 1922 and an LL.M. from the same institution in 1923. He was in private practice from 1922 to 1925, and he worked as Assistant Corporation Counsel in Washington, D.C. from 1925 to 1930. He was a Professor of law at National University in 1930 and he then moved on to serve as People's Counsel of the District of Columbia from 1930 to 1934. When he left the Public Utilities Commission in 1940, Commissioner Keech returned to private practice. After a short stint as an Administrative Assistant to President Roosevelt from 1945-1946, he was appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia as a Judge. In 1966, he was named Chief Justice, and served in that capacity until the time of his death.

Justice Richmond B. Keech passed away on April 13, 1986.



December 9, 1885

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January 14, 1947

COMMISSIONER DANIEL I. SULTAN

TERM: AUGUST 22, 1934 – SEPTEMBER 5, 1938

President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed General Daniel I. Sultan to serve as the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners and hence to also serve as the Engineer Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served both positions from August 22, 1934 until September 5, 1938.

Daniel I. Sultan was born on December 9, 1885 in Oxford, MS. He attended the University of Mississippi when he began his college career, but later transferred to the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1907. At that time he was commissioned in the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers. He remained on active duty in the Army from 1907 to 1934, when he joined the Public Utilities Commission. After leaving the Commission, Sultan served in World War II, and was promoted to Brigadier General during that time. In 1944, Sultan was promoted to Lieutenant General, and later became Inspector General of the Army in 1945.

General Sultan passed away on January 14, 1947, while still on active duty. The United States Navy transport ship, *USNS General Daniel I. Sultan*, is named in his honor.



January 27, 1887

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December 15, 1951

COMMISSIONER DAVID MCCOACH, JR.

TERM: SEPTEMBER 7, 1938 – MAY 15, 1941

President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed General David McCoach, Jr. to serve as the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners and as such also as Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served both positions from September 7, 1938 until May 15, 1941.

David McCoach, Jr. was born on January 27, 1887 in Philadelphia, PA. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, and was assigned to the Isthman Canal Commission during construction of the Panama Canal in 1904. He served during World Wars I and II, as chief Army Engineer of Allied Forces and in the Mediterranean. After leaving the Public Utilities Commission in 1941, General McCoach returned to active duty for a short time, and later retired from the Army in 1946.

General David McCoach, Jr. passed away on December 15, 1951. Major traffic engineering projects in the District, such as the Thomas and Scott Circle underpasses, were credited to General McCoach's term with the Commission.



January 1, 1866
(Exact Date Unknown)

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January 25, 1951

COMMISSIONER CHARLES W. KUTZ

TERM: MAY 20, 1941 – SEPTEMBER 24, 1945

Brig. Gen. Charles W. Kutz, who served as Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia from October 31, 1914 until July 16, 1917, and Commissioner from December 16, 1918 until October 5, 1921, also served as Commissioner from May 20, 1941 until September 24, 1945. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to his third tenure at the Commission as the Engineer Commissioner.

Charles W. Kutz was born in 1866 in Reading, PA and graduated from West Point Military Academy in 1893. He then served in the U.S. Army at various posts in and out of the country. First assigned to the DC Board of Commissioners in 1914, Mr. Kutz served until 1917 when he was sent to France to command an Army Engineer regiment. At the end of the war, he briefly commanded Fort Humphreys (now Fort Belvoir) in Fairfax County, and then he was reassigned to the District Building in December, 1918. It was during this time that he was named the first Chairman of the District Zoning Commission, created in 1920. He also returned from retirement in 1941 to serve as an Engineer Commissioner of the District.

Brig. Gen. Charles W. Kutz died on January 25, 1951 at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, after an illness of several months. At the time of his death, he was notably remembered in the District for leading the zoning of the city while he was Chairman of the Zoning Commission, and for his honorable service in the United States Army.

CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONER

GREGORY HANKIN

TERM: NOVEMBER 8, 1941 – JUNE 30, 1944



Birth Date Unknown

~

December 3, 1970

President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Gregory Hankin to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served as Chairman of the PUC from November 8, 1941 through all of 1943. Between January 1, 1944 through June 30, 1944 he remained a Commissioner.

A native of Russia, Commissioner Hankin left his native Ukraine as a child and spent most of his youth in New York City. After graduating from the public schools there, he received law degrees from the College of the City of New York, Harvard University, and George Washington University. He taught at George Washington University from 1920 until 1924, and held legal posts with the Federal Trade Commission, Department of Justice and Bureau of Internal Revenue from 1924 until 1928. He worked in private practice for a while until he joined the Public Utilities Commission in 1941. After leaving the Commission, he held various legal positions in the private and public employment sectors of the District until he retired in 1962.

Gregory Hankin passed away on December 3, 1970. He had been a member of the American Law Institute, American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, and an active member of the Harvard Club of Washington.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIRMAN

JAMES FLANAGAN

TERM: FEBRUARY 21, 1942 – FEBRUARY 28, 1953



*Longest Serving
Chairman*

Birth Date Unknown

~

January 8, 1974

President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed James H. Flanagan to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served as a Commissioner for the first 6 months of his term. On August 31, 1942, he became the Chairman and he remained in that role for 11 years or until February 28, 1953. To date, he is the longest serving Chairman in the history of the Commission.

Chairman Flanagan was born in Newtown, MA, and graduated from the Newtown Technical High School. From 1920 until 1922, he studied at the Georgetown Foreign Service School. He left to pursue governmental and private employment that included periods in Persia (now Iran) and Brazil from 1922 until 1926. He then returned to the US and worked as an auditor in New York, and found his way back to Brazil in 1933 to work for a utility company. By 1935, he joined the US Securities and Exchange Commission and remained there until he was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission in 1942. President Harry Truman reappointed Chairman Flanagan twice. After leaving the PUC, he later worked for Capital Transit and D.C. Transit, and he retired from active work in 1965.

James H. Flanagan passed away on January 8, 1974.



Birth Date Unknown

~

October 5, 1970

COMMISSIONER

JAMES F. REILLY

TERM: JULY 24, 1944 – SEPTEMBER 30, 1945

President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed James Francis Reilly as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia from July 24, 1944 until September 30, 1945.

A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Commissioner Reilly grew up there and in Washington, D.C. He attended Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsburg, MD, and earned his law degree from the Columbus University Law School, which now is part of Catholic University. He was in private practice briefly in the late 1930's. From 1938 to 1940, he was an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the D.C. government. He later worked for the Civil Aeronautics Board from 1940 to 1944, before joining the Public Utilities Commission. Commissioner Reilly continued a career in law and politics after he left the Commission, and retired in 1978.

James Francis Reilly passed away on October 5, 1970. In his private practice, Mr. Reilly's major clients included United Airlines and the Potomac Electric Power Company.



Birth Date Unknown

~

May 25, 1963

COMMISSIONER GORDON R. YOUNG

TERM: SEPTEMBER 25, 1945 – MAY 31, 1951

President Harry S. Truman appointed General Gordon R. Young as the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners and as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served in both positions from September 25, 1945 until May 31, 1951.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, General Young traveled frequently with his military family. Much of his childhood was spent in Washington, D.C., but he entered West Point from Montana, and graduated in 1913. He served in the United States Army Corps. of Engineers during World Wars I and II, before being appointed to the District's Board of Commissioners by President Truman in 1945. His retirement from the Board in 1951 coincided with the formal conclusion of his Army career.

General Gordon R. Young passed away on May 25, 1963. At the time of his death, it was noted that he had completed more than twenty million dollars worth of major highway projects in the District during his time as a DC Commissioner.



LIFESPAN
UNKNOWN

COMMISSIONER JAMES. W. LAUDERDALE

TERM: OCTOBER 25, 1946 – NOVEMBER 30, 1949

President Harry S. Truman appointed James W. Lauderdale to be Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from October 25, 1946 until November 30, 1949.

A native Washingtonian, and a Page in the Senate during his high school days, Commissioner Lauderdale graduated from the National University Law School, where he received his degree in 1930. He was admitted to the District bar the following year. After a short time in the real estate business, he practiced law for three years and then was appointed Assistant Corporation Counsel in 1934. He served in that capacity for 10 years until President Roosevelt appointed him to be People's Counsel in 1944. In 1946, President Truman appointed him to replace James Francis Reilly, who had resigned. He was reappointed the following year to a full three-year term, from which he resigned early, in November of 1949.

The exact date of James Lauderdale's death is unknown.



Birth Date Unknown

~

January 12, 1974

COMMISSIONER/CHAIRMAN KENNETH W. SPENCER

TERM: MARCH 25, 1950 – MAY 31, 1953

President Harry S. Truman appointed Kenneth W. Spencer to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served as Commissioner from March 25, 1950 until January 31, 1953. He served as Chairman from February 1, 1953 to May 23, 1953. He left the PUC on May 31, 1953.

Commissioner Spencer was born in Zanesville, OH. He received a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan, and later served with the Union Railroad and the President's Conference Committee of Valuation. He worked during those years as an Assistant Engineer, coordinating and assisting in valuation matter before the Interstate Commerce Commission. He later worked for the Southern Railway and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway. From 1942 until 1950, he was a member of the D.C. Board of Real Estate Assessors and the D.C. Board of Equalization and Review. After leaving the Commission, he worked in private practice until his retirement in 1967.

Kenneth W. Spencer passed away on January 12, 1974. At the time of his death, he was remembered in the District for an expansive career attending to the municipal affairs of the city.



May 1, 1901

~

January 6, 1994

COMMISSIONER

BERNARD L. ROBINSON

TERM: JUNE 1, 1951 - DECEMBER 31, 1952

President Harry S. Truman appointed Brigadier General Bernard L. Robinson as the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners and as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served in both positions from June 1, 1951 until December 31, 1952.

Commissioner Robinson was born in Sioux City, IA on May 1, 1901. He graduated from West Point Military Academy at the age of 19, at which time he served with the Field Artillery for four months and then switched to the Corps of Engineers. For the next four years, he served on and off at Fort Belvoir. In 1924, he became an instructor at Washington State College, was transferred to Fort Logan, Colorado with the Second Engineers in 1928, and went to the Panama Canal Zone with the Eleventh Engineers from 1931 to 1933. At the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Commissioner Robinson traveled to New Guinea, Hollandia and Leyte. He won the Distinguished Service Medal for his work in New Guinea constructing roads, airports, ports and other facilities. At the end of the war he was sent to Honolulu as a district engineer and was appointed to the same position in Galveston in 1947, before joining the Public Utilities Commission in 1951. Upon his departure from his post as District Engineer Commissioner at the end of 1952, Mr. Robinson was immediately named Deputy Chief of Army Engineers on January 1, 1953.

Bernard L. Robinson passed away on January 6, 1994. At the time of his death, Commissioner Robinson resided in Ballwin, MO.



September 30, 1899

~

August 18, 1976

COMMISSIONER LOUIS W. PRENTISS

TERM: JANUARY 2, 1953 – DECEMBER 9, 1954

Just prior to leaving office President Harry S. Truman appointed Major General Louis W. Prentiss to be the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners and to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served in both positions from January 2, 1953 until December 9, 1954.

Louis W. Prentiss was born in Washington, D.C. on September 30, 1899. After graduating from Western High School, he enlisted in the Army in 1918. He served for less than a year, and left to attend the Colorado School of Mines, where he graduated in 1921. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers from 1921 until 1956, rising to the rank of Major General in 1954. Maj. Gen. Prentiss ended his career by retiring in 1956.

Major General Prentiss passed away on August 18, 1976. During his career, he became a member of the Society of American Military Engineers, the Professional Engineers Club of Washington, and the American Society of Civil Engineers.



Birth Date Unknown

~

November 19, 1978

CHAIRMAN

ROBERT E. MCLAUGHLIN

TERM: MAY 19, 1953 – JUNE 30, 1955

President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed Robert E. McLaughlin to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served as Chairman of the PUC from May 23, 1953 until June 30, 1955.

Chairman McLaughlin was born in Greene County, IN where he was educated in the public school system there before joining the Navy at the age of 15. He was selected from the ranks to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, but he chose instead to study abroad in Paris. After returning to the District of Columbia and receiving a law degree from National University, he worked as an Attorney with the Federal Trade Commission. After leaving the Public Utilities Commission in 1955, Mr. McLaughlin continued a political career in the District, serving as a member of the DC Board of Commissioners. He is credited with the formation of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, pioneering the creation of the Metro System that we know today, and also for remaining fervent in his commitment to improving race relations in the city. He was also a strong supporter of Home Rule, which finally came years after McLaughlin had retired to private life.

Robert E. McLaughlin passed away on November 19, 1978. At the time of his death, he was remembered in the District for his many contributions that had lasting effects on the political evolution and social progress of the city he loved.



Birth Date Unknown

~

April 11, 1977

COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. WESTON

TERM: AUGUST 6, 1953 – JUNE 30, 1956

President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed Robert M. Weston to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from August 6, 1953 until June 30, 1956.

Robert M. Weston was born in Blair County, PA, and spent his youth in Ohio. Mr. Weston is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan; and Ohio State University, where he received his law degree. He was associated with a New York law firm before joining the federal government in 1940, working in Washington, D.C. After coming to the District, Judge Weston worked briefly for the Civil Aeronautics Board and the Office of Alien Property. In 1942, he entered the Navy and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, serving in World War II. He returned to Washington, D.C. after the War, and started a private practice in 1951. Two years later, he was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission. He testified to his qualifications on July 30, 1953, before the Senate District Committee. The Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission at the time, Robert E. McLaughlin, testified at Mr. Weston's confirmation hearing and praised him for his ability and character. After leaving the Public Utilities Commission in 1956, Judge Weston became the trial examiner for the Federal Trade Commission, and in 1968 he joined the D.C. Tax Court which was later merged into the Superior Court. Weston retired from the Court in 1973 after a mild stroke.

Judge Weston passed away on April 11, 1977.



Birth Date Unknown

~

April 22, 1973

COMMISSIONER THOMAS A. LANE

TERM: DECEMBER 10, 1954 – JULY 31, 1957

President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed General Thomas A. Lane to be the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners and to serve as Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served in both positions from December 10, 1954 until July 31, 1957.

Commissioner Lane was born in Massachusetts, Lane graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1928. Prior to World War II, he held various assignments, including the Nicaragua Canal Survey. During the war, he organized and trained aviation units and was then operations officer on the Southwest Pacific Theater engineer staff. After leaving the Commission, General Lane became commander of one of the Army's basic training centers, and was promoted to Major General.

General Thomas A. Lane passed away on April 22, 1973.

CHAIRMAN GEORGE E. C. HAYES

TERM: JUNE 2, 1955 - JUNE 30, 1961



*First African-
American Commissioner
and Chairman*

July 1, 1894

~

December 20, 1968

President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed George E. C. Hayes to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. From the start, he served as Chairman from June 2, 1955 until June 30, 1961.

Chairman Hayes was born in Richmond, Virginia and graduated from Brown University in 1915. He earned a law degree from Howard University School of Law in 1918. He taught at Howard University School of Law starting in 1924 while he maintained a private practice in the District. With Spottswood William Robinson III, he was the lead counsel on *Bolling v. Sharpe*, the companion case to *Brown v. Board of Education*. Hayes argued that denying black students the liberty to attend non-segregated schools violated due process. He also became the first African-American to chair the Public Utilities Commission. In 1962, the District of Columbia Bar Association named him to its board of directors, making him the first African-American to hold office in that group.

After a long career as an attorney and civil rights activist, Chairman Hayes passed away on December 20, 1968 in the District.

COMMISSIONER JOHN L. SMITH, JR.

TERM: JULY 19, 1956 – SEPTEMBER 5, 1957



September 20, 1912

~

September 4, 1992

President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed John Lewis Smith, Jr. as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from July 19, 1956 until September 5, 1957.

Born in Washington, D.C., Commissioner Smith received an A.B. from Princeton University in 1935, an LL.B. from Georgetown University Law School in 1938, and an LL.M. from Georgetown University Law School in 1939. He was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1940 to 1946. Joining the United States Army Air Corps in 1942, he became a Lieutenant Colonel. Later, he was in private practice in Washington, D.C. from 1946 to 1956.

After serving as a PUC Commissioner, he was appointed an Associate Judge, District of Columbia Court of General Sessions where he served from 1957 to 1959. He became Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions in 1959 and he remained in this seat until 1966. On October 6, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated him to a seat on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and he served on the bench from 1981 to 1982. He assumed senior status on January 31, 1983 and remained in that capacity until his death on September 4, 1992.

COMMISSIONER

A.C. WELLING

TERM: AUGUST 1, 1957 – JULY 1, 1960



October 18, 1910

~

December 4, 2008

President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed Major General Alvin C. Welling to be the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners and to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served both positions from August 1, 1957 until July 1, 1960

Born in Covington, KY, General Welling spent 32 years in the Army after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, in 1933. He received a Master's degree in civil engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1938 and he held many key positions with the Army Corps of Engineers. General Welling also served as Chairman of the Zoning Commission, the Metropolitan Traffic Council, the Regional Sanitation Board and the National Capital Planning Commission. Among his accomplishments during his tenure were new regional water-quality standards, a Southwest Washington urban renewal project, rezoning for the District and the early stages of designing RFK Stadium. By the time he retired from the Army Corps of Engineers in 1965, General Welling had received the Distinguished Service Medal from both the Army and the Air Force, as well as three awards of the Legion of Merit.

General Welling passed away on December 4, 2008.



Birth Date Unknown

~

February 11, 1978

COMMISSIONER HAROLD A. KERTZ

TERM: OCTOBER 16, 1957 – JUNE 30, 1962

President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed Harold A. Kertz to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission. He served from October 16, 1957 until June 30, 1962

Commissioner Kertz, who was born in Allentown, PA, practiced law in Washington D.C. since 1929. He graduated from Georgetown University, and then Georgetown University Law School in 1928. He received his Master's degree in law from Columbus University Law School in 1932. After having worked for a number of law firms in the District, Mr. Kertz opened his own practice specializing in tax and estate law in 1957.

After leaving the Public Utilities Commission in 1962, he returned to his law practice, remaining active until he suffered a fatal stroke on February 11, 1978.

COMMISSIONER FREDERICK J. CLARKE

TERM: AUGUST 1, 1960 – JULY 8, 1963



March 1, 1915

~

February 4, 2002

President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed Lieutenant General Frederick J. Clarke to be the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners and to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served in both positions from August 1, 1960 until July 8, 1963.

Commissioner Clarke was born in Little Falls, New York. In 1937 he graduated fourth in his class from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He was then commissioned in the United States Army Corps of Engineers, while continuing his graduate work. He received a Master's degree in civil engineering from Cornell University in 1940 and he later attended the Advanced Management Program of the Graduate School of Business at Harvard University. He also completed graduate studies at the Army War College. Commissioner Clarke traveled in and out of the United States while he served in the Army until he was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission in 1960. He was the technician-in-chief, called to address such problems as traffic gridlock, economic development, and low levels of funding. After leaving the Commission, he returned to active duty and rose to the rank of Lieutenant General. He retired from the Army in 1973 after a 37-year career, and then he served as Executive Director of the National Commission on Water Quality.

After his death in 2002, he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Birth Date Unknown

~

August 29, 1998

CHAIRMAN

JAMES A. WASHINGTON, JR.

TERM: OCTOBER 2, 1961 – OCTOBER 7, 1966

President John F. Kennedy appointed James A. Washington, Jr. to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served as Chairman from October 22, 1961 until October 7, 1966. During his tenure, the name of the PUC changed to the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia with the additional authority regulating the securities industry in the District.

A native of Asheville, NC, Chairman Washington graduated from Howard University in 1936. He earned a law degree there in 1939 and earned a Master's of law degree at Harvard Law School in 1941. He joined the Howard University School of faculty as a professor of law in 1946. Having gained expertise in years of earlier civil rights litigation, he worked on the the Brown vs. Board of Education case that desegregated public schools. He then served on several District of Columbia Commissions, including the Public Utilities Commission. He later returned to Howard to teach. He became Dean of the Law School in 1969 after three years as the Langston Professor of Law. From 1969 until he was named to the bench in the District in 1971, he was General Counsel of the Federal Transportation Department. He was partially disabled by a fall in 1976, and later retired from the District of Columbia Superior Court in 1984.

Judge Washington passed away on August 29, 1998.



Birth Date Unknown

~

July 7, 1975

COMMISSIONER EDGAR BERNSTEIN

TERM: AUGUST 6, 1962 – JUNE 30, 1965

President John F. Kennedy appointed Edgar H. Bernstein to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from August 6, 1962 until June 30, 1965. During his tenure, the name of the Commission changed to the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia after securities were added to the agency's regulatory functions.

Commissioner Bernstein was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and received Bachelor's and Master's degrees in economics from the University of Pittsburgh. He worked in the District as a research economist, specializing in the economics of public utility operations, until he was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission in 1962.

He passed away on July 7, 1975.

COMMISSIONER CHARLES M. DUKE

TERM: JULY 8, 1963 – DECEMBER 1, 1966



June 24, 1917

~

August 21, 1976

President John F. Kennedy appointed Major General Charles Marsden Duke to be the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners and to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served in both positions from July 8, 1963 until December 1, 1966. . During his tenure, the name of the Commission changed to the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia after securities were added to the agency's regulatory functions.

General Duke was born in Jacksonville, TX and graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1939. Later, he received a Master's Degree from the California Institute of Technology. During World War II, he served in engineering posts in Nicaragua, Algeria, and Hawaii. He received the esteemed "Legion of Merit" award in 1946. From 1959 to 1962, he was Engineer in charge of the Port of New York, and he came to Washington, D.C. from Korea in 1963. After leaving the Commission, General Duke was named the first Chairman of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. He also served in Korea and Vietnam as a Combat Engineer and commanded all Army engineers in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970.

Major General Duke passed away on August 21, 1976 in Fairfax, VA.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIRMAN

GEORGE A. AVERY

TERM: MARCH 16, 1966 – JUNE 12, 1971



President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed George A. Avery to be a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from March 16, 1966 until June 12, 1971. He became Chairman in the middle of 1966 and he held that position until his departure on June 12, 1971.

Chairman Avery was born in Connecticut. He graduated from Yale University in 1952 and he served as a Lieutenant in the United States Air Force from 1952-1954. After graduating from Harvard Law School with an LLB in 1957, he served as an attorney in the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice from 1957-1962 before entering private practice. While Chairman of the Public Service Commission, he was also named Chairman of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission, and he remained in both posts until the end of his tenure in 1971.

After leaving the Commission, Chairman Avery became a partner in the District of Columbia law firm of Wald, Harkrader, Nicholson, and Ross. In 1985 he moved to Cadwalader, Wickersham & Tart and in 1995 to Shaw, Pittman, Potts, & Trowbridge.

Commissioner Avery is now retired and he lives in Chevy Chase, MD.



COMMISSIONER WILLIAM L. PORTER

TERM: NOVEMBER 7, 1966 – JUNE 30, 1970

President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed William L. Porter to be a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from November 7, 1966 until June 30, 1970.

Commissioner Porter was born in Washington, D.C. and graduated from Dunbar High School. In 1936, he entered Howard University, but his studies were interrupted when he was drafted into the Army in 1943. After his military service, he returned to the District and eventually graduated from American University in 1949. In 1954, he received an L.L.B. from the Washington College of Law at American University. He was admitted to practice before the D.C. Bar in 1954, and the Tax Court of the United States and the Treasury Department in 1960. In 1961, he received a certificate to practice as a CPA in the District. During the 1964 presidential election, he worked with the Democratic National Convention, and eventually joined the Public Service Commission in 1966. In 1968, during his term with the Commission, he was able to complete his J.D. degree at American University.

Birth Date Unknown

~

January 7, 1973

Commissioner Porter passed away shortly after his term with the Commission ended, on January 7, 1973.

COMMISSIONER ROBERT E. MATHE

TERM: DECEMBER 14, 1966 – JUNE 12, 1971



*Last Engineer
Commissioner*

April 21, 1920

~

October 25, 2008

President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Robert E. Mathe to be the Engineer member of the DC Board of Commissioners and to be a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He served in both positions from December 14, 1966 until June 12, 1971.

Commissioner Mathe was a native of Wisconsin, and a 1943 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He later received a Master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois and he was a graduate of the Army War College. General Mathe was Assistant Engineer Commissioner in the District from 1955 to 1958 when he coordinated urban renewal efforts that reshaped the city by razing slums in Southwest Washington. As a member of the D.C. Board of Commissioners from 1966 to 1967, he was the last Army officer to sit on the three-member Board, the District's pre-home-rule governing body. President Lyndon B. Johnson replaced the Board of Commissioners with a Presidentially appointed Mayor-Council form of government in 1967. He was also the last person appointed to fill the position of "Engineer Commissioner." After his military retirement in 1967, General Mathe became a partner in the engineering firm HOK Associates, and in the 1970s, he was chief of the Inter-American Development Bank's infrastructure division. He later was an executive with other engineering firms and moved to Florida from Arlington about 1990.

Robert E. Mathe passed away on October 25, 2008.

COMMISSIONER THOMAS W. FLETCHER

TERM: JANUARY 11, 1968 – DECEMBER 15, 1969

Presidentially appointed Mayor-Commissioner Walter E. Washington appointed Thomas W. Fletcher, Deputy Mayor-Commissioner to be a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from January 11, 1968 until December 15, 1969.

A native of Oregon, Commissioner Fletcher served in the Army during World War II. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, and came to the District after having served in several local government positions in California. Initially, he accepted a job with the U.S. Department of Housing and Development, but President Johnson appointed him to be Deputy Mayor of D.C. prior to starting his job at the Housing Department. Fletcher was the first Deputy Mayor following the city government reorganization that replaced an appointed three-member Board of Commissioners with a Presidentially appointed city executive and city council. Deputy Mayor Fletcher left the District in 1969, and returned to work in California government.

Thomas W. Fletcher passed away on November 23, 1987, not long after receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the District's International City Management Association in 1985.



NO PICTURE AVAILABLE

Birth Date Unknown

~

November 23, 1987

COMMISSIONER GRAHAM W. WATT

TERM: JANUARY 15, 1970 – JANUARY 31, 1973



October 23, 1926

~

October 16, 2012

Presidentially appointed Mayor-Commissioner Walter E. Washington appointed Graham W. Watt, Deputy Mayor-Commissioner to be a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from January 15, 1970 until January 31, 1973.

Mr. Watt was born in Elizabeth, NJ, and he graduated from Washington College in 1949. He received his Master's degree in governmental administration from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1951. In the early part of his career, he served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. After completing his term in the military, he began a 30-year career that focused heavily on governmental administration. His titles included County Administrator of Broward County, FL.; Deputy Mayor of Washington, D.C.; City Manager of Dayton, OH, Portland, ME, and Alton, IL; and Assistant City Manager of Kansas City, MO. As Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, he served as the founding Director of the General Revenue Sharing program. In his later years, Mr. Watt consulted on public management issues in Russia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, China, Mongolia and Armenia.

Mr. Watt passed away on October 16, 2012.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIRMAN JEREMIAH C. WATERMAN

TERM: JANUARY 15, 1971 – JUNE 30, 1973

President Richard M. Nixon appointed Jeremiah C. Waterman to be a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He joined the PSC on January 15, 1971 and he became Chairman on June 13, 1971. He served as Chairman until his departure on June 30, 1973.

A native of New Jersey, Chairman Waterman attended Princeton and Columbia Universities. From 1931 to 1966, he worked as an attorney for the Southern Pacific Railroad in New York. He moved to the District in 1959, and took a job with the law firm of Steptoe & Johnson. After being appointed to the Public Service Commission in 1971, District Mayor Walter Washington also appointed Waterman to serve as the District's member on the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission.

There is no information available relating to Waterman's dates of birth and death.

*Lifespan
Unknown*





January 13, 1942

~

March, 20, 1980

COMMISSIONER/ ACTING CHAIRMAN H. MASON NEELY

TERM: DECEMBER 22, 1971 – JUNE 30, 1977

President Richard M. Nixon appointed H. Mason Neely to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from December 22, 1971 until June 30, 1977. Between July 1, 1973 and January 1, 1974 he served as Acting Chairman.

A native of Washington, D.C., he graduated from Roosevelt High School. He received his Bachelor's degree from Morgan State University in 1963, and later he worked as a deputy U.S. Marshal and as a D.C. Policeman. He received his law degree from Howard University School of Law in 1966. A year later, he entered private law practice here in the District. After leaving the Public Service Commission in 1974, he resumed his law practice. Commissioner Neely was a member of the D.C. and American Bar Associations, the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners, and the D.C. Institute of Mental Health.

In 1980, at the young age of 38, Mr. Neely passed away at Washington Hospital Center after suffering a seizure.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIRMAN

WILLIAM R. STRATTON

TERM: DECEMBER 4, 1973 – JUNE 30, 1979

President Richard M. Nixon first appointed William R. Stratton to be a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from December 4, 1973 until June 30, 1979 after Mayor Walter Washington reappointed him. He served as Chairman in 1974.

William Stratton was born in 1934, however the exact date of his birth is unknown. Mr. Stratton graduated from Dartmouth College in 1955. Having served in the U.S. Navy from 1955 until 1958, he later attended Harvard University Law School in 1961. He completed his graduate education at Stanford University in 1971. He worked as an attorney-advisor in the Interior Department from 1963 until 1965, and engaged in private practice during the years of 1965 to 1970. Prior to joining the Commission, he served as an Executive Assistant to the Chairman of the D.C. City Council.

Commissioner Stratton moved to Texas after leaving the Commission, and is presumed to still be alive.



*Last Presidentially
Appointed Commissioner*

January 1, 1934 (Exact Date
Unknown)

~

Date of Death Unknown



NO PICTURE AVAILABLE

January 1, 1932 (Exact Date
Unknown)

~

January 29, 1991

COMMISSIONER DOUGLAS N. SCHNEIDER, JR.

TERM: MAY 2, 1973 – JULY 22, 1975

President Richard M. Nixon appointed Douglas N. Schneider, Jr. to be a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from May 2, 1973 until July 22, 1975.

Commissioner Schneider was born in 1932, however, we have been unable to locate information pertaining to the exact date of his birth and his educational accomplishments. Nevertheless, Commissioner Schneider maintained an extensive career with the District of Columbia government after his time with the Commission. In 1975, Mayor Walter Washington appointed Schneider as the Acting Director of the D.C. Department of Transportation, where he remained for 4 years. As Director, he was one of the first urban transportation directors in the country to divert federal highway money to rapid-rail construction. This was critical to the construction of the current Metro system in the District. After his time there, he was named Assistant to the Mayor for Transportation in 1979 by Mayor Marion Barry. Later, Mayor Barry also appointed Schneider to the Citizens Traffic Board, for a term that ran from March of 1981 until April of 1982.

Commissioner Schneider died on January 29, 1991 of cancer. At the time of his death he was remembered in the District for his vigorous efforts to get cars off the streets and District residents into buses and subways.



*First Commissioner
Appointed by an
Elected Mayor*

*First African-
American Female
Commissioner*

April 14, 1919

~

April 12, 2007

CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONER

RUTH HANKINS-NESBITT

TERM: MARCH 5, 1975 – SEPTEMBER 29, 1989

Walter Washington, as the first elected Mayor of the District of Columbia, appointed Ruth Hankins-Nesbitt as a Commissioner. She served as Chairman of the Public Service Commission from 1976 through 1977 and from 1980 to June 30, 1984.

Mrs. Hankins-Nesbitt was born in South Boston, VA, and she graduated from high school there. She received her Bachelor's degree from Virginia Theological Seminary and College (now Virginia University of Lynchburg) and she was certified as a teacher. She briefly lived in Chicago before settling in the District in 1944. She received her law degree from Robert H. Terrell Law School. Mrs. Hankins-Nesbitt became active in politics, serving in the 1960s as President of the D.C. Democratic Women's Club. In 1968, she was co-chairman of the District of Columbia Women for Humphrey, supporting Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey's presidential bid. She was a staff attorney with the legal assistance office of the D.C. Bar Association during the 1950s, and in 1967 she was appointed to the Hackers License and Appeal Board, which governed the D.C. taxicab industry. Eight years later, she was appointed to the Public Service Commission, where she was chairwoman of the commission off and on until her retirement in 1989. In 1973, Mrs. Hankins-Nesbitt was elected the first female President of the Washington Bar Association, a predominantly African-American legal group.

Mrs. Hankins-Nesbitt passed away on April 12, 2007.



CHAIRMAN/COMMISSIONER

ELIZABETH H. PATTERSON

TERM: NOVEMBER 30, 1977 – JUNE 30, 1980

Elected Mayor Walter Washington appointed Elizabeth H. Patterson as a Commissioner. She served from November 30, 1977 until June 30, 1980. She held the position of Chairman throughout 1979.

After graduating from law school, Patterson served as a clerk for the Honorable Ruggero J. Aldisert of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Before becoming involved in public service, she practiced privately with the D.C. firm of Hogan and Hartson and taught at Catholic University. From 1993-97, she served as Associate Dean for the JD and Graduate Programs at the Law Center. She has been Treasurer of the D.C. Bar and a member of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Private International Law (the Study Group on the Law Applicable to International Sales), the D.C. Bar Screening Committee, and the Editorial Board of the Washington Lawyer. She was the 2001 recipient of the Law Center's Frank F. Flegal Teaching Award. She served twice as Deputy Director of the Association of American Law Schools (2005-2007 and 2009-2010). Ms. Patterson is Professor Emerita at Georgetown Law School.

A circular, sepia-toned portrait of Wesley H. Long, a middle-aged man with dark hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark jacket over a light-colored sweater and a dark bow tie. The background of the portrait is dark and out of focus.

COMMISSIONER WESLEY H. LONG

TERM: MARCH 28, 1980 – JUNE 30, 1990

Mayor Marion Barry appointed Dr. Wesley H. Long to serve as Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. Dr. Long served from March 28, 1980 until June 30, 1990.

A native of Massachusetts, Long received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan. Subsequently, he held combined teaching and research positions at Bowdoin College in Maine and at Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Long later began work as an economist, and just prior to his appointment to the Commission, he was Deputy Director of the Office of Industrial Economics at the U.S. Department of Commerce. He was the first appointee of Washington, D.C.'s Mayor Marion Barry, Jr. to the Public Service Commission. As an active member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, Dr. Long served from 1982-84 as Chairman of the Energy Conservation Committee and since 1982 he was a member of the Electricity Committee, and Chairman of its Subcommittee on Coal Freight Rates.

Since leaving the Commission, Dr. Long has taught economics at Frostburg College in Western Maryland and served as an economics consultant to the D.C. Energy Office.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIRMAN

PATRICIA M. WORTHY

TERM: AUGUST 8, 1980 – APRIL, 1991

Mayor Marion S. Barry first nominated Patricia M. Worthy to be a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He nominated her to be Chairman in 1984, a position she held until January 1991, when Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon appointed her to be Chief of Staff.

Chairman Worthy grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Brooklyn College. She has a law degree from the Howard University School of Law. She has worked extensively in the areas of transportation, energy, and telecommunications throughout her career. In 1977, Secretary Patricia Roberts Harris appointed her Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regulatory Functions at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. During her eleven-year tenure with the Commission, she also served as Chairman of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission. In 1991, she was appointed Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel to Mayor Sharon Pratt. Dixon. She also practiced law as an associate with former Dean Wiley Branton at the firm of Dolphin, Branton, Stafford, & Webber from 1973-1977.

In 1992, she was appointed a member of the District of Columbia Judicial Nomination Commission and served as its Chairman from 1994 until 2006. During her tenure at the Commission, a combined thirty-seven judicial appointments were made to the D.C. Superior Court and the D.C. Court of Appeals. Chairman Worthy is currently Professor Law at Howard University School of Law. She has taught at the law school for over 30 years.

COMMISSIONER BELVA D. NEWSOME

TERM: DECEMBER 1, 1989 – JUNE 30, 1992



Mayor Marion S. Barry nominated Belva D. Newsome to be a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia 1989. She served from December 1, 1989 until June 30, 1992.

Commissioner Newsome received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke University in 1973, and her Master's degree and JD from Georgetown University Law Center in 1976 and 1980, respectively. From 1991 to 1993, she served as President of the Washington Bar Association .

After leaving the Commission, Ms. Newsome went on to become Chief Administrative Judge for the D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs from 1994 to 1999, and she later opened a private practice in the District. She also served as an Administrative Law Judge with the D.C. Government.

A circular portrait of Edward C. Meyers, a man with light brown hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking directly at the camera.

COMMISSIONER/ ACTING CHAIRMAN EDWARD C. MEYERS

TERM: JULY 27, 1990 – JULY 14, 2002

Mayor Marion S. Barry nominated Edward C. Meyers as a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from July 27, 1990 until July 14, 2002 after being reappointed by Marion Barry. He also served as Acting Chairman twice, in 1994-1995 and in 1999-2000.

Commissioner Meyers received a B.A. degree in economics from the University of Maryland, a Master's degree in urban economics from the University of Detroit, and while serving as Commissioner he completed the requirements for a Ph.D. in American government from Georgetown University.

Prior to joining the Commission, he held a variety of positions with the D.C. Government, including Director of Policy, Director of Communications, and Deputy Director of the Finance and Revenue Department. Earlier, he was a principal planner for the University of California's nine-campus system and a staff economist for the University of California President's Task Force on Energy. He also served as a principal planner for Detroit, Michigan. He is the author of three books on urban issues, including "Urban Incentive Tax Credits: A Self-Correcting Strategy to Rebuild Central Cities."

While at the Commission, Dr. Meyers has held positions with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and completed two elected terms as Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI). He has also served as a member of the Advisory Council of the Electric Power Research Institute and on the Council's Strategic Issues Committee. He has traveled to Eastern Europe, India, Brazil, and Zambia to speak on energy matters and has hosted dozens of energy and telecommunications delegations from many nations.

Upon leaving the Commission, he joined the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission before retiring and consulting.

CHAIRMAN

HOWARD C. DAVENPORT

TERM: MAY, 1991 – FEBRUARY, 1995

Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly nominated Howard C. Davenport to be Chairman of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia in 1991. He served from May 1991 until February 1995. Prior to being Chairman, he served as the General Counsel for the Commission from March 1984.

Howard C. Davenport is a native Washingtonian. He received a B.A. degree in economics from Boston University in 1976, and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Maryland Law School in 1979. In the early stages of his career, he worked for the law firm of Hudson & Leftwich. Notably, while employed at Hudson & Leftwich, Davenport worked alongside our current Commissioner, Joanne Duddy Fort. Later, Davenport worked for Washington Gas & Light Company from 1982 to 1984. He joined the Public Service Commission in 1984 as General Counsel, and was named Chairman in 1991.

Chairman Davenport left the DCPSC to join the Federal Communications Commission Wireless Telecommunications Bureau where he worked on a priority project to bring broadband to rural America.



COMMISSIONER/CHAIRMAN

AGNES A. YATES

TERM: JANUARY 11, 1993 – DECEMBER 31, 2008



*Longest Serving
Commissioner*

Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelley first nominated Agnes M. Alexander in 1992 as a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. She is the longest serving Commissioner in the history of the Commission, having served 4+ terms after being re-nominated by Mayors Marion Barry and Anthony Williams. Mayor Williams also nominated her (by then Agnes A. Yates) to be Chairman in May 2003, a position she held until her departure at the end of 2008.

Agnes A. Yates is a native of Washington, DC. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Howard University in 1977, and a J.D. degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1988. Her legal experience includes the areas of energy, transportation, telecommunications, collective bargaining, and labor management relations. Commissioner Yates has served as Chairperson of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission and Acting Deputy Director of the District of Columbia Office of Labor Relations and Collective Bargaining. A member of the District of Columbia Bar, she has also worked with the Law Office of Thomas A. Hart, Jr. in Washington, D.C., where she conducted legal research and drafted briefs and documents on communications issues in proceedings before the Federal Communications Commission.



CHAIRMAN

MARLENE L. JOHNSON

TERM: DECEMBER 4, 1995 – SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

Mayor Marion Barry nominated Marlene L. Johnson as Chairman of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. She served from December 4, 1995 until September 30, 1999.

Marlene Johnson grew up in Washington, D.C. where she graduated from National Cathedral School. She received her B.A. degree from Boston University and her JD degree from the University of Chicago School of Law.

During Ms. Johnson's four years as Chairperson of the Commission, she was responsible for regulation and oversight of the District's utilities and telecommunications companies. While at the Commission, she worked extensively with outside and staff counsel to draft decisions and legal pleadings, including a decision interpreting ambiguous D.C. law in order to authorize utility company mergers and the successful defense of a federal suit challenging a Commission arbitration decision. Prior to joining the Commission, Ms. Johnson had been Chairperson of the District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for twelve years where she presided over all quasi-judicial proceedings of the Board in which litigants were represented by private counsel. For two years, Ms. Johnson served as the first chief operating executive and supervisory hearing officer of the District of Columbia Office of Employee Appeals when the agency was created. In addition to recommending decisions to the agency's Board, she worked closely with the D.C. Council to streamline the appellate review procedures. In September of 2005, Ms. Johnson was named General Counsel of the Washington Convention Center Authority where she remains employed.

Ms. Johnson passed away on September 24, 2017. Prior to her death she served as General Counsel of the Washington Convention Center Authority, now known as Events DC.

CHAIRMAN ANGEL CARTAGENA

TERM: JULY, 2000 – MAY 30, 2003

Mayor Anthony Williams nominated Angel M. Cartagena as Chairman of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from July, 2000 until May 30, 2003. Bi-lingual in English and Spanish, Mr. Cartagena was the first Hispanic to be appointed head of the Commission.

Chairman Cartagena was born on January 3, 1962 in New Jersey, and at age 15, he was awarded a scholarship by A Better Chance, Inc. to attend Westminster School in Simsbury, Connecticut. Despite the many challenges of leaving home for the first time to attend a school with a radically different cultural and economic environment, he successfully graduated in 1980 and went on to Yale University. While at Yale, he co-founded a program for tutoring Hispanic high school students who spoke little English. He was also a program director at WYBC-FM and participated in the Yale President's Committee for the Development of a Racial/Sexual Harassment Policy. He completed his studies at Boston College Law School and the College of Communications at Boston University. During those years he worked at WCVB-TV and RKO General. He earned his JD from Boston College in 1988 and completed the required coursework for the Master's of Mass Communications at Boston University. Mr. Cartagena served as a Staff Attorney for the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia from July 1994 to May 1995. Mr. Cartagena has also served as Assistant General Counsel for Metromedia Communication, responsible for both federal and state regulatory proceedings involving common carrier issues and as a General Attorney in the Consumer Information Bureau in the Office of the Chief at the Federal Communications Commission.

A circular portrait of Angel M. Cartagena, a man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie. The background of the portrait is blue.

*First Hispanic
Chairman*

COMMISSIONER ANTHONY M. RACHAL, III

TERM: JULY 14, 2002 – DECEMBER 31, 2006

Mayor Anthony Williams nominated Anthony M. Rachal to be a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from July 14, 2002 until December 31, 2006.

Commissioner Rachal earned his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.S. in Accounting and Economics, from Xavier University of Louisiana. He is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia, D.C. Court of Appeals, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Prior to his appointment as Commissioner, Mr. Rachal was in private practice serving as Counsel of Record to various commercial clients, including several Fortune 500 corporations, such as BP Amoco Oil Corporation and Exxon Corporation. He was also Assistant Director, Office of Mass Transportation, for the D.C. Department of Transportation and Chief Legislative Counsel and Staff Director to the Committee on Transportation and the Environment with the appointed D.C. City Council and the first elected Council of the District of Columbia. This Council Committee was responsible for the passage of all legislation regarding public transportation, highway, and transit construction. From 1992-1995, he served as a member of the Board of Directors of WMATA and oversaw the construction of the final section of the Metrorail Green Line and Metrobus Garage rebuilding project. Mr. Rachal was also a member of the D.C. Gasoline Station Advisory Board (GSAB), with oversight for conversion of full-service stations to gas only facilities throughout the District of Columbia.

Upon leaving the Commission, Mr. Rachal has returned to private practice.





COMMISSIONER RICHARD (RICK) E. MORGAN

TERM: JULY 22, 2003 – DECEMBER 31, 2011

Mayor Anthony Williams first nominated Richard E. Morgan as a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from July 22, 2003 until December 31, 2011. He was re-nominated to the position by Mayor Adrian Fenty in 2007.

Rick holds a Master's of Public Policy degree from the University of Maryland and a B.A. in economics from Antioch College. Before joining the PSC as a Commissioner, he spent 12 years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where he focused on climate policy and emissions trading and represented EPA on energy policy matters including environmental disclosure, clean energy development, and electricity restructuring. Commissioner Morgan oversaw the development of data tools such as the eGRID database of power plant emissions and served as an EPA liaison to state public utility commissions and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. From 1994 through 1995, Rick served on a detail with the U.S. Department of Energy, where he represented the federal government in electricity restructuring proceedings in California, New York, and Maryland. Prior to joining EPA in 1991, he spent five years on the staff of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia, where he served as Technical Assistant to Commissioners Wesley Long and Edward Meyers and he helped to develop Commission policies on energy conservation and resource planning. During his 40 years in the field of energy policy and utilities, Commissioner Morgan has authored numerous books, reports, and papers on electric power.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIRMAN

BETTY ANN KANE

TERM: MARCH 6, 2007 – DECEMBER 17, 2018

Mayor Adrian Fenty nominated Betty Ann Kane as a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia in 2007. Betty Ann Kane began her tenure as a Commissioner in March 2007. She became Chairman on March 3, 2009. In 2014, she was confirmed for a third term, to end on June 30, 2018. On December 17, 2018, she officially retired from the Commission.

Chairman Kane is a graduate of Middlebury College in Vermont and also has a Master's Degree in English from Yale University, as well as specialized academic study in Telecommunications Regulations at the Annenberg School, and Investment and Finance at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. Before joining the PSC, Chairman Kane served as a Trustee, and as Executive Director of the District of Columbia Retirement Board. She served two terms as an At-Large member of the DC Board of Education, and was elected to three terms as an At-Large member of the D.C. Council. Her service on the Council included chairing the Public Services and Cable Television Committee, with legislative, budgetary and oversight responsibility for the Public Service Commission, Office of People's Counsel, Cable Television, and utility regulatory policy.

Chairman Kane is a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Board of Directors. Appointed by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), she serves as the Chairman of the North American Numbering Council, and was elected as Chairman of the Board of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI), the research arm of National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). Additionally, she is a past President of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (MACRUC), but currently serves as Chairman of the Telecommunications Committee of MACRUC, a member of the Telecommunications Committee of NARUC, and was appointed by the FCC to the Joint Conference on Advanced Telecommunication Service. Chairman Kane also was appointed to the Virtual Working Group on Education, Training and Best Practices for The International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER).





COMMISSIONER LORI MURPHY LEE

TERM: MARCH, 2009 – OCTOBER 3, 2012

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty nominated Lori M. Lee as a Commissioner for the District of Columbia Public Service Commission. She served from March of 2009 until October of 2012.

A 5th generation Washingtonian, Lori M. Lee received a Bachelor of Arts from Duke University and a Juris Doctor from George Washington University Law School. Ms. Lee came to the Commission with over 15 years of legal experience in the federal government and private sector. She practiced appellate law at the United States Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review for 12 years and while in private practice litigated and negotiated on behalf of clients in the areas of procurement law, employment law, aviation regulation, white collar crime and corporate affairs. During her tenure on the Commission, Commissioner Lee oversaw the implementation of smart grid in the District and led the Commission's consumer education efforts. She also advocated for and promoted the utilization of diverse businesses, increasing the number of green jobs and affordable renewable energy. Commissioner Lee readily established herself as a skilled policy maker with a recognized balance approach to issues and was tapped for several leadership positions in prominent national and regional organizations. Ms. Lee served on the Board of Directors and as Chair of the Subcommittee on Education and Research for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC). She was treasurer for the Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI) and a Board member of the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI), and as well a member of the Advisory Board of the New Mexico State Center for Public Utilities. Commissioner Lee served as an active member of the Electricity Committee and the Subcommittee on Utility Marketplace Access for NARUC and also the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (MACRUC).

Commissioner Lee resides in the Colonial Village neighborhood with her husband and daughter and is currently Manager, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs at PJM Interconnection.

A portrait of Joanne Doddy Fort, a woman with short, wavy brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue blazer over a white V-neck top and a pearl necklace. The background is a blurred American flag.

COMMISSIONER JOANNE DODDY FORT

TERM: OCTOBER 3, 2012 – DECEMBER 20, 2016

Mayor Vincent Gray nominated Joanne Doddy Fort as a Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. She began her term on October 3, 2012 for a term ending December 20, 2016.

Born in New York City and raised in the District of Columbia, Commissioner Fort has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Bryn Mawr College and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Commissioner Fort has an extensive background in the fields of utility regulation, administrative law, and ethics. Just prior to joining the PSC, Commissioner Fort served as Vice President and General Counsel of Urban Service Systems Corporation, a waste management and transportation company. Prior to joining that company, she was a partner in three local law firms where, among other matters, she litigated cases before the PSC -- first on behalf of the Staff of the PSC and later on behalf of the Office of the People's Counsel. Prior to entering the private practice of law, Commissioner Fort worked for the National Governors' Association and the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. The D.C. Court of Appeals appointed Commissioner Fort to the Board on Professional Responsibility, the Commission on Admissions and the Access to Justice Commission. Commissioner Fort has also served a term on the Real Estate Commission for the District of Columbia, an appointment that was made by then Mayor Marion Barry. Commissioner Fort has taught and lectured on professional responsibility at Howard University School of Law and the Washington College of Law at American University. She has served on a variety of nonprofit boards with a focus on education and the law. She is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

COMMISSIONER

GREER J. GILLIS

TERM: DECEMBER 18, 2018 – MARCH 31, 2020



Greer Johnson Gillis is a senior professional engineer and project manager with over 20 years of experience. Her expertise is in project and program management, with the experience of leading large-scale infrastructure projects from inception to completion. Her background is in transportation (traffic operations, traffic simulation, and transportation planning) having led several projects with regional jurisdictions on the improvement of traffic operations. She is a certified Professional Engineer in Washington, DC and Virginia and is a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt.

An experienced administrator and organizational leader, Ms. Gillis served as the Director for the District of Columbia Department of General Services (DGS). In this role, Ms. Gillis oversaw the agency responsible for managing capital improvement and construction programs for a variety of District government agencies, including DC Public Schools, as well as executing real property acquisitions by purchase or lease, disposing of property through sale, lease or other authorized method, managing space in buildings and adjacent areas, and providing building management services for facilities owned or operated by the District. She focused on sustainability initiatives across the agency's efforts specifically championing building energy performance standards for the government portfolio and implemented agreements to reduce greenhouse gases through efforts on installing green roofs and solar installations across government buildings. She led the agency in the delivery of three Short-Term Family Housing projects and the closure of DC General Hospital Homeless Shelter.

Before accepting this role, Ms. Gillis served as the Deputy Director for the District of Columbia Department of Transportation, commonly known as DDOT. Prior to this role, she served as the Area Manager for the Washington, DC office of Parsons Brinckerhoff, where she also served as the President of the DC Corporation of Parsons Brinckerhoff, P.C., and as Assistant Vice President of the parent company, Parsons Brinckerhoff Inc.

Prior her time in the private sector, Ms. Gillis served as the Deputy Chief Engineer for the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT). In this role, she oversaw infrastructure projects pertaining to the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI) program, Stormwater Management Branch, Safety Standards and Quality Control Division, ITS Division, and Citywide Special Projects. At DDOT, she oversaw the \$300M 11th Street Bridges Design-Build Phase I Project, and served as an advisor to the Nationals Ballpark Transportation Operations Plan Task Force. In 2008, she was appointed by the Interim Director of DDOT to serve as the transportation lead for 2009 Presidential Inauguration, where she led the multi-administration team of DDOT in all phases of transportation planning and operations activities for the Inauguration, and represented DDOT with federal and city stakeholders for the Inauguration. She also served as the Acting Chief Engineer for DDOT from October 2009 to March 2010.

In 2014, Ms. Gillis was honored by President Obama and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx as a White House Champion of Change: Transportation Ladders of Opportunity. She was honored for her efforts in diversity, including the mentoring of and championing the participation of women and minorities in the engineering industry. Throughout her career, she has served as a role model and advocate for building a diverse transportation workforce.

COMMISSIONER/CHAIRMAN

WILLIE L. PHILLIPS

TERM: JULY 4, 2014 - PRESENT

Willie L. Phillips was appointed to the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (PSC) by Mayor Vincent Gray in 2014 and reappointed by Mayor Bowser to serve as Chairman in 2018.

Chairman Phillips is an experienced regulatory attorney combining over a decade of legal expertise in private practice and as in-house counsel. He has an extensive background in the areas of public utility regulation, bulk power system reliability, and corporate governance. Chairman Phillips has represented the District of Columbia in national and international energy policy discussions, including dialogues at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), U.S. Congress, and U.S. Department of State. He has also led efforts to influence PSC communications and to update public-facing platforms.

Prior to coming to the PSC, Chairman Phillips served as Assistant General Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), a not-for-profit international regulatory authority, in Washington, D.C.; he also worked for a Washington, D.C. law firm, Van Ness Feldman LLP, where he advised clients on regulatory compliance and policy matters and assisted on litigation and administrative proceedings on the Federal and State level.

Chairman Phillips is an active member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) where he currently serves on the NARUC Board of Directors, as Vice Chair of the Subcommittee on Supplier and Workforce Diversity, and a member of the Electricity Committee. He is also Second Vice President of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (MACRUC), a member of the Advisory Council to the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Harvard Electricity Policy Group, Keystone Policy Center Energy Board, Energy Bar Association, Dentons Smart Cities & Communities Think Tank, and the American Association of Blacks in Energy. And he serves on the Board of Directors of the Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI) and the Living Classrooms Foundation of the National Capital Region.

Chairman Phillips has a Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Montevallo. He is also a member of the District of Columbia Bar and Alabama State Bar Association.



Current Chairman

COMMISSIONER RICHARD A. BEVERLY

TERM: DECEMBER 21, 2016 - PRESENT

Richard A. Beverly was nominated by Mayor Muriel Bowser and confirmed as a DCPSC Commissioner by the D.C. Council effective December 20, 2016, for a term ending June 30, 2020.

Commissioner Beverly has a long and distinguished record. He served as a Clinton Appointee to the U.S. Department of Labor's Administrative Review Board and has served as General Counsel for both the DCPSC and the Office of Employee Appeals for a total of over 30 years.

A Ward 1 resident, Mr. Beverly received a Bachelor Degree in Political Science from Howard University and a Juris Doctorate from American University.



COMMISSIONER EMILE C. THOMPSON

Emile C. Thompson was appointed to the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia by Mayor Muriel Bowser in 2021.

Commissioner Thompson graduated from Morehouse College with a degree in Computer Science and minors in Math and Biology. He also obtained a Juris Doctor from Wake Forest University School of Law.

Upon graduation from law school, Commissioner Thompson clerked for the Honorable (Ret.) Herbert B. Dixon, Jr. of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Commissioner Thompson also served in the Mayoral Administrations of Vincent Gray and Muriel Bowser, working with senior officials on public safety and justice issues.

In 2016, Commissioner Thompson was sworn in to serve as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. As an AUSA, he served in many roles including as a senior AUSA in the Homicide Section and as a Deputy Chief in the Misdemeanor Section.

Commissioner Thompson was also appointed to serve as a Principal Member on the D.C. Water Board of Directors in 2016. While on the Board, Commissioner Thompson chaired the Human Resources and Labor Relations Committee and served on the Governance, Strategic Planning and D.C. Retail Rates committees.

Commissioner Thompson was born in Washington, D.C. and currently resides there with his wife and children. Commissioner Thompson is active in the community serving as a mentor through the Abramson Scholarship Foundation and former board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington.

