

CHAIRMAN CHESTER HARDING

TERM: MARCH 10, 1913 — OCTOBER 31, 1914



FIRST CHAIRMAN

b. DECEMBER 31, 1866

d. NOVEMBER 11, 1936

As the Engineer member of the D.C. 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, a position he held until 1914.

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.

COMMISSIONER CUNO H. RUDOLPH

TERM: MARCH 10, 1913 — JULY 19, 1913



As a member of the D.C. 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 President 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.

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 D.C. 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.

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.

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. 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.

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

b. FEBRUARY 1, 1882
d. JUNE 3, 1958

COMMISSIONER FREDERICK L. SIDDONS

TERM: JULY 19, 1913 — JANUARY 20, 1915



As a member of the D.C. 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.

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 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.

Justice Siddons passed away suddenly on June 19, 1931.

b. 1878
d. JUNE 19, 1931

CHAIRMAN CHARLES W. KUTZ

TERM: OCTOBER 31, 1914 — JULY 16, 1917



As the Engineer member of the D.C. 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.

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, 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, VA, 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.

Kutz died on January 25, 1951, at St. Elizabeth's Hospital after an illness of several months. At the time of his death, 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.

b. 1866

d. JANUARY 25, 1951

COMMISSIONER / CHAIRMAN LOUIS BROWNLOW

TERM: JANUARY 26, 1915 — SEPTEMBER 15, 1920



b. AUGUST 29, 1879
d. SEPTEMBER 1, 1963

As a member of the D.C. 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 1917, Commissioner Brownlow was named Chairman of the Commission upon the departure of Chairman Kutz. Brownlow remained Chairman until the end of 1918 after Kutz returned on December 16, 1918. Thus, Brownlow did not remain Chairman until his term ended on September 15, 1920.

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. He 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.

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 recognizing outstanding contributions to the literature of public administration.

COMMISSIONER JOHN GEORGE DAVID KNIGHT

TERM: JULY 16, 1917 – DECEMBER 16, 1918



As the Engineer member of the D.C. 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.

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.

Knight passed away on June 9, 1919, leaving behind a widow and two daughters.

b. JANUARY 24, 1846
d. JUNE 9, 1919

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 by President Woodrow Wilson.

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 two 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 the District until a few weeks before his death.

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

b. SEPTEMBER 1, 1875
d. AUGUST 11, 1970

CHAIRMAN CHARLES W. KUTZ

TERM: DECEMBER 16, 1918 – OCTOBER 5, 1921



b. 1866

d. JANUARY 25, 1951

Returning to his position as an Engineer member of the D.C. Board of Commissioners after his service in World War I, Brig. Gen. Charles W. Kutz rejoined the Public Utilities Commission on December 16, 1918, and served as Chairman 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.

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, 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, VA, 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.

Kutz died on January 25, 1951, at St. Elizabeth's Hospital after an illness of several months. At the time of his death, 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 JOHN T. HENDRICK

TERM: SEPTEMBER 17, 1920 – MARCH 4, 1921



As a member of the D.C. 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.

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 from 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 Hendrick by President Wilson conformed to the bipartisan rule in appointing two civil Commissioners, with Hendrick being a Democrat and his counterpart, Mable Boardman, being a Republican.

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

b. NOVEMBER 12, 1876
d. UNKNOWN

COMMISSIONER MABEL T. BOARDMAN

TERM: SEPTEMBER 25, 1920 — MARCH 4, 1921



**FIRST WOMAN
COMMISSIONER**

b. OCTOBER 12, 1860

d. MARCH 17, 1946

As a member of the D.C. Board of Commissioners, Mabel Thorp Boardman served as the first woman 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.

Boardman was born into a very affluent family on October 12, 1860. Her mother, Florence Sheffield, was the granddaughter of Joseph Earl Sheffield, a major benefactor of Yale University. The family moved from Ohio to Washington, D.C., in 1887. As a socialite, Boardman 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, Boardman served as the Director of the Red Cross's Volunteer Service and oversaw its considerable expansion.

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 D.C. Board of Commissioners and was therefore also 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. Rudolph previously served a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia from March 10, 1913, until July 19, 1913.

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.

CHAIRMAN CHARLES KELLER

TERM: OCTOBER 6, 1921 — APRIL 11, 1923



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

We have been unable to locate biographical information for Keller.

COMMISSIONER JAMES F. OYSTER, SR.

TERM: MARCH 15, 1921 — MAY 19, 1925



President Warren Harding appointed James F. Oyster, Sr. to serve as a member of the D.C. 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.

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 D.C. 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.

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, Oyster was remembered for winning and holding public confidence to a remarkable degree.

b. FEBRUARY 14, 1851
d. MAY 19, 1925

CHAIRMAN JAMES F. BELL

TERM: JUNE 25, 1923 — JUNE 23, 1927



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

Bell was born in Amity, PA, in July 1875. He graduated from Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, PA, in 1898 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.

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.

b. JULY 1875
d. OCTOBER 1971

COMMISSIONER FREDERICK A. FENNING

TERM: JUNE 5, 1925 – AUGUST 2, 1926



President Calvin Coolidge appointed Frederick Alexander Fenning as a member of the D.C. 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 Fenning. However, he was unfortunately asked to resign from his post as a member of the D.C. 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 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.

b. 1874
d. 1944

COMMISSIONER SIDNEY F. TALIAFERRO

TERM: DECEMBER 11, 1925 — MARCH 7, 1927



President Calvin Coolidge appointed Sidney F. Taliaferro to serve as a member of the D.C. 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.

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. Taliaferro moved to Washington, D.C., with his family in October 1899 and worked there 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 D.C. Board of Commissioners. After leaving the Public Utilities Commission in 1927, Taliaferro worked as a director of the Washington Gas Light Company for 22 years and as a vice president of Riggs National Bank for some time.

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.

b. MARCH 4, 1875

d. JUNE 21, 1971

COMMISSIONER PROCTOR L. DOUGHERTY

TERM: AUGUST 4, 1926 — APRIL 10, 1930



President Calvin Coolidge appointed Proctor L. Dougherty to serve as a member of the D.C. Board of Commissioners and as a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served from August 4, 1926, until April 10, 1930.

Dougherty was born in Dorchester, MA, in 1875. He received a degree in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1897. 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, 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 several companies, representing them before the District government.

Dougherty passed away on October 15, 1966. 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.

b. JULY 9, 1873
d. OCTOBER 15, 1966

CHAIRMAN JOHN W. CHILDRESS

TERM: JUNE 23, 1927 – MAY 31, 1929



**FIRST PUC COMMISSIONER
NOT ON DCBOC**

b. FEBRUARY 16, 1879

d. JUNE 20, 1963

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

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, Childress was not a popular candidate for the role of 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.

Childress passed away on June 20, 1963.

COMMISSIONER HARRISON BRAND, JR.

TERM: MARCH 7, 1927 — JULY 21, 1930



Col. Harrison Brand, Jr. served as a member of the D.C. Board of Commissioners and the Public Utilities Commission 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.

Brand 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 served with the Army Corps of Engineers during World War I. After his time on the D.C. Board of Commissioners, Brand 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 20-year period when he retired in 1961.

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

b. AUGUST 24, 1891

d. OCTOBER 7, 1970

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM B. LADUE

TERM: JUNE 23, 1927 – JULY 21, 1930



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

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.

Ladue passed away on October 21, 1954, at the age of 85. He 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.

b. NOVEMBER 26, 1868
d. OCTOBER 21, 1954

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.

There is no biographical information available for Hartman.



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.

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 President Herbert Hoover until he joined the D.C. Board of Commissioners in 1929.

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

b. DECEMBER 13, 1863

d. JANUARY 29, 1942

COMMISSIONER JOHN C. GOTWALS

TERM: JULY 21, 1930 — AUGUST 22, 1934



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 D.C. Board of Commissioners.

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, Gotwals served as President of the Board of Road Commissioners of Alaska.

Gotwals passed away in 1946, but 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.

b. NOVEMBER 4, 1884
d. 1946

COMMISSIONER / CHAIRMAN

RILEY E. ELGEN

TERM: JANUARY 20, 1932 — 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.

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

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

b. JANUARY 21, 1880

d. FEBRUARY 28, 1941

COMMISSIONER RICHMOND B. KEECH

TERM: MAY 2, 1934 — OCTOBER 31, 1940



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, 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 worked as Assistant Corporation Counsel in Washington, D.C. from 1925 to 1930. Keech was a professor of law at National University in 1930 and 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, Keech returned to private practice. After a short stint as an administrative assistant to President Roosevelt from 1945 to 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 his death.

Keech passed away on April 13, 1986.

b. NOVEMBER 28, 1896
d. APRIL 13, 1986

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 D.C. Board of Commissioners and therefore 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.

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.

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.

b. DECEMBER 9, 1885

d. JANUARY 14, 1947

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 D.C. Board of Commissioners and therefore 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.

McCoach 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 Isthmian 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, McCoach returned to active duty for a short time, but later retired from the Army in 1946.

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

b. JANUARY 27, 1887

d. DECEMBER 15, 1951

COMMISSIONER CHARLES W. KUTZ

TERM: MAY 20, 1941 — SEPTEMBER 24, 1945



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

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 D.C. Board of Commissioners in 1914, Kutz served until 1917 when he was sent to France to command an Army Engineer regiment. At the end of World War I, he briefly commanded Fort Humphreys (now Fort Belvoir) in Fairfax County, VA, 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, which was created in 1920.

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.

b. 1886

d. JANUARY 25, 1951

COMMISSIONER / CHAIRMAN GREGORY HANKIN

TERM: NOVEMBER 8, 1941 — JUNE 30, 1944



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 from November 8, 1941, through December 31, 1943. Between January 1, 1944, and June 30, 1944, he remained a 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 the George Washington University. He taught at the 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 time 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.

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.

b. UNKNOWN
d. DECEMBER 3, 1970

COMMISSIONER / CHAIRMAN

JAMES FLANAGAN

TERM: FEBRUARY 21, 1942 — FEBRUARY 28, 1953



**LONGEST-SERVING
CHAIRMAN**

b. UNKNOWN

d. JANUARY 8, 1974

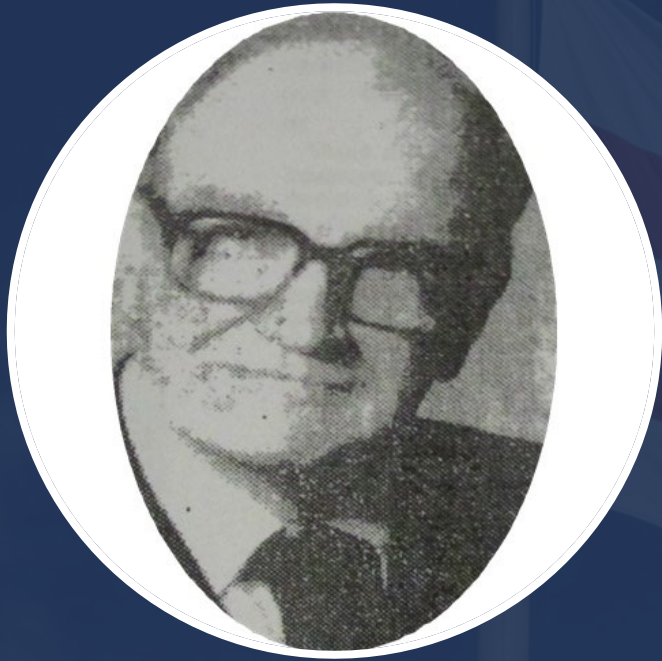
President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed James H. Flanagan to be a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission of the District of Columbia. He served as a Commissioner for the first six months of his term, but became Chairman on August 31, 1942. He remained in that role for 11 years, until February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

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 U.S. and worked as an auditor in New York but found his way back to Brazil in 1933 to work for a utility company. By 1935, he joined the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and remained there until he was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission in 1942. President Harry Truman reappointed Flanagan twice. After leaving the Commission, he worked for Capital Transit and D.C. Transit and retired from active work in 1965.

Flanagan passed away on January 8, 1974.

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, 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 1930s. 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. Reilly continued a career in law and politics after he left the Commission. He retired in 1978.

Reilly passed away on October 5, 1980. In his private practice, Reilly's major clients included United Airlines and the Potomac Electric Power Company.

b. 1908

d. OCTOBER 5, 1980

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 D.C. 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, 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.

Young passed away on May 25, 1963. At the time of his death, it was noted that he had completed more than \$20 million worth of major highway projects in the District during his time as a Commissioner.

b. 1891
d. MAY 25, 1963

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, as well as a Senate page while in high school, 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, Lauderdale practiced law for three years and was then 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 1949.

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.

Spencer was born in Zanesville, OH, and received a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan. He 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. Spencer 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.

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.

b. UNKNOWN
d. JANUARY 12, 1974

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 D.C. 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.

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, 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, TX, 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, Robinson was immediately named Deputy Chief of Army Engineers on January 1, 1953.

Robinson passed away on January 6, 1994, in Ballwin, MO.

b. MAY 1, 1901
d. JANUARY 6, 1994

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 D.C. Board of Commissioners and as 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.

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. Prentiss served in the Army Corps of Engineers from 1921 until 1956, rising to the rank of Major General in 1954. He ended his career by retiring in 1956.

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.

b. SEPTEMBER 30, 1899

d. AUGUST 18, 1976

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 from May 23, 1953, until June 30, 1955.

McLaughlin was born in Hobbieville, IN, where he was educated in the public school system there before joining the Navy at age 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, McLaughlin continued a political career in the District, serving as a member of the D.C. Board of Commissioners. He is credited with the formation of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, pioneering the creation of the city's Metro system, and for remaining fervent in his commitment to improving race relations in the city. He was a strong supporter of Home Rule, which finally came years after McLaughlin had retired to private life.

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.

b. FEBRUARY 4, 1907
d. NOVEMBER 19, 1978

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.

Weston was born in Altoona, PA, and spent his youth in Ohio. He was a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan College and the Ohio State University, where he received his law degree. Weston 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, 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 the District after the war and started a private law practice in 1951.

Two years later he was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission and testified to his qualifications on July 30, 1953, before the Senate District Committee. PUC Chairman at the time, Robert E. McLaughlin, testified at Weston's confirmation hearing and praised him for his ability and character. After leaving the PUC in 1956, Weston became the trial examiner for the Federal Trade Commission and joined the D.C. Tax Court, which was later merged into the Superior Court, in 1968. Weston retired from the court in 1973 after a mild stroke.

Weston passed away on April 11, 1977, in Indianapolis, IN.

b. UNKNOWN
d. APRIL 11, 1977

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 D.C. 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.

Lane was born in Massachusetts and 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, Lane became commander of one of the Army's basic training centers and was promoted to Major General.

Lane passed away on April 22, 1973.

b. UNKNOWN
d. APRIL 22, 1973

CHAIRMAN GEORGE E.C. HAYES

TERM: JUNE 2, 1955 — JUNE 30, 1961



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.

Hayes was born in Richmond, VA, and graduated from Brown University in 1915. He earned a law degree from Howard University School of Law in 1918 and taught there 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, Hayes passed away on December 20, 1968, in the District.

**FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN
COMMISSIONER AND CHAIRMAN**

b. JULY 1, 1894

d. DECEMBER 20, 1968

COMMISSIONER JOHN L. SMITH, JR.

TERM: JULY 19, 1956 — SEPTEMBER 5, 1957



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., 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 the District from 1946 to 1956.

After serving as a Commissioner, he was appointed an Associate Judge at the 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 remained in this seat until 1966.

President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated him to a seat on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on October 6, 1966, 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.

b. SEPTEMBER 20, 1912

d. SEPTEMBER 4, 1992

COMMISSIONER A.C. WELLING

TERM: AUGUST 1, 1957 – JULY 1, 1960



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, 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 held many key positions with the Army Corps of Engineers. 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, 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.

Welling passed away on December 4, 2008.

b. OCTOBER 18, 1910
d. DECEMBER 4, 2008

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

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

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

b. UNKNOWN
d. FEBRUARY 11, 1978

COMMISSIONER FREDERICK J. CLARKE

TERM: AUGUST 1, 1960 — JULY 8, 1963



President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed Lieutenant General Frederick J. Clarke to be the Engineer member of the D.C. 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.

Clarke was born in Little Falls, New York. He graduated fourth in his class from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1937. Clarke 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 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.

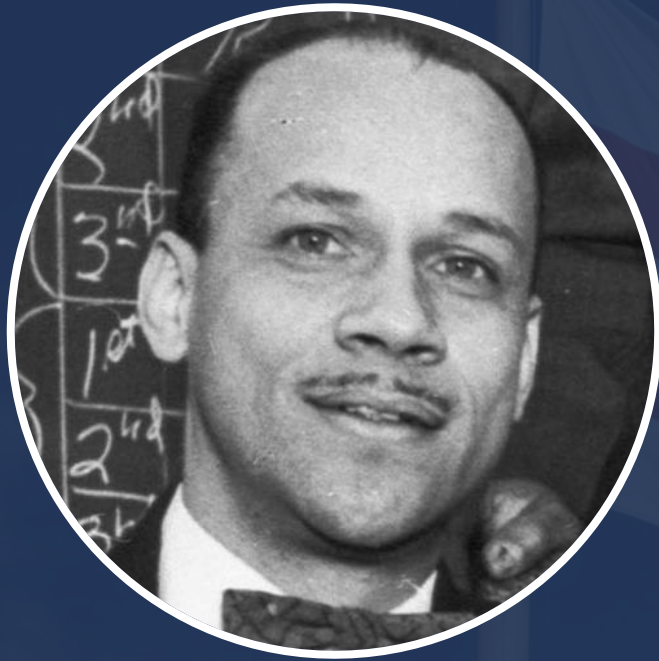
Clarke traveled throughout the country and abroad while serving in the Army until he was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission in 1960. He was the technician-in-chief, called to address such problems as traffic gridlock, economic development, and low levels of funding. After leaving the Commission, he returned to active duty in the Army 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.

Clarke was buried in Arlington National Cemetery after his death in 2002.

b. MARCH 1, 1915
d. FEBRUARY 4, 2002

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, 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 *Brown v. Board of Education* case that desegregated public schools. Washington 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 U.S. Department of Transportation. He was partially disabled by a fall in 1976, and later retired from the District of Columbia Superior Court in 1984.

Washington passed away on August 29, 1998.

b. UNKNOWN
d. AUGUST 29, 1998

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.

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.

Bernstein passed away on July 7, 1975.

b. UNKNOWN
d. JULY 7, 1975

COMMISSIONER CHARLES M. DUKE

TERM: JULY 8, 1963 — DECEMBER 1, 1966



President John F. Kennedy appointed Major General Charles Marsden Duke to be the Engineer member of the D.C. 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.

Duke was born in Jacksonville, TX, and graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1939. He later 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 the engineer in charge of the Port of New York, and he came to Washington, D.C. from Korea in 1963. After leaving the Commission, 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.

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

b. JUNE 24, 1917
d. AUGUST 21, 1976

COMMISSIONER / CHAIRMAN

CHARLES M. DUKE

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 mid-1966 and held that position until his departure from the DCPSC.

Avery was born in West Haven, CT, graduated from Yale University in 1952, and 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 DCPSC, he was also named Chairman of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission. He remained in both posts until the end of his tenure in 1971.

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

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

b. JANUARY 21, 1931

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.

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. Porter 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.

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

b. UNKNOWN
d. JANUARY 7, 1973

COMMISSIONER ROBERT E. MATHE

TERM: DECEMBER 14, 1966 — JUNE 12, 1971



**LAST ENGINEER
COMMISSIONER**

b. APRIL 21, 1920

d. OCTOBER 25, 2008

President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Robert E. Mathe to be the Engineer member of the D.C. 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.

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 was a graduate of the Army War College. 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 Johnson replaced the Board of Commissioners with a presidentially appointed mayor-council form of government in 1967. Mathe was also the last person appointed to fill the position of "Engineer Commissioner." After his military retirement in 1967, 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, VA around 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, 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. Fletcher initially accepted a job with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), but President Lyndon Johnson appointed him to be Deputy Mayor of D.C. prior to starting his job at HUD. 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. 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.

b. 1924

d. NOVEMBER 23, 1987

COMMISSIONER GRAHAM W. WATT

TERM: JANUARY 15, 1970 — JANUARY 31, 1973



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.

Watt was born in Elizabeth, NJ, and 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 World War II. 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, Watt consulted on public management issues in Russia, the Czechia (then the Czech Republic), Slovakia, China, Mongolia, and Armenia.

Mr. Watt passed away on October 16, 2012.

b. OCTOBER 23, 1926

d. 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 DCPSC on January 15, 1971, and became Chairman on June 13, 1971. He served as Chairman until his departure on June 30, 1973.

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

b. 1904
d. UNKNOWN

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., Neely graduated from Roosevelt High School and received his Bachelor's degree from Morgan State University in 1963. He later he worked as a deputy U.S. Marshal and as an officer in the Metropolitan Police Department. He received his law degree from Howard University School of Law in 1966, and, a year later, he entered private law practice in the District. After leaving the DCPSC in 1974, he resumed his law practice. 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, Neely passed away at Washington Hospital Center after suffering a seizure.

b. JANUARY 13, 1942
d. MARCH 20, 1980

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.

Stratton was born in St. Paul, MN, in 1934 and 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. Stratton completed his graduate education at Stanford University in 1971. He worked as an attorney-advisor at the U.S. Department of the Interior from 1963 until 1965 and engaged in private practice from 1965 to 1970. Prior to joining the DCPSC, he served as an executive assistant to the Chairman of the D.C. Council.

Stratton moved to Texas after leaving the Commission and, after retirement, worked as an energy consultant in Armenia and Russia for several years.

b. JUNE 6, 1934
d. FEBRUARY 27, 2019

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.

Schneider was born in 1932 in Lincoln, NE and moved to the District in 1958, after receiving a master's degree from the University of Michigan. He also held a bachelor's degree in political science from Johns Hopkins University. Schneider maintained an extensive career with the District of Columbia government after his time with the DCPSC. Mayor Walter Washington appointed Schneider as the Acting Director of the D.C. Department of Transportation in 1975, where he remained for four years. As director, Schneider 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 then Mayor Marion Barry. He was later appointed to the Citizens Traffic Board for a term that ran from March 1981 until April 1982.

Schneider died on January 29, 1991, of cancer in Bellevue, WA. 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.



b. 1932

d. JANUARY 29, 1991

COMMISSIONER / CHAIRMAN RUTH HANKINS-NESBITT

TERM: MARCH 5, 1975 — SEPTEMBER 29, 1989



**FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN
FEMALE COMMISSIONER**

b. APRIL 14, 1919

d. APRIL 12, 2007

Walter Washington, as the first elected Mayor of the District of Columbia, appointed Ruth Hankins-Nesbitt as a Commissioner of the DCPSC and she served as Chairman from 1976 to 1977 and again from 1980 to June 30, 1984.

Hankins-Nesbitt was born in South Boston, VA, and graduated from high school there. She received her bachelor's degree from Virginia Theological Seminary and College (now the Virginia University of Lynchburg) and 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. 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 DCPSC where she served until her retirement in 1989. In 1973, Hankins-Nesbitt was elected the first female President of the Washington Bar Association, a predominantly African-American legal group.

Hankins-Nesbitt passed away on April 12, 2007.

COMMISSIONER / CHAIRMAN ELIZABETH H. PATTERSON

TERM: NOVEMBER 30, 1977 — JUNE 30, 1980



Elected Mayor Walter Washington appointed Elizabeth H. Patterson as a DCPSC Commissioner, serving from 1977 to 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 The Catholic University. From 1993 to 1997, she served as Associate Dean for the JD and graduate programs at the school's law center.

Patterson 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, from 2005 to 2007 and 2009 to 2010.

Patterson is Professor Emerita at Georgetown Law School.



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 DCPSC, serving from 1980 to 1990.

A native of Massachusetts, Long received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan and went on to hold combined teaching and research positions at Bowdoin College in Maine and at Pennsylvania State University. He later began work as an economist, and, just prior to his appointment to the DCPSC, he was Deputy Director of the Office of Industrial Economics at the U.S. Department of Commerce. He was the first appointee Mayor Marion Barry, Jr. to the DCPSC.

As an active member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, Long served from 1982 to 1984 as Chairman of the Energy Conservation Committee and was a member of the Electricity Committee, and Chairman of its Subcommittee on Coal Freight Rates.

After leaving the Commission, Long taught economics at Frostburg College in western Maryland and served as an economics consultant to the D.C. Energy Office (now the Department of Energy and Environment).

COMMISSIONER / CHAIRMAN PATRICIA M. WORTHY

TERM: AUGUST 8, 1980 — JANUARY 1991



Mayor Marion 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.

Worthy grew up in Brooklyn, NY, and received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Brooklyn College. She has a law degree from the Howard University School of Law and 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 11-year tenure with the DCPSC, 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 1994-2006. During her tenure at the Nomination Commission, a combined 37 judicial appointments were made to the D.C. Superior Court and the D.C. Court of Appeals. Worthy is currently Professor Law at Howard University School of Law where she has taught for more 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.

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 DCPSC, Newsome became Chief Administrative Judge for the D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs from 1994 to 1999, and later opened a private practice in the District. She also served as an administrative law judge with the D.C. Government.

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, from 1994-1995 and from 1999-2000.

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 DCPSC, Meyers 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. 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.

While at the DCPSC, Meyers held positions with the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners and completed two elected terms as Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Regulatory Research Institute. 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.

Upon leaving the DCPSC, Meyers 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 DCPSC beginning in March 1984.

Davenport is a native Washingtonian and received a B.A. degree in economics from Boston University in 1976 and his JD 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 there, Davenport worked alongside former DCPSC Commissioner Joanne Doddy Fort. Davenport worked for Washington Gas & Light Company from 1982-1984 and then joined the DCPSC in 1984 as General Counsel.

After leaving the DCPSC, Davenport joined the Federal Communications Commission Wireless Telecommunications Bureau where he worked to bring broadband internet 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 DCPSC, having served more than four terms after being re-nominated by Mayors Marion Barry and Anthony Williams. Mayor Williams also nominated her to be Chairman in May 2003, a position she held until her departure at the end of 2008.

Yates is a native of Washington, DC who received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Howard University in 1977 and a JD from Georgetown University Law Center in 1988. Her legal experience includes the areas of energy, transportation, telecommunications, collective bargaining, and labor management relations.

Yates 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 the District 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.

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

While at the DCPSC, Johnson worked extensively with outside and staff counsel to draft decisions and legal pleadings, including a decision interpreting ambiguous D.C. law to authorize utility company mergers and the successful defense of a federal suit challenging a DCPSC arbitration decision.

Prior to joining the DCPSC, Johnson was Chairperson of the District of Columbia Alcoholic Beverage Control Board for 12 years. Johnson also 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. Johnson was named General Counsel of the Washington Convention Center Authority (now known as Events DC) in 2005.

b. UNKNOWN
d. SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

CHAIRMAN ANGEL CARTAGENA

TERM: JULY 2000 — MAY 30, 2003



FIRST HISPANIC CHAIRMAN

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, Cartagena was the first Hispanic appointed to lead the DCPSC.

Cartagena was born on January 3, 1962, in New Jersey. At age 15 he was awarded a scholarship by A Better Chance, Inc. to attend Westminster School in Simsbury, CT. 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.

Cartagena served as a Staff Attorney for the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia from July 1994 to May 1995. He 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.

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.

Rachal earned his JD from Georgetown University Law Center and a bachelors in Accounting and Economics from Xavier University of Louisiana. He was 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, 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. Rachal was also a member of the D.C. Gasoline Station Advisory Board with oversight for conversion of full-service stations to gas-only facilities throughout the District.

Upon leaving the DCPSC, Rachal returned to private practice.

COMMISSIONER RICHARD 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.

Morgan holds a Master's of Public Policy degree from the University of Maryland and a bachelors in economics from Antioch College. Before joining the DCPSC he spent 12 years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) where he focused on climate policy and emissions trading and represented the agency on energy policy matters including environmental disclosure, clean energy development, and electricity restructuring. 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 1994-1995, Morgan 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 the EPA in 1991, he spent five years on the staff of the DCPSC where he served as Technical Assistant to Commissioners Wesley Long and Edward Meyers and helped develop policies on energy conservation and resource planning. During his 40 years in the field of energy policy and utilities, Morgan 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. She began her tenure as a Commissioner in March 2007 and 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 DCPSC.

Kane is a graduate of Middlebury College and 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 DCPSC, Kane served as a trustee and 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.

Kane was a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Board of Directors and served as Chairman of the North American Numbering Council. She was elected as Chairman of the Board of the National Regulatory Research Institute and is a past-president of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners. She was also appointed by the Federal Communications Commission to the Joint Conference on Advanced Telecommunication Service and to the Virtual Working Group on Education, Training and Best Practices for The International Confederation of Energy Regulators.

COMMISSIONER LORI MURPHY LEE

TERM: MARCH 2009 — OCTOBER 3, 2012



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

A fifth generation Washingtonian, Lee received a bachelors from Duke University and a JD from George Washington University Law School. She came to the DCPSC with more than 15 years of legal experience in the federal government and private sector. Lee practiced appellate law at the United States Department of Justice for 12 years and, while in private practice, litigated and negotiated on behalf of clients working in procurement law, employment law, aviation regulation, white collar crime and corporate affairs.

At the DCPSC, Lee oversaw the implementation of smart grid in the District and led consumer education efforts. She increased the number of green jobs and affordable renewable energy. 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. She served on the Board of Directors and as subcommittee chair for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. She was also treasurer for the Organization of PJM States, Inc., a board member of the National Regulatory Research Institute, and a member of the Advisory Board of the New Mexico State Center for Public Utilities. Lee was an active member of NARUC and the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners.

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

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 served from October 3, 2012, to December 20, 2016.

Born in New York City and raised in the District, Fort has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Bryn Mawr College and a JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She has an extensive background in the fields of utility regulation, administrative law, and ethics.

Prior to joining the DCPSC, Fort served as Vice President and General Counsel of Urban Service Systems Corporation, a waste management and transportation company. Before that, she was a partner in three local law firms where she litigated cases before the DCPSC, first on behalf of the staff of the DCPSC and later on behalf of the Office of the People's Counsel. Prior to entering the private practice of law, Fort worked for the National Governors' Association and the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. The D.C. Court of Appeals appointed Fort to the Board on Professional Responsibility, the Commission on Admissions and the Access to Justice Commission. She 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.

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 was appointed to the DCPSC by Mayor Bowser and was confirmed by the Council of D.C. on December 18, 2018.

Gillis is a senior professional engineer and experienced administrator and organizational leader with over 20 years of experience in both the public and private sectors.

Gillis previously served as Director of the District Department of General Services (DGS). In this role, she oversaw the agency responsible for managing capital improvement and construction programs for a variety of District government agencies, including DC Public Schools. She also managed sustainability initiatives across the agency's efforts, specifically championing building energy performance standards for the government portfolio and implementing agreements to reduce greenhouse gases through efforts on installing green roofs and solar installations across government buildings.

Prior to her role at DGS, Gillis served as the Deputy Director and Deputy Chief Engineer, respectively, for the District Department of Transportation. In this role, she oversaw infrastructure projects pertaining to the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative program, Stormwater Management Branch, Safety Standards and Quality Control Division, ITS Division, and Citywide Special Projects.

Gillis is a certified Professional Engineer in Washington, DC, and Virginia and is a certified Lean Six Sigma Black Belt.

Gillis was honored by President Obama and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx in 2014 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, Gillis served as a role model and advocate for building a diverse transportation workforce.

COMMISSIONER / CHAIRMAN WILLIE L. PHILLIPS

TERM: JULY 4, 2014 — NOVEMBER 19, 2021



Willie L. Phillips was appointed to the DCPSC by Mayor Vincent Gray in 2014 and reappointed by Mayor Bowser to serve as Chairman in 2018.

Phillips is an experienced regulatory attorney with years 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 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 led efforts to improve DCPSC communications and update public-facing platforms.

Prior to the DCPSC, Phillips served as Assistant General Counsel for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, a not-for-profit international regulatory authority, in Washington, D.C.. He also worked for District-based 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.

Phillips was an active member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners — he served 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 was also President of the Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, a member of the Advisory Council to the Electric Power Research Institute, 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. He served on the Board of Directors of the Organization of PJM States, Inc. and the Living Classrooms Foundation of the National Capital Region.

Phillips was named by President Biden to be Acting Chairman of FERC on January 3, 2023.

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.

COMMISSIONER / CHAIRMAN EMILE C. THOMPSON

TERM: APRIL 7, 2021 — AUGUST 14, 2026



Emile C. Thompson was appointed to the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia by Mayor Muriel Bowser in 2021 and re-appointed as Interim Chairman on December 1, 2021. He was confirmed as Chairman on June 7, 2022.

Before the Commission, Chairman Thompson was an Assistant United States Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, serving as a Deputy Chief. He has also served as a Principal Member of the D.C. Water Board of Directors since 2016. Chairman Thompson began his career as a law clerk for the Honorable (Ret.) Herbert B. Dixon, Jr. of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. He also served as a senior advisor to the Mayoral Administrations of Vincent Gray and Muriel Bowser.

Chairman Thompson was a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Board of Directors, representing public service commissions that regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities. In addition, he served as the Chair of the NARUC Committee on Critical Infrastructure and was a member of the NARUC Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment. He served on the Advisory Council of the Electric Power Research Institute Board of Directors, the Critical Consumer Issues Forum, and the Advisory Board of the Financial Research Institute. He has also served as a past President of the Organization of PJM States, Inc.

Chairman Thompson graduated from Morehouse College with a degree in Computer Science and minors in Math and Biology. He obtained his law degree from Wake Forest University School of Law.

Born in Washington, D.C., Chairman Thompson resides with his wife and children. He is active in the D.C. community previously serving as a board member of the Abramson Scholarship Foundation and is a former board member of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington. He also served as an adjunct professor at American University Washington College of Law.

COMMISSIONER RICHARD A. BEVERLY

TERM: DECEMBER 21, 2016 — PRESENT



Richard A. Beverly served as General Counsel to the Public Service Commission until he was appointed as Commissioner by Mayor Bowser in 2016 and re-appointed on December 7, 2021, and September 24, 2024. His current term ends on June 30, 2028.

Commissioner Beverly graduated from Howard University Magna Cum Laude. He went on to obtain a Juris Doctor from American University in 1981 and became a member of the District of Columbia Bar that same year.

He entered the District government as a hearing officer with the Office of Employee Appeals in 1983 and quickly rose to the position of General Counsel, a role where he gained extensive administrative law and litigation experience. During this time, he also served as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner and as a volunteer arbitrator for the Better Business Bureau.

DCPSC Chairman asked Commissioner Beverly in 1997 to accept a position as General Counsel and he served in that role until obtaining a presidential appointment to serve as a member of the U.S. Department of Labor's Administrative Review Board (ARB). The ARB functioned as an appellate review board for decisions of federal administrative law judges.

In 2002, a new DCPSC Chairperson asked Commissioner Beverly to return as an advisor and he was later unanimously asked by all three Commissioners to again serve as General Counsel.

In addition to being a member of the DC Bar, Commissioner Beverly is also a member of the Bar for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and the Bar for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Commissioner Beverly is a longtime resident of the District of Columbia.

COMMISSIONER TED TRABUE

TERM: DECEMBER 20, 2022 — PRESENT



INTERIM CHAIRMAN

Ted Trabue was appointed to the DCPSC by Mayor Muriel Bowser and was confirmed by the Council of D.C. on December 20, 2022. He was appointed Interim Chairman on August 18, 2026.

Commissioner Trabue previously served as the Managing Director of the District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU) from 2011-2022. Prior to that, he was the Vice President for District of Columbia Affairs at Pepco, worked at the Greater Washington Board of Trade as Staff Director for Critical Issues for the District of Columbia and Maryland, and served as Chief of Staff for former Council of DC Chairman Linda Cropp.

Commissioner Trabue served on the District of Columbia State Board of Education for more than five years, including as President from 2010- 2012 and as Vice President in 2009.

Commissioner Trabue is a fourth-generation Washingtonian, and, like his mother and grandmother, he attended District of Columbia Public Schools. He received a degree in Economics from Dartmouth College and holds a law degree from Howard University School of Law.