

Chairman Clyburn Announces Staff Of The Select Subcommittee On The Coronavirus Crisis

Jun 10, 2020 | Press Release

Washington, DC (June 10, 2020) –Today, U.S. House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, Chairman of the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, announced the staff of the recently established Subcommittee.

“I am pleased to announce this remarkable team of experienced professionals,” **Chairman Clyburn said.** “Their skill and expertise will be essential to our efforts to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of the American people. Each staff member will play an integral role in ensuring that the response to the coronavirus crisis is effective, efficient, and equitable.”

Modeled after the Truman Committee during World War II, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis was established by the House of Representatives on April 23, 2020, pursuant to House Resolution 935, “to conduct a full and complete investigation” of the “efficiency, effectiveness, equity, and transparency of the use of taxpayer funds and relief programs to address the coronavirus crisis.”

The members of the Select Subcommittee staff are:

David J. Hickton, *Staff Director and Senior Counsel*

David J. Hickton will serve as Staff Director and Senior Counsel, charged with leading the oversight work of the

House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis. He most recently served as a law professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the founding Director of the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security. From 2010-2016, Hickton served as United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, where he led a vigorous effort to identify and eliminate corruption, fraud and abuse. During his time as U.S. Attorney, he also conducted investigations and brought indictments in some of the most prominent cyber-crime cases in history; co-chaired the National Heroin Task Force while working to combat the national heroin and opioid epidemic; led efforts to enforce our nation's civil rights laws; and initiated a dedicated effort to prevent child abuse and human trafficking. Hickton is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and the Pennsylvania State University.

Russell Anello, *Deputy Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Russell Anello will serve as the Select Subcommittee's Deputy Staff Director and Chief Counsel. He is joining the Select Subcommittee from the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, where he has served as Chief Oversight Counsel to Chairman Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) and Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) and led a range of high-profile investigations. Anello has also served in the White House Counsel's Office, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the bipartisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, and in private practice. He began his career as counsel to Oversight Committee Chairman Henry Waxman (D-CA), where he investigated waste, fraud, and abuse in federal contracting and the 2008 financial crisis. Anello is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard College.

Funmi Olorunnipa Badejo, *General Counsel*

Funmi Olorunnipa Badejo will serve as the Select Subcommittee's General Counsel. Her prior government service includes working as Counsel for Policy to the Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. In this role, Olorunnipa Badejo coordinated the Division's response to congressional oversight as well as regulatory and policy proposals. She also served as Ethics Counsel in the White House Counsel's Office and as an Attorney Advisor at the Administrative Conference of the United States. Olorunnipa Badejo began her legal career as an associate with the law firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP and most recently served as Counsel at Palantir Technologies Inc. She is a graduate of the University of California Berkeley School of Law, Harvard University, and the University of Florida.

Matthew Ellison, *Special Counsel to the Chairman*

Matthew Ellison will serve as the Select Subcommittee's Special Counsel to the Chairman. He is currently Deputy Policy Director in the Office of Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-SC) and will continue to serve in that capacity. Ellison previously served as Legislative Director and Counsel in the Office of Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL); Policy and Communications Director of the South Carolina Democratic Party; and Legislative Assistant in the Office of the House Assistant Democratic Leader. He is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center and Yale University.

Kirsten Allen, *Communications Director*

Kirsten Allen will serve as the Select Subcommittee's Communications Director. Prior to joining the Select Subcommittee, she served as the Deputy Communications Director at the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC). Allen previously served on presidential campaigns for Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) and Hillary Clinton; gubernatorial campaigns for Andrew Gillum and Mahlon Mitchell; and led the communications team in the

Office of Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ). She is a graduate of Howard University.

Jennifer Gaspar, *Chief Investigative Counsel*

Jennifer Gaspar will serve as the Select Subcommittee's Chief Investigative Counsel. She joins the Select Subcommittee from the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, where she served as Counsel. Gaspar previously served as an Associate at Sidley Austin LLP, where she handled investigations implicating the U.S. securities laws, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and the False Claims Act. She also worked as a prosecutor for both the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. In 2012, Gaspar served as the North Carolina Voter Protection Director for President Barack Obama's reelection campaign. She is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, the London School of Economics, and Johns Hopkins University.

Allison Murphy, *Chief Oversight Counsel*

Allison Murphy will serve as the Select Subcommittee's Chief Oversight Counsel. Previously, she was Counsel at Protect Democracy, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization. Prior to joining Protect Democracy, Murphy served as Associate Counsel to President Barack Obama in the Office of White House Counsel; Enforcement Attorney-Advisor at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; Counsel on the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations; and an Associate at WilmerHale. She is a graduate of the George Washington University Law School and Ohio University.

Carlos Uriarte, *Chief Counsel for Investigations*

Carlos Uriarte will serve as the Select Subcommittee's Chief Counsel for Investigations. His prior government service includes working as Associate Deputy Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he was responsible

for managing the department's responses to congressional investigations, overseeing internal investigations, and advising department leadership on a wide range of legal and policy issues. Uriarte also worked for the Office of the Secretary at the U.S. Department of the Interior, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Office of Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), and U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, where he served as a clerk for Judge Juan R. Sanchez. He most recently served as Vice President of Compliance at Capital One. Uriarte is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Washington University in St. Louis.

Kadeem Cooper, *Counsel*

Kadeem Cooper will serve as Counsel to the Select Subcommittee. He is joining the Select Subcommittee from the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, where he served as Counsel to Chairman Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) and Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) and worked on a wide range of investigations. Cooper previously worked as a litigation associate at Covington & Burling LLP. He is a graduate of New York University School of Law and the University of Virginia.

Rachel Cotton, *Counsel*

Rachel Cotton will serve as Counsel to the Select Subcommittee. She is joining the Select Subcommittee from Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, where she was a partner with a wide-ranging litigation and investigations practice. Earlier in her career, Cotton worked in the U.S. Senate for Senator Evan Bayh, as an associate at Covington & Burling LLP, and as a law clerk for two federal judges. She is a graduate of Yale Law School and Brown University.

Cassie Fields, *Senior Investigative Counsel*

Cassie Fields will serve as the Select Subcommittee's Senior Investigative Counsel. She comes to the Select

Subcommittee from the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, where she served as Counsel under the leadership of Chairman Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) and Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY). Before coming to the Hill, Fields was a Senior Associate at the Washington law firm, Williams and Connolly LLP, where her practice included litigation, internal investigations, and professional ethics. She began her career on the professional staff of Illinois State Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., in Springfield, Illinois. Fields is a graduate of Yale Law School and the University of Chicago.

K. Alex Kiles, *Counsel*

K. Alex Kiles will serve as Counsel to the Select Subcommittee. He is joining the Select Subcommittee from the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, where he conducted congressional investigations into the executive branch relating to financial conflicts of interest, federal procurements, and alleged misconduct. Before transitioning to public service, Kiles worked as an Associate at Covington & Burling LLP in the firm's white-collar investigations and international arbitration practice groups. He also clerked for the Honorable Emmet G. Sullivan and the Honorable Gladys Kessler (Ret.) on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Kiles is a graduate of University of Chicago Law School and Washington University in St. Louis.

Terri McField, *Counsel*

Terri McField will serve as Counsel to the Select Subcommittee. Prior to joining the Select Subcommittee, she served as Senior Counsel for Congressman Mike Thompson (D-CA), advising the Member on tax and economic policy and on small business, housing, and financial services issues. Previously, McField served as Special Counsel to the Chief Counsel for Legislation with the IRS Office of Chief Counsel. In that role, she was responsible for legislative, implementation, and published

guidance matters for major tax legislation, including the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008 that was enacted during the 2007-2008 financial crisis. McField is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Howard University School of Law, and the University of New Orleans.

Beth Mueller, *Counsel*

Beth Mueller will serve as Counsel to the Select Subcommittee. Prior to joining the Select Subcommittee, she was a partner with the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where she was a member of the firm's Government, Regulatory, and Internal Investigations practice. In that role, Mueller represented corporate clients in a wide range of government-initiated investigations and litigation matters involving complex financial fraud. She began her legal career as an associate with the law firm of Paul Hastings LLP. Mueller is a graduate of the UCLA School of Law and Georgetown University.

Halimah Najieb-Locke, *Senior Procurement Counsel*

Halimah Najieb-Locke will serve as the Select Subcommittee's Senior Procurement Counsel. She previously served as Counsel on the House Committee on Armed Services where she handled all acquisition-related policy matters and legislative development. Najieb-Locke started her career on Capitol Hill as a Professional Staff Member for Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-NY) on the House Committee on Small Business. She is a graduate of the George Washington University Law School and the University of San Francisco.

Alex Zerden, *Counsel*

Alex Zerden will serve as Counsel to the Select Subcommittee. He joins the Select Subcommittee from the Treasury Department, where he worked in several roles to promote financial integrity at home and abroad, managed complex financial investigations, and served in the White

House National Economic Council. Zerden joined the executive branch as a Presidential Management Fellow after conducting financial oversight at the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI) under the leadership of Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), founding a consulting company, and assisting 9/11 survivors and their families in private practice. He is a graduate of American University Washington College of Law and Tufts University.

Emerald Garrett, *Legislative Assistant*

Emerald Garrett will serve as a Legislative Assistant for the Select Subcommittee, where she will provide legislative research and work on special projects. She is currently Floor Assistant in the Office of the Majority Whip and will continue to serve in that capacity. Previously, Garrett served as Senior Staff Assistant to the Majority Whip and as Staff Assistant in the Office of the House Assistant Democratic Leader. She is a graduate of Spelman College, where she majored in International Studies, with a minor in Japanese Studies.

Senam Okpattah, *Staff Assistant*

Senam Okpattah will serve as the Staff Assistant for the Select Subcommittee. She has held Congressional internships with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the office of the late Chairman Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD), and the House Committee on Oversight and Reform. During her time with the Oversight Committee, Okpattah assisted the Clerk Staff in managing Committee Operations. She is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland College Park with a B.A. in Public Policy and African American Studies.

Zachary M. Kiser, *Fellow*

Zachary Kiser will serve as a Fellow joining the Select Subcommittee from the office of Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), where he served as a Health Policy Fellow. In Senator

Brown's office, he led a range of legislative and oversight efforts involving public health and health care. Prior to his service in the Senate, Kiser spent several years as a medical research scientist focusing on developing research projects and clinical trials to improve the lives of African Americans. He is a graduate of Morehouse School of Medicine and the University of Kentucky.

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