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2018 Young Leaders Biographies

Natalie Armijo, United States House of Representatives

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Victoria Weatherford, San Francisco City Attorney's Office



Natalie Armijo

Natalie Armijo, a native New Mexican, is the Chief of Staff for Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM-01) and started as her Deputy Chief of Staff in May 2015. She previously worked for Sandia National Laboratories and has a background in communications, marketing and project management. She is also a small business owner of *Oh, So Natty LLC*. Natalie received two BAs in

Communications and Journalism and Spanish and her Master's in Business (MBA), all from the University of New Mexico.

Public Service and politics have always been of interest to Natalie, she graduated from the Emerge New Mexico program in 2012, a program that trains democratic women to run for office. As Rep. Lujan Grisham's Chief, she ensures that the district and DC offices run smoothly, that the office is serving constituents from New Mexico's first district to the highest degree, and that the Congresswoman and her team are successful.



Jonathan M. Beutler

Jonathan M. Beutler is the Managing Director of PACIFIC RIM Global Advisory, a National Security Fellow with the Truman Project, and a former American diplomat. As a Foreign Service Officer of the U.S. Department of State, Jonathan most recently served as a public diplomacy officer at U.S. Embassy Tokyo. While in Japan, he worked on a wide range of projects, including post-tsunami

regional development efforts and advocacy for Japan's accession to the Hague Convention on International Child Abduction. In 2017, he was a Manfred Wörner Fellow with the German Marshall Fund.

Passionate about community service and politics, Jonathan currently serves as Los Angeles County Beach Commissioner and a delegate to the California Democratic

Party. He also served on the National Finance Committee of Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign. He is an active member of the Pacific Council on International Policy and the RAND Corporation's Policy Circle, sits on the Board of Governors of the Japan America Society, and was recently appointed to the District Export Council of Southern California. As an advocate for small business and economic development, he has led several community organizations, currently serving as the President of the Los Angeles Gateway Chamber of Commerce.

Jonathan is a graduate of UCLA and BYU and lives with his family in Manhattan Beach, California. Jonathan looks forward to learning more substantively about Spanish perspectives related to key transatlantic and global issues, including U.S.-Spain trade and investment policy.



Karla Duran

Dr. Karla Duran is a proud native of Mexico City, Mexico and was raised in North Texas. She holds a Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership, a Dual MBA in International Business and Management and a Bachelor's in Human Resource Management with a minor in Spanish. She has been an Professor for ten years at the University of the Incarnate Word teaching business courses to undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students.

Karla enjoys giving back to the community and serves on the Board of Directors for the Bexar County Family Justice Center as the Treasurer of the Board.

Karla is both an alumna and currently serves on the steering committees for both the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Alex Briseno Leadership Development Program and the Latina Leadership Institute. Karla is also the Vice President for the Northside Independent School District Educational Improvement Council.



Douglas Garcia

Douglas Garcia, Senior Manager of the ETS HiSET, has direct accountability for the end-to-end client relationship of the HiSET program and works directly with key stakeholders to ensure full implementation and successful launch of the HiSET across the United States. Douglas also served within ETS as a Manager of Government and External Relations where he monitored international, federal, and state political and legislative activity related to company interest and product lines and provided intelligence and analysis to internal business units for potential opportunities at the international, federal, state, and local level.

In 2015, Douglas was appointed to serve on the Board for Virginia's Community Colleges, where he currently serves as the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. Previously, Douglas served as Assistant Secretary of Education for Governors Tim Kaine and Bob McDonnell in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Douglas received his B.A. in Political Science and International Affairs from James Madison University.



Amilcar Guzman

Amilcar Guzman is the Director of Research, Evaluation and Federal Advocacy at CASA, where he leads the organization's Evaluation Department. In this role he works to develop metrics and targets to ensure that the organization's programs, policies and practices produce results.

Prior to joining CASA, Amilcar worked in education policy, research and analysis at numerous Washington, DC based organizations including the Data Quality Campaign, National Council for Community and Education Partnerships, the Council of the Great City Schools and on Capitol Hill.

Amilcar began his career through a fellowship from the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute.

Currently, he serves as the National President of the CHCI Alumni Association and as a Board Member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute representing the interests of over 3,500 Latino professionals across the country. Previously, Amilcar has served on the board of the Latin American Youth Center (Associate) and of the Young Education Professionals. He has also taught as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland, Trinity Washington University and the University of the District of Columbia. Amilcar has received the President's Volunteer Service Award and was named as a 40 under 40 award winner by Prospanica for his service and commitment to the Latino community.



Nathaniel Robison

Nathaniel (Nate) Robinson loves to find new ways to do more for more people. An innovator in strategy and operations, he initiates and expands research, education and technical development as Assistant VP at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). Dedicated to socio-economic development domestically and internationally, he also Co-Founded Pick-N-Learn to bring education and career opportunities to challenged populations. Nate's perseverance and good fortune have allowed him to advance initiatives in engineering and science, economics, education, and social impact through sponsors like NASA, Motorola, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and Jacobs Engineering, among others.

He holds degrees in engineering, economics and finance, as well as professional engineering licenses in multiple states. After working in R&D at Motorola, on electromagnetic projects at the Department of Defense, and on Space Shuttle propulsion systems at NASA, Nate became Director of Operations in Mechanical Engineering at UTEP. He expanded his work to innovation in Saudi Arabia at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) before returning to the USA at UTEP. Nate is grateful to have worked in the USA, Mexico, Peru, Portugal,

Saudi Arabia, Oman and China. He's on the lookout for opportunities for innovation systems to address economic and social disparities, and always welcomes a good cup of tea.



Adam Sotomayor

Adam Sotomayor advises on counterterrorism finance and sanctions, and works with multilateral organizations and foreign governments to advance global counterterrorism objectives as a Foreign Affairs Officer at the U.S. Department of State.

Previously, Adam worked on management policy issues, including diversity and inclusion, on behalf of the Office of the Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of HR at the U.S. Department of State. Adam recently served as Deputy Press Attaché at U.S. Embassy France in Paris, where he coordinated press initiatives and managed the digital engagement portfolio for the U.S. Mission. Adam worked closely with White House and Embassy staff to cover key events, including the U.S. President's visit to Paris for bilateral meetings with the President of France.

Adam started his State Department career as a Presidential Management Fellow (PMF), where he launched and facilitated public-private partnerships for economic development on behalf of the Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships. Adam has also advanced human rights and political military initiatives during an assignment as a Political-Economic Officer at U.S. Embassy Asuncion. In 2016, Adam was featured on Huffington Post's list of 40 under 40 Latinos in Foreign Policy for his work on the National Security Council Initiative to Promote Diversity and Inclusion in the National Security workforce, which resulted in a Presidential Memorandum and two executive orders to strengthen the pipeline of diverse candidates in foreign affairs.

Adam started his career managing commercial advertising for Turner Broadcasting networks in Latin America. He graduated from the University of Florida with a Masters in International Business and Bachelor of Science in

Finance. Adam is an alumni of the International Career Advancement Program, and serves on the Washington DC Advisory Committee for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund



Simon Tafoya

Simon Tafoya currently serves as Senior Director for Policy and Federal Relations for Governor John Hickenlooper of Colorado. Simon joined the office of Governor Hickenlooper in 2012, where he has led efforts from the Governor's office on economic development, technology, telecommunications and cybersecurity, among other issues.

Simon's previous work includes serving as legislative staff in Washington D.C. for the office of Senator Harry Reid of Nevada and later in the office of Senator Mark Udall of Colorado. He received his Bachelors of Arts from Colorado College and a Masters of Public Affairs and Urban and Regional Planning from Princeton University.



Emerita Torres

Emerita is currently a political advisor at the U.S Mission to the United Nations, where she works on international security issues in the UN Security Council, including counterterrorism, sanctions, human rights, drug trafficking, and the conflict in Darfur, Sudan. Emerita has over a decade of international affairs experience as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State, having

worked in political, economic, labor, and multilateral positions covering South and Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Emerita earned her Master's degree in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School and her undergraduate degree in

history from New York University. While at Harvard, Emerita was the co-Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Journal of Hispanic Policy, volunteered for the Barack Obama presidential campaign, and was a teaching fellow for a community organizing course, which inspired her to become an organizer and train others on how to build community power through organizing. Emerita is a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Alumna, a New Leaders Council Fellow/Alumna, and serves as a Term Member on the Council on Foreign Relations.

Emerita is proud to be from the Bronx, New York. She serves as a board member on two non-profit organizations focused on improving the livelihoods of children and families in the Bronx and across New York City - The Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation (WHEDCO) and I Challenge Myself. Emerita is passionate about health and wellness; She is a certified group fitness instructor, a Brazilian Jiu Jitsu practitioner, runner, and has led nutrition awareness workshops in her community.



Victoria Weatherford

Victoria Weatherford is a Deputy City Attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, and member of the office-wide Affirmative Litigation Task Force. As Deputy City Attorney, Victoria investigates and brings California Unfair Competition Law ("UCL") lawsuits on behalf of the City and the People of the State of California, to end unlawful business practices statewide across a variety of industries. Her lawsuits against the Academy of Art University and multiple online gun stores, for example, have garnered national headlines, resulted in settlements in the tens of millions of dollars, and resulted in tough, permanent injunctions. Her most recent trial resulted in a \$5.5 million judgment and injunction. Accolades for her work include two Certificates of Honor from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the 2018 Alumni of the Year award from the UCLA Center for American Politics and Public Policy (chosen from over 2,000 alumni), and the 2016 Most Empowering City Employee of the Year award for which Victoria was chosen from over 30,000 City employees.

Previously, Victoria was an associate at the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers LLP, handling Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, antitrust, and consumer class-action matters for clients in the technology, automotive, and gambling industries. In her practice, Victoria represented clients before the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, in addition to appearing in federal trial and appellate courts.

Victoria is a 2009 graduate of Yale Law School, where she was Executive Editor of the Yale Journal on Regulation and Notes Editor of the Yale Law Journal. She clerked for Judge William B. Shubb of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California and for Judge Edward C. Prado of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, who is the current U.S. Ambassador to Argentina. Before law school, Victoria attended the University of California, Los Angeles, and graduated summa cum laude in 2006 with degrees in economics and political science.

Victoria is active in numerous professional associations, including serving as co-Chair of the Bar Association of San Francisco Barrister's Litigation Section Executive Committee and on the 16-member Federal Bar Association nationwide Task Force Committee on Diversity. She also serves as a Board Director for the San Francisco Opera Guild and the YWCA of San Francisco and Marin, and as an Advisory Board member for the UCLA Center for American Politics and Public Policy. Victoria is currently a Carnegie New Leader with the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, and a member of the 2018-2019 Leadership San Francisco program.