



*National Advisory Council  
Member Biographies  
2009*

*Institute of Governmental Studies  
University of California, Berkeley*

The IGS National Advisory Council is responsible for providing guidance and direction to advance the Institute's development and outreach efforts. Membership is composed of distinguished individuals representing the corporate, philanthropy, non-profit, professional, and academic sectors that are affiliated with the IGS mission

## Darius Anderson

*Chair of the Council*



Darius Anderson is the founder and CEO of three of California's most distinguished companies, Platinum Advisors, LLC, a government relations and public affairs firm; Kenwood Investments, LLC, a California private equity real estate development firm; and Gold Bridge Capital, LLC, a San Francisco based pension fund advisory firm. With a background that encompasses over twenty years of experience in business, real estate and politics, Mr. Anderson is an entrepreneurial leader whose influence and experience has impacted some of California's most prolific business ventures, acquisitions and developments.

Before founding these three companies, Mr. Anderson spent five years at The Yucaipa Companies as Chief of Staff and as Vice President of External Affairs for Ralphs Grocery Stores, Inc., a Fortune 500 company. In addition to his chairmanship of the National Advisory Board at The Institute of Governmental Studies, Mr. Anderson serves as the Finance Committee Chair for the Robert A. Toigo Foundation Board of Directors and as a member of the Jackie Robinson Foundation Board of Directors. On October 31, 2007, IGS announced that Darius and Sarah Anderson had made a gift to the Institute of \$250,000 over a period of five years.

## Douglas Boxer ['88]



Douglas Boxer has over 20 years experience in law, politics and government. He currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Oakland Planning Commission and as Board Member of the Legal Community Against Violence, a leading national gun violence prevention organization. He is also on the Advisory Board of the East Bay College Fund,

which provides financial support to at-risk youth to attend college. Mr. Boxer began his career with the San Francisco firm of Hanson, Bridgett, Marcus, Vlahos and Rudy, working in the Labor law area. He left the law firm to work in government, serving for three years in Washington, DC at two cabinet level departments – Department of Health & Human Services and the Small Business Administration.

Additionally, Mr. Boxer served in the Los Angeles Mayor's office as Director of Intergovernmental Affairs; ran his own government relations and public affairs firm, which served California-based technology and financial service businesses; and ran the San Francisco office of Platinum Advisors until 2004. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in International Political Economy from University of California, Berkeley in 1988 and his law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1991, where he graduated cum laude.

**William Brandt, Jr.**  
*Chair of the Development Committee*



William Brandt has been in the business of workout, turnaround and insolvency consulting for almost thirty years and is widely recognized as one of the foremost practitioners in the field. He is President and CEO of Development Specialists, Inc. (“DSI”), a firm specializing in the provision of management, consulting and turnaround assistance to troubled or reorganizing enterprises. Mr. Brandt has advised Congress on matters of insolvency and bankruptcy policy, and in that capacity was the principal author of the amendment to the Bankruptcy Code permitting the election of trustees in Chapter 11 cases. During the Clinton administration, he served as a member of the President's National Finance Board as well as serving as a delegate from the State of Florida to the 1996 Democratic National Convention. In 2000, he served as a member of the Democratic Party's Platform Committee.

Previously, Mr. Brandt served several terms as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Bankruptcy Institute; served for almost 20 years as a member of the private Panel of Trustees for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois; and briefly served as a member of the same panel for the Bankruptcy Court in the Southern District of Florida in the late 1980s. Mr. Brandt is a governing member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, a former Governing Member of the Sustaining Fellows of

the Art Institute of Chicago and a life trustee of Fenwick High School in Oak Park, Illinois.

## Bryan Cameron



Bryan Cameron is co-director of research for Dodge & Cox, an investment management firm in San Francisco, with over \$180 billion in assets under management. Mr. Cameron graduated with a BA in Economics from UC Davis in 1980 and a MBA from Stanford University in 1983. At the University of California at Berkeley, Mr. Cameron has served as a Trustee of the UC Berkeley Foundation and as President of the Bear Backer (Cal Athletics) Board of Directors.

## David Carrillo ['91, JD '95, LL.M '07]



David A. Carrillo is a Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice, where as a member of the Employment, Regulation, and Administration Section (ERA) he represents state agencies in civil litigation, writs of mandate and administrative proceedings on issues of statewide importance in state and federal court.

Before joining the Attorney General's Office, Mr. Carrillo served as a Deputy City Attorney in San Francisco and as a Deputy District Attorney in Contra Costa County, and worked as an associate in private practice. In addition to earning B.A., J.D., and LL.M. degrees from UC Berkeley, currently Mr. Carrillo is preparing a dissertation on California constitutional law in the J.S.D. program at the UC Berkeley School of Law.

## Darek DeFreece ['93]



Darek DeFreece is Managing Counsel for Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., leading a team of lawyers in support of the bank's international businesses. He received his A.B. degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley and his J.D. from Boston College Law School.

DeFreece has focused his legal career on financial services including OTC derivatives, investment management and international law. DeFreece is a member of the Financial Markets Lawyers Group. The FMLG advises on legal issues relevant to over-the-counter foreign exchange and other financial markets and is comprised of lawyers who support foreign exchange and other financial markets trading in leading worldwide financial institutions. The FMLG is sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

DeFreece is the Immediate Past-President of the California Alumni Association, representing the 430,000 living alumni of UC Berkeley. Under DeFreece's presidency, CAA launched its new strategic plan with increased emphasis on alumni engagement, scholarship and advocacy, all in support of the University. Mr. DeFreece also serves as Regent-Designate and Treasurer of the Alumni Associations of UC (AAUC) for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2009.

## Stephen Dodson ['99]



Stephen Dodson served as the President of Parnassus Investments, working in firm management and primarily on marketing. He started at Parnassus Investments in 2002 and has worked in a number of areas within the firm, including investment research, shareholder services, technology and compliance. Prior to Parnassus, he worked for the venture capital group of Advent International, a private equity firm.

Previously, he worked in the investment banking group of Morgan Stanley in New York and Menlo Park, covering communication service providers. Mr. Dodson is also a member of Full Circle Fund, a San Francisco Bay Area philanthropy group. Through Full Circle, he works with schools and education groups on improving public education. In 2006, Mr. Dodson was selected as a delegate by the office of United States Representative Nancy Pelosi to the 2006 National Summit on Retirement Savings, a quadrennial summit on increasing the savings and retirement planning of Americans.

## Bevan Dufty ['89]



Bevan Dufty was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in December 2002, re-elected in November 2006, and represents San Francisco's District 8. At 21, he worked on Capitol Hill and decades later as Director of Neighborhood Services at the Mayor's Office in San Francisco.

Supervisor Dufty encouraged Mayor Brown to launch the Open Door Program, a Saturday morning forum. This program provided an opportunity for individual San Franciscans to talk privately with the mayor about their individual problems and gave thousands of people personal access to their mayor. On a community level he has continued to work in close partnership with neighborhood and merchant groups throughout District 8. Mr.

Dufty is a member of the Alice B. Toklas, Raoul Wallenberg and Robert F. Kennedy Democratic Clubs, a founder of San Francisco's LGBT Community Center and a member of San Francisco Front Runner's.

## James Fang ['85]



James Fang was elected to the BART Board in November 1990, and was elected by his fellow directors to serve as President of the BART Board during the year 2004. He is currently Chairperson for the San Mateo County Policy Committee and the Silicon Valley Rapid Transit Project Policy Advisory Board. He serves as a member of the District's Security Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee and is a member of the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Board. He serves as a member of the San Francisco Transportation Authority Liaison, the Santa Clara County Policy Committee, and the Strategic Finance Advisory Committee.

A member of the California State Bar, Director Fang served as a law clerk in the U.S. Attorney's Office and, while in college, was an aide to the late Congressman Philip Burton. Mr. Fang served as Director of Commerce and Trade in the Administration of former San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan. He was a member of the Extended Opportunity Program Foundation of City College and the Soo Yuen Association Scholarship Committee, and has served on the Board of Directors of the Chinatown YMCA and the San Francisco Cork, Ireland, Sister City Committee. Additionally, he is the President of *Asian Week*, the largest circulation Asian-American publication in the United States.

## Shaudi Falamaki Fulp ['04]



Shaudi Falamaki Fulp joined the Chevron Corporation in April 2009 as an advocate in the company's California Public Policy and Government Affairs division in Sacramento.

In this role she develops strategies and advocates on a broad range of issues with an emphasis on tax and environmental matters. Prior to Chevron, Mrs. Fulp served as a lobbyist for KP Public Affairs where she represented clients with interests in transportation, trade, land use/development, energy, environmental, and tax policies. Before joining KP Public Affairs, Mrs. Fulp was an Advocate with Sacramento-based Schott & Lites Advocates, where she represented clients in the trade and telecommunications industries. Prior to joining the lobbying corps she was a political correspondent. Her career in television news includes reporting and producing for Bay-Area based stations KTVU (Fox), KABC (ABC), KPIX (CBS), and CNN's Larry King Live

Mrs. Fulp graduated from the University of California-Berkeley earning a double major with honors and is also a graduate of the City of Sacramento's Planning Academy. She is an active member of the UC Berkeley Alumni Association, a member of the Urban Land Institute, and volunteers through the Junior Achievement, Women in Government, and Capitol Focus programs. Mrs. Fulp was recently elected to the Board of the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce and has joined the LEED (Linking Education and Economic Development) organization, a partnership of business, education, community and government focused on aligning educational resources with the region's workforce needs.

## Karen Getman



Karen Getman is a partner at Remcho, Johansen & Purcell, one of the state's leading constitutional, public policy and election law firms. She formerly served as Chairman of the California Fair Political Practices Commission from March 1999 through April 2003. Ms. Getman advises candidates, committees and public agencies regarding compliance with the state Political Reform Act, the federal Bi-Partisan Campaign Reform Act, and other legal matters. Ms. Getman has successfully challenged a local ordinance's ban on inter-candidate transfers of campaign contributions; succeeded in contesting certification of a proposed manual count voting system; represented the League of Women Voters in litigation over the counting of write-in ballots in the San Diego mayoral race; and is representing the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties in *Vargas v. City of Salinas*, a case pending in the California Supreme Court concerning the right of public entities to publish informational materials on local ballot measures.

From 2003-05, Ms. Getman served as the first Executive in Residence at the Center on Politics at the Institute of Governmental Studies. She is an adjunct professor at Boalt Hall School of Law, where she co-teaches the course on Regulating Public Integrity. Ms. Getman was admitted to the New York Bar in 1986, the District of Columbia Bar in 1987 and the California Bar in 1988. She is a graduate of Yale College (B.A. with distinction, 1980) and Harvard Law School (J.D. cum laude, 1985), where she was Editor in Chief of the Harvard Women's Law Journal, and recipient of a Revson Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship in 1985-86. She is the author of numerous publications, including most recently a chapter on campaign law in *Win the Right Way* (UC Berkeley Public Policy Press 2005).

## Peter Hart



For more than 35 years, Peter Hart has been one of the leading analysts of public opinion in the United States. Since 1971, he has directed Peter D. Hart Research Associates, which has conducted more than 6000 public opinion surveys that have included interviews among more than five million individuals. Hart Research also has undertaken more than 5000 focus group sessions. Mr. Hart currently serves as Chairman of Hart Research and as Senior Counselor to the McGinn Group.

Mr. Hart built his reputation on his successful work in politics, working for more than 30 U.S. senators and 30 governors, but his focus over the last 20 years has been on public policy, cultural and social issues, and strategic consulting work for corporations. Corporate clients have included Boeing, Time Warner, American Airlines, Coca-Cola, Microsoft, AT&T, and Tiffany and Company. His work in the non-profit field includes research for Habitat for Humanity, the ACLU, The Smithsonian Institution, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Internationally, Mr. Hart has conducted studies in South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Over the past decade, Mr. Hart has taught courses in public policy at Duke University's Sanford Institute of Public Policy, the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication, and at UC Berkeley.

## Kevin Johnson ['87]



Kevin Johnson was elected Mayor of Sacramento in December 2008 and he is a twelve-year veteran of the National Basketball Association. Johnson spent nearly his entire career with the Phoenix Suns, a career spanning 735 regular season and 105 playoff

games. During his storied career, Johnson was named to the All-Star team three times, received a gold medal in the 1994 World Championship games with the Dream Team II, and holds a NBA Finals' single game record for minutes played (62) when the Suns defeated the Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan in triple-overtime in Game 3 of the 1993 series. On March 7, 2001, Kevin Johnson was inducted into the Suns Ring of Honor, only the seventh player in franchise history.

In the summer of 1989, Johnson founded St. HOPE Academy (SHA), a nonprofit after-school educational program located in the heart of Sacramento's Oak Park neighborhood.

In October 2001, Johnson's newest nonprofit corporation, St. HOPE Public Schools (SHPS), was formed to create and operate charter schools in Oak Park. SHPS now provides opportunities to learn to more than 1,300 students at Sacramento High School, who are enrolled in either the School of the Arts, School of Business and Communications, School of Law and Public Service, or the School of Math, Engineering and Health Sciences. In April 2006 Johnson was recruited by a community-based national campaign called STAND UP to be their national spokesperson. The campaign was initiated to address America's education crisis, and it receives substantial support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Johnson's concern and compassion for children and education prompted former President George H.W. Bush to honor him with the 411th Point of Light. In addition to also being selected as one of the "15 Greatest Men on Earth" by *McCall's Magazine*, Johnson has received the NBA's J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award, the Good Morning America Award from *Sports Illustrated*, the "Most Caring American" award by the Caring Institute and, in 1997, Johnson was inducted into the World Sports Humanitarian Hall of Fame in Boise, Idaho. In 2002, Johnson was admitted to the Master of Theological Studies Program at Harvard Divinity School, but elected to defer enrollment until a later date so that he could focus on revitalizing his inner-city neighborhood.

## Priya Mathur [MBA '03]



Priya Mathur was elected to the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) Board of Administration in January 2003 to represent public agency members. She was recently reelected to serve a second term, which expires January 15, 2011. Ms. Mathur was the first woman elected to the CalPERS Board in 40 years and its youngest member ever. She is also the first Indian-American to hold statewide office. Ms. Mathur serves as Chair of two Board committees — the Performance and Compensation Committee and the Policy Subcommittee of the Investment Committee — and as Vice Chair of the Health Benefits Committee. She currently serves on eight of nine Board

Committees, including the Investment, Benefits and Program Administration, R Street Project, Chief Investment Officer Search, and Ad Hoc Board Governance Committees.

Additionally, Ms. Mathur sits on the Board of Directors of the Pacific Pension Institute (PPI); serves on the Champions' Circle for the Women's Technology Cluster; and is a principal financial analyst for the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART). Before joining BART in 1998, she was a consultant with Public Financial Management Inc., a leading advisor to local governments, bringing to market approximately \$2.5 billion in municipal bonds.

## Bob Naylor



A native of Nevada, Mr. Naylor graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University in 1966 and later from Yale Law School. He served as a Lieutenant in the United States Army, including service in Vietnam.

Mr. Naylor was first elected to the California State Legislature in 1978 to represent the state's 20<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, which included the southern half of San Mateo County. In 1982, Mr. Naylor was elected Assembly Republican Leader. In this role, Mr. Naylor was one of the chief architects of legislation linking increased public school funding to landmark educational reforms. He acted as a major advocate for policies that foster economic growth and a leader in balancing the state budget within existing revenues.

After leaving the California State Assembly, Mr. Naylor was elected Chairman of the California Republican party, serving for two years. Mr. Naylor was appointed by President Bush to the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, served as Chairman of the Association for California Tort Reform, is Vice Chair of the Stanford Mansion Foundation and was a founding director of Calnet Business Bank in Sacramento. In addition, Mr. Naylor has been a delegate to ten Republican National Conventions. He is currently a partner in the law firm of Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Mueller & Naylor specializing in government law.

## Laurence Pelosi ['94]



Laurence Pelosi is Managing Principal at McKinley Partners and McKinley Advisors where he focuses on residential investments and public private real estate partnerships in California. Prior to joining McKinley, Mr. Pelosi was with Morgan Stanley Real Estate, the Lennar Corporation, and practiced real estate and land use law at a private law firm.

Mr. Pelosi is on the boards of the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) and Family House. He received a B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley and a J.D. from Georgetown University.

## Dan Schnur



Dan Schnur is one of California's leading Republican political and media strategists, whose record includes work on four presidential and three gubernatorial campaigns, as well as extensive experience on behalf of a variety of ballot initiatives and policy reform efforts. As founding principal of COMMANDFOCUS, a Sacramento-based public affairs, communications and campaign management firm, Mr. Schnur utilizes his experience to advise a variety of non-profit organizations, political causes and private sector clients. Mr. Schnur served as the national Director of Communications for the 2000 presidential campaign of U.S. Senator John McCain. In addition, he has advised a large number of Republican candidates and causes throughout his career, including five years as chief media spokesman for California Governor Pete Wilson.

Mr. Schnur is currently the Director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California, a visiting lecturer at the UC Berkeley's Institute of

Governmental Studies and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Communication, where he teaches courses in politics and communications.

Mr. Schnur has worked in the press office of the Reagan-Bush '84 presidential campaign; as a spokesman for the Bush-Quayle '88 presidential campaign; and in the press offices of the Republican National Committee before moving to California in 1990 to take on the position of Communications Director of the state Republican Party. Additionally, he served Wilson as both Press Secretary and Communications Director. In 1994, he served as Press Secretary to Wilson's successful gubernatorial re-election campaign.

## Karen Skelton [ JD '92]



Karen Skelton founded the California office of the Dewey Square Group — one of the country's leading public affairs firms which specializes in political strategies and communications, energy, green tech, environmental policy and general government relations. She received her B.A. with honors in English from UCLA, a Masters from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, and her J.D. from UC Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law.

Ms. Skelton previously worked in the White House during the Clinton Administration on the political staff and served as Director of Political Affairs for then Vice President Al Gore. As a lawyer, Skelton prosecuted criminal cases at the U.S. Department of Justice as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, and as a trial lawyer in the Division of Environmental Enforcement. She was also named Chief Counsel of the Federal Highway Administration in January 1999.

Since 2003, she has worked as the executive co-producer and program director for the California Governor and First Lady's Women's Conference. Ms. Skelton is also Senior Executive Producer for Maria Shriver's national project "A Woman's Nation" working in developing next steps needed to remove barriers to women's success.

**Lisa Suennen [ '86, MA '87]**  
*Vice Chair of the Council*



Lisa Suennen is a co-founder and Managing Member of Psilos Group, a healthcare-focused venture capital firm with over \$450 million under management. Ms. Suennen has headed Psilos' West Coast office since the firm's founding in 1988 and focuses on the medical device, healthcare information technology and healthcare services sectors. She serves as a Director on the Board of several Psilos portfolio companies, including AngioScore, Inc. (chairman), InSound Medical, Inc., IntelliDOT Corp., Navitas Cancer Rehabilitation Centers of America, Inc. (chairman), VeraLight, Inc (chairman) and a board observer for Health Hero Network and Estech.

Prior to Psilos, Ms. Suennen was at Merit Behavioral Care (formerly American Biodyne, Inc), where she held various senior executive roles including Senior Vice President/General Manager of the Public Sector Division, Senior Vice President of Pacific Region Operations and Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Previously, Ms. Suennen served as Worldwide Product Manager for INGRES/Relational Technology, Inc., a relational database company, where she had responsibility for development, marketing and distribution of the company's UNIX PC software product. Prior to INGRES, Ms. Suennen served as Director of U.S. Market Development and as Manager, U.S. Government and Industry Relations for X/Open, an international computer industry standards setting and lobbying consortium. Earlier, Ms. Suennen spent several years at Regis McKenna, Inc., an international high technology marketing and public relations firm, responsible for government relations and public relations strategy for client companies in the software and healthcare areas.

## Duf Sundheim



Duf Sundheim has been active in Republican Party politics for over 30 years beginning with his service as a page in the Illinois State Legislature at age 18 and working in the trenches as a campaign advance staffer for the Illinois Republican U.S. Senate candidate in 1974. Duf also had a record setting term as Chairman of the Lincoln Club of Northern California.

Mr. Sundheim was Chairman (2003-06) of the California Republican Party during one of the most critical times in its history. Shortly after Mr. Sundheim was elected in 2003, California had its first recall of a sitting Governor and elected Arnold Schwarzenegger Governor. Mr. Sundheim's election itself was historic, as it marked the first time in 38 years the seating Vice Chairman had not been elected Chair. In February of 2005, Mr. Sundheim became the first Chairman in the history of the CRP to be re-elected to a consecutive term. In three years, with the active support of Governor Schwarzenegger, the CRP has raised over \$100 million dollars, an unprecedented figure.

## Kris Van Giesen ['87]



Kris Van Giesen serves as the Chief Development and Community Relations Officer of the Hanna Boys Center in Sonoma, California. The Hanna Boys Center/Hanna High School has been one of the country's most successful residential treatment and academic centers for close to 60 years.

Previously, Mr. Van Giesen worked as an advisor to both former Congressman Richard Gephardt and former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis during their 1988

Presidential campaigns. In 1992, Mr. Van Giesen returned to Washington DC to accept a position in the Clinton-Gore Administration, working in the White House and on President Clinton's re-election campaign for a total of seven years. During his time with the administration, Mr. Van Giesen held key leadership positions focusing on national fundraising, political affairs, international diplomatic missions and, upon his return to California, served as the Western United States regional representative for the U.S. Small Business Administration. Prior to accepting his position in Sonoma, Mr. Van Giesen played a pivotal role in raising \$2 million for the California Alumni Association at the University of California, Berkeley.

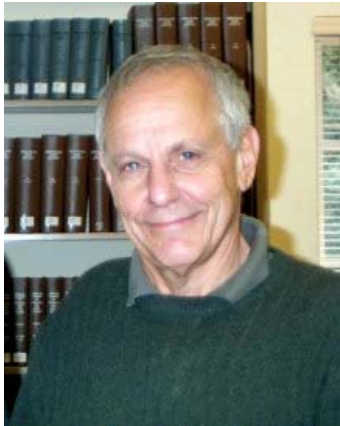
## Vivek Varma



Vivek Varma is Senior Vice President for Public Affairs at Starbucks Coffee Company based in Seattle. Prior to coming to Starbucks, Varma was general manager of Communications and Public Relations for the Platforms and Services Division of Microsoft and was responsible for public relations, executive communications, consumer outreach, and employee communication across the Windows, Online Services, and Online Advertising businesses. Additionally, Varma served as policy counsel for the Democratic Caucus for the House of Representatives, and he served a variety of staff and legislative roles for Congressman Mike Synar, including serving as his chief of staff in the 103rd Congress.

Ex-officio

## Jack Citrin ['70 PhD]



Professor Citrin is currently a Professor of Political Science at the University of California Berkeley and serves as the Director of the Institute of Governmental Studies. He has taught at Berkeley since 1969 and during that time has held administrative appointments as Director of the State Data Program, Acting Director of the Survey Research Center, Faculty Athletics Representative to the NCAA, and Faculty Director of the Berkeley Washington Program. Professor Citrin has testified as an expert before legislative committees and served on Advisory Committees of the National Academy of Sciences. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in American politics and political psychology and in 2004-05 was a finalist for the Distinguished Teaching Award on the Berkeley campus.

Professor Citrin's writings include *The Politics of Disaffection among American and British Youth* (1969), written with David Elkins, *Tax Revolt* (1982, revised 1985), written with David O. Sears, *California and the American Tax Revolt* (1984), and *How Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Shape the California Electorate* (2002), written with Ben Highton, as well as numerous articles and book chapters. His most recent books are: *Public Opinion and Constitutional Controversies* (Oxford University Press, 2008) and *American Identity and the Politics of Multiculturalism* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2009).

## Linda M. Williams



Linda Morris Williams is currently serving as the Associate Chancellor for the University of California at Berkeley. Ms. Williams began her service at the University of California, San Diego in 1988. She spent 16 years at the UCSD in which she built her career from the office manager for the Office of Capital Planning & Budgeting to her appointment as Associate Chancellor at UCSD in 1997. Prior to her current position on the Berkeley campus, Williams served as Associate President for the University of California Office of the President from 2003-2008 in which she was the senior-most administrative and policy advisor to UC President Robert C. Dynes.

Williams is the chair of the UC system-wide Staff Diversity Council, and was most recently appointed chair of the UC System-wide Committee on the Status of Women. Williams currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Berkeley YWCA.