

Inaugural Connecticut Investor Conference

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

OUR SPEAKERS

Connecticut's Comeback

Presentation and Q&A



Governor Ned Lamont

Ned Lamont was sworn into office as the 89th governor of Connecticut on January 9, 2019. He began his second term on January 4, 2023.

Lamont got involved in public service shortly after college, founding a weekly newspaper in a town hit by the loss of its largest employer. Covering town meetings and the Board of Selectmen, he helped to bring voice and transparency to a community working to recover from job losses and reinvent itself. Later, as a member of both the Greenwich Board of Selectmen and the Board of Estimate and Taxation, Lamont worked in a bipartisan effort to safeguard a multimillion-dollar budget and deliver results for constituents. For four years, Lamont also served as Chairman of the State Investment Advisory Council, overseeing a multibillion-dollar state pension fund.

Lamont started his own company, taking on the large and established giants of the telecom industry. Under his vision and stewardship, the company grew to serve over 400 of America's largest college campuses and 1 million college students across the nation.

As a volunteer teacher, Lamont sought to give back to his community by volunteering at Harding High School in Bridgeport. In an effort to spark entrepreneurship, Lamont taught students about the inner-workings of small businesses, bringing in local businesspeople to share their own experiences, and helping to place students in local internships. Lamont is on the faculty of Central Connecticut State University as an adjunct professor of political science and philosophy, where he also helped to found a popular business start-up competition. In early 2009, he helped lead an initiative to bring together Connecticut leaders from across the business, nonprofit, and labor sectors to unite in a strategy to create new jobs in the state.

Lamont was born on January 3, 1954, in Washington, D.C. to Camille Helene and Edward Miner Lamont. The eldest of three children, he attended Phillips Exeter Academy, and served as president of the student newspaper, The Exonian. After graduating Phillips Exeter in 1972, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from Harvard College in 1976 and a Master of Business Administration from the Yale School of Management in 1980.

Lamont married his wife Annie on September 10, 1983. They have three children: Emily, Lindsay, and Teddy.

Panel I: Connecticut's Response to Climate Change

The Governor's Council on Climate Change, the nation's first Green Bank, the Metropolitan District Commission's \$2 billion clean water projects, and aligning ESG verification with bond issuers will be key topics in this panel discussion.



Moderator: Grace Chionuma
Morgan Stanley

Grace Chionuma is a Managing Director at Morgan Stanley where she has worked for 16 years. She has considerable experience in public finance, corporate finance, and sales & trading. Within the public sector, Grace works closely with several large U.S. states and cities, including the State of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York City and Washington D.C. She is a member of Morgan Stanley's Municipal Securities Operating Committee. Within Public Finance Banking, she is the Co-Head of the Affordable Housing and Community Development Finance Group where she leads Morgan Stanley's banking and capital markets coverage of CDFIs, Affordable Housing Developers, and Charter Schools.

Grace served as the lead banker for the inaugural CDFI sector public capital market debt offering, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) debt IPO. Since then, she has led several CDFI debt IPOs including bond issuances for Enterprise Community Loan Fund (ECLF), Low Income Investment Fund (LIIF), and BlueHub Loan Fund. Grace led the non-profit AHD sector debt IPO for corporate level general obligation bonds with the BRIDGE Housing Social Bond issuance. In 2022, Grace led National CORE's inaugural Social Bond issuance and Preservation of Affordable Housing's inaugural Sustainability Bond issuance. Grace has worked with Freddie Mac on affordable housing securitizations including a MTEBs (Multifamily Tax-Exempt Bond Securitization) transaction with BRIDGE Housing assets and Freddie Mac's first issuance under its Social Bond Framework which financed affordable housing loans of Impact Community Capital CDFI.

Grace serves on the boards of several high-impact nonprofit corporations which work to empower underserved communities and populations including Momentus (Capital Impact Partners and CDC Small Business Finance), NeighborWorks Capital, and Project Renewal. Additionally, she is a Trustee for the Citizens Budget Commission and was named a Trailblazer Woman in Public Finance by The Bond Buyer and Northeast Women in Public Finance (NEWPF).

Grace earned her B.A. at Dartmouth College, completing majors in both Government and Philosophy; and she earned her M.B.A. at Yale University School of Management. She lives in New York City in a bustling, multi-generational household.



Katie Dykes

Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

Katie Dykes is the Commissioner of Connecticut’s Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). She has served since 2019, when she was first nominated by Governor Ned Lamont, and was re-confirmed in February 2023 to serve in Governor Lamont’s second term. Katie previously served as Chair of the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) from 2015–2018, and as Deputy Commissioner for Energy at Connecticut DEEP from 2012–2015.

Katie also serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Inc. (RGGI). Katie joined CT DEEP in March 2012 after prior service in the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Department of Energy. She is a graduate of Yale College and the Yale Law School.



Bryan Garcia
CEO, CT Green Bank

Bryan Garcia is the president and CEO of the Connecticut Green Bank – the nation’s first state-level green bank. The “green bank model” is demonstrating how smarter use of public resources can attract more private investment in the green economy – reducing energy burden on families and businesses, creating jobs in local communities, increasing the deployment of clean and resilient energy, improving public health, and confronting climate change. With its message of “Inclusive Prosperity,” the Green Bank won the “Innovations in American Government Award” in 2017 by the Harvard Kennedy School’s Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation. And through its design of retail accessible Green Liberty Bonds, modeled after the War Bonds of the 1940’s, the Green Bank won the “Innovative Financing” category from The Bond Buyer in 2020.

Before joining the Green Bank, Garcia was program director for the Yale Center for Business and the Environment. At Yale, Garcia led efforts to develop a leading global program responsible for preparing environmental leaders for business and society. Prior to Yale, he served as Connecticut’s Climate Change Coordinator where he supported the Governor’s Steering Committee on Climate Change. Early in his career, he was a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer specializing in NGO capacity building and environmental education in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

He holds a BS degree in political economy of natural resources from Berkeley, MPA in public and non-profit administration from NYU Wagner, MBA in finance from NYU Stern, and an MEM degree from the Yale School of the Environment.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Bryan serves on the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board. He is on the Board of Directors of the Energy Foundation, Center for Sustainable Energy, Institute for Sustainable Communities, and Sustainable CT. And he serves in the Advisory Board of the Yale Center for Business and the Environment.

Bryan lives in Cromwell with his husband, Paul Schneider.



Scott Jellison

CEO, Metropolitan District Commission

In September 2006, the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) appointed Scott W. Jellison as the agency's Chief Operating Officer. On January 1, 2011 he became Deputy CEO of Engineering and Operations and in February 2015, became Chief Executive Officer.

The MDC, with a staff of approximately 500, is a non-profit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929 to provide drinking water, wastewater treatment, mapping and other physical services to the Hartford region. The MDC operates two hydroelectric generation stations.

Currently, the MDC is in the midst of a massive sewer infrastructure upgrade, the Clean Water Project, which will eliminate SSOs and reduce CSOs and nitrogen discharges to the Connecticut River. The first phase of the Clean Water Project construction began in 2008 including micro-tunneling, jacking, conventional open-cut excavation, and other tools to separate combined sewers and to establish new connections in homes, primarily in Hartford, where the oldest part of the sewer system exists. The program includes numerous projects such as sewer separation, tunneling, infrastructure rehabilitation, and treatment plant upgrades. In addition the MDC is currently executing a \$100M per year Asset Management program for its Water Distribution and Facility Improvements.

Prior to joining the MDC, Mr. Jellison served as Director of Project Management, for the Department of Public Works, State of Connecticut. He was responsible for a \$200M per year Design and Construction Program supporting over 72 State Agencies. In addition, he served as the Project Director for the largest redevelopment project (\$1B) in Connecticut history, including the development of the UConn Stadium at Rentschler Field, Capital Community College-Downtown Campus (G. Fox Building), and Connecticut Convention Center. All were part of the state funded "Six Pillars of Progress" – Capital City Redevelopment Project, which has been recognized with several prestigious awards for innovative design and minority contractor partnering.

A native of Pomfret, CT., Mr. Jellison graduated from the University of Hartford with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1987 and became a licensed Professional Engineer in 1992.

Mr. Jellison has been active in many civic, charitable and government organizations, including representing Region 1 on the Board of Directors for NACWA.

Mr. Jellison resides in Pomfret, CT with his wife Jessica and their four children.



Monica Reid

CEO & Founder, Kestrel

Monica Reid is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Kestrel 360, Inc. Her current focus is on supporting the growth of Kestrel as a leading provider of green bond services and ESG Impact Data for fixed income. Kestrel is the market leader for providing external reviews of green, social and sustainability bonds in US public finance.

Ms. Reid has over 20 years of experience as a Principal Consultant and thought leader in the field of innovative finance for infrastructure and sustainability efforts, and she serves on the California Green Bond Market Development Committee, convened by the State Treasurer.

Prior to founding Kestrel, Ms. Reid had a consulting practice which provided environmental finance consulting and grant and loan services to state and local governments from 2000–2019. Ms. Reid was a trusted advisor and led the company’s successful efforts to help municipalities secure state and federal funding for sustainable infrastructure.

Early in her career, Ms. Reid focused on natural resources conservation and public service. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree in ecology from The Evergreen State College in Washington, and graduate studies in marine science at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in California. A native of South Florida, Ms. Reid now calls Hood River, Oregon, home. Ms. Reid holds Series 79 and Series 63 securities licenses and the Envision Sustainability Professional credential.

Panel 2: Affordable Housing in Connecticut

This panel discussion will include the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority's affordable housing programs, single family and multi-family housing, inner city revitalization, and housing as a critical component within the State's economic development initiatives.



Moderator: Barbara Feldman

Bank of America Merrill Lynch

Ms. Feldman joined BofA as manager of the Housing Finance Department. Prior to joining BofA, Ms. Feldman managed the housing finance practice at Bear, Stearns & Co.

She has more than 40 years of investment banking experience working exclusively in the area of housing finance. Over the course of her banking career, she has worked as lead banker to the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency, State of New York Mortgage Agency, Illinois Housing Development Authority, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Wyoming Community Development Authority, the New York City Housing Development Corporation, Oregon Housing and Community Service Department and the South Dakota Housing Development Authority.

Before entering investment banking, Ms. Feldman had 17 years of experience in executing multifamily and single family programs at the state and city levels in New York, culminating in her appointment as assistant director of the New York State Housing Finance Department and deputy director of the State of New York Mortgage Agency. Ms. Feldman is a graduate of New York University.



Nandini Natarajan

CEO, Connecticut Housing Finance Authority

Nandini Natarajan is Chief Executive Officer – Executive Director of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, the state level housing finance agency in the State of Connecticut. Nandini is the first woman and first person of color CEO in organization’s history. CHFA’s mission is to alleviate the shortage of housing for low- and moderate-income families and persons in the State and, when appropriate, to promote or maintain the economic development of the State through employer-assisted housing efforts. CHFA is a venerable financial institution in Connecticut and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019. Nandini led the development and adoption of the 2021-23 strategic plan and the organization’s first ever strategic capital analysis to align capital sources with the goals and priorities of the plan, and to provide reliability and transparency for all stakeholders. A key result of the analysis was the creation of the “Opportunity Fund” for flexible financing and mission worthy lending activities of the organization.

Prior to joining CHFA, Nandini was the Chief Financial Officer of the Illinois Housing Development Authority for six years. Nandini was instrumental in reviving the multifamily program at IHDA, returning the agency to its lending heyday through a variety of loan programs targeted at maximizing proceeds for affordable developments. Under her leadership, IHDA participated in the Federal Financing Bank loan purchase program, which resulted in the refinancing and stabilization of several portfolio properties. During Nandini’s tenure, IHDA rolled out several well-received down payment assistance programs for single family borrowers, and on the back end, created execution flexibility for the loan pipeline through a well-managed in-house TBA program. With Nandini at the helm of IHDA’s financial operation, IHDA’s single family production tripled to \$1 billion in a few short years.

Nandini began her career at Caine Mitter & Associates, and its predecessor firm, CGMS, as a financial analyst and computer programmer. She worked her way from creating and managing computer programs for housing cash flow analysis to serving as financial advisor for State HFAs and their bond programs.

Nandini is originally from India, but has made the United States her home since 1989. She attended Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science and Mathematics. Nandini holds a Master’s in Computer Science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



Seila Mosquera-Bruno

Commissioner, CT Department of Housing

Seila Mosquera-Bruno was appointed the Commissioner of Housing by Governor Ned Lamont in 2019 and re-appointed for his second term in 2023. As Commissioner, Seila directs the lead state agency for housing matters for the State of Connecticut. The Department of Housing is responsible for all aspects of housing policy including the development, redevelopment and preservation of housing and neighborhoods. Since her appointment, Seila has developed partnerships with financial institutions as well as service providers, advocates, and nonprofits, while serving as the Board Chair of the CT Housing Finance Authority (CHFA), Connecticut’s quasi-public organization dedicated to financing the production and preservation of rental housing and homeownership.

Under Seila’s leadership, the Department of Housing: distributed \$500MM for the preservation and production of 13,000 affordable units; Created “Time To Own” a forgivable down payment Assistance Loan Program; Developed an affordable Housing Planning guide for municipalities and awarded \$1.2MM in technical assistance grants to 84 municipalities; administered \$600MM in COVID emergency relief funds; created a COVID emergency rent relief program and launched an innovative utility bulk payment program to deploy COVID emergency resources; redesigned congregate emergency shelters with the use of hotels and the creation of micro units; funded \$4MM for non-profit developers to support the creation of new affordable units and created a partnership with a financial institution that provided \$1MM in matching funds. In her capacity as Commissioner, she serves as Board chair of CHFA, and as a board member of the Council of State Community Development Agencies (COSDA) and Capital Regional Development Authority (CRDA).

Seila holds a master’s degree in urban studies from Southern Connecticut State University, a B.A. in Business Administration from Charter Oak College, and completed the Achieving Excellency in Community Development –an 18-month fellowship program at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government.



Alexandra Daum

Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development

On November 16, 2022, Governor Ned Lamont announced his appointment of Alexandra Daum as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

Daum previously served as Deputy Commissioner and Chief Investment Officer of DECD. In this role, she drove public investment in local economic development projects and initiatives across Connecticut, including greenfield and brownfield real estate developments, public-private partnerships, urban revitalization efforts and opportunity zones. She also managed Governor Lamont’s community redevelopment initiatives, most notably the Connecticut Communities Challenge Grants, Brownfield Municipal Grants, and the Community Investment Fund 2030.

Prior to joining DECD, Daum was the founder and principal of Field Properties, a real estate investor in New Haven. She began her real estate development career at Trammell Crow Residential in its Northern California division. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Harvard College and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

***Electric Boat: Leading a
Once-in-a-Generation Expansion***



Mark Rayha

*Vice President & CFO
General Dynamics Electric Boat*

Mark Rayha was named Vice President of Finance in 2019. Before joining Electric Boat, Mark was Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of General Dynamics Mission Systems and previously serviced as Staff Vice President, Financial Planning and Analysis for General Dynamics. He earned a Bachelor of Business degree, with concentrations in accounting and finance and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Michigan.

Panel 3: Connecticut's Fiscal Guardrails

The State's fiscal turnaround is in large part a result of 2017 legislation that implemented unique fiscal guardrails within bond covenants. This legislation has been updated and extended in 2023. State Treasurer Erick Russell moderates this panel that will discuss legislative caps including the Volatility Cap, the Spending Cap, the Revenue Cap, and several Bond Caps.



Moderator: Erick Russell

State Treasurer

Erick Russell was sworn in as Connecticut's 84th State Treasurer on January 4, 2023. He is currently serving his first term.

Born and raised in New Haven, Russell adopted the work ethic of his parents by working in the family's small convenience store. He would become the first in his family to graduate college, earning a bachelor's degree from the University of New Haven.

Russell continued his education at the University of Connecticut School of Law. As a law student, he began to merge his talents with the values instilled by his parents. He volunteered to help low-income taxpayers navigate the complexities of federal and state tax law as part of UConn's Low-Income Tax Clinic.

After law school, Russell joined the prestigious Connecticut law firm of Pullman & Comley where he was a partner in the firm's Public and Private Finance Group. Russell represented towns, cities and the state in financing infrastructure projects, managing debt and restructuring pension obligations.

As treasurer, Russell administers Connecticut's pension funds holding over \$40 billion in assets, oversees the state's debt and cash management, collects and returns unclaimed property, and manages the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET), a 529 plan that helps students and families save for higher education.

Russell continues to advocate for people traditionally left out of the political process and denied economic opportunity. He is prioritizing financial literacy, sound fiscal policy and necessary statewide investments that maximize resources while growing the economy and combating systemic inequities.

In addition to his professional responsibilities, Russell has embraced the role of mentor, particularly for young Black and LGBTQ people. In 2022, he became the first Black out LGBTQ person in American history to win an election for statewide office.

Russell lives in New Haven with his husband, Christopher Lyddy.



Rep. Matt Ritter

Speaker of the House

Rep. Matt Ritter, a lifelong Hartford resident, is Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives. He was first elected in 2010 to the Connecticut General Assembly where he represents the 1st Assembly District in Hartford.

As Speaker of the House, Matt led passage of a law eliminating the "poverty tax," state liens on people who have in the past depended on state assistance; and championed a historic investment in children's mental health.

Matt served four years as House Majority Leader and two years as the Co-Chair of the Public Health Committee where he worked to address the opioid crisis, increase hospital fee transparency, and require that more mental health services be covered by the private insurance market.

Since being elected in 2010, Matt has been named one of the Hartford Business Journal's "40 Under Forty," been honored by the North Central Regional Mental Health Board, been named a "Community Champion" by the Connecticut Community Providers Association, received the "Graduate of the Past Decade Impact Award" from the UConn School of Law Alumni Association, been named "Legislator of the Year" by the CT Chapter of the American College of Physicians and been recognized by the Connecticut State Medical Society. He has also been recognized by the Oral Health Society, Voices of Women of Color, HARC, the Asylum Hill Neighborhood Association, AARP-CT, Connecticut Radiologists, and received the Sen. Chris Murphy award from the Connecticut Young Democrats.

Because of his commitment to children's mental health reforms, The Village honored Matt as a Champion for Children. His commitment to open government yielded Matt the Bice Clemow Award from the Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), made up of the state's municipal leaders, honored Matt as a legislative champion for his commitment to cities and towns. For his work to aide the hospitality industry during the pandemic, Matt was recognized by the Connecticut Restaurant Association.

Prior to being elected to the General Assembly, Matt served on the Hartford City Council for three years where he chaired the Planning & Economic Development and Legislative Affairs committees.

Matt graduated from Colby College with a major in Government and received his law degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law, graduating with honors in 2007. He is a practicing attorney in Hartford and resides in Hartford with his wife, Marilyn Katz, their two children Jack and Emma, and their Goldendoodle Finnegan.



Rep. Vincent Candelora

House Minority Leader

House Republican Leader Vincent Candelora is state representative for the 86th District serving residents of North Branford, Durham, East Haven, and Guilford. He was elected to his ninth term in November 2022, and is currently in his second two-year term serving as House Minority Leader.

Aside from serving as a state representative, Rep. Candelora's long record of civic involvement includes three terms on North Branford's Town Council, and he's a past president of both North Branford's Chamber of Commerce and its Rotary Club.

During his time serving in the General Assembly, Candelora has served on a wide variety of legislative committees and has been a leading voice in the effort to reform Connecticut's finances. Additionally, Rep. Candelora was among Republican lawmakers who played a leading role in reaching the bipartisan budget agreement in 2017 that included the caps which comprise "Connecticut's Fiscal Guardrails."

Outside the legislature, Rep. Candelora helps run two family-owned businesses—a manufacturing company and a sportsplex. He has also practiced municipal and transactional law. Candelora graduated from Connecticut College in 1992, and in 1995 from the Dickinson School of Law at Penn State.



Jeffrey Beckham

OPM Secretary

Jeffrey Beckham was appointed by Governor Ned Lamont to serve as the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), effective March 11, 2022. He stepped up from his role as Undersecretary for Legislative Affairs, a position to which he was appointed in April 2019.

Beckham has over thirty years' experience in state policy development and administration, including service in all three branches of the state government. He previously served in the Department of Administrative Services as a staff counsel and director of communications (2011-2019), and in the former Department of Public Works as managing attorney (2005-2007). He is currently serving his second stint at OPM, having served before as Undersecretary for Legislative Affairs in the Rell Administration (2007-2010).

Prior to service in the Executive Branch, Beckham was an attorney in the Legislative Commissioners' Office, the General Assembly's nonpartisan staff for bill-drafting and legal counsel, for fourteen years (1991-2005). He worked on legislation for the legislative committees on the environment, energy, commerce, and later, finance, revenue, and bonding. His first job in Connecticut state government was as a temporary assistant clerk in the Superior Court.

Beckham holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Florida State University (FSU) and a law degree from the FSU College of Law. He is admitted to practice law in the states of Connecticut and California.

Panel 4: Ride & Fly: Connecticut Transportation Updates

This panel will discuss updates on investments in the State's ground and air transportation infrastructure, which are so critical to attracting economic growth capacity with Connecticut's strategic location as a geographic hub between Boston and New York.



Moderator: Carlos Desmaras

Oppenheimer

Carlos is an experienced public finance banker that has provided a broad range of investment banking services to municipal bond issuers. He has served as senior manager on over \$8 billion in tax-exempt financings for a variety of issuers including: states; local governments; revenue based credits; asset, project, and structured finance transactions; and private activity industrial development bonds.

His transportation experience includes senior managing financings for the New Jersey Turnpike Authority (NJTA) and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC). His investment banking and consulting work includes engagements for the State of Connecticut Special Tax Obligation bonds, Central Florida Expressway Authority, Chicago Aviation Department, Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, Delaware River Port Authority, Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, Harris County Tollroad Authority, Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, MDXway, Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York, New Jersey Transportation Trust Fund Authority, NJTA, New York State Bridge Authority, New York Thruway Authority, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, PTC, Philadelphia International, South Eastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, South Jersey Port Corporation, and South Jersey Transportation Authority.

Carlos earned a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and his M.B.A. from Columbia Business School. He holds Series 7, 50, 53, and 63 FINRA licenses.



Garrett Eucalitto

Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Transportation

Garrett T. Eucalitto was nominated by Governor Ned Lamont and confirmed by the legislature as Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) in January 2023. He serves on the Executive Committee and chairs the Planning Committee of the Northeast Corridor Commission; chairs the state’s Vision Zero Council; sits on the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; and serves as the state’s Governor’s Highway Safety Representative.

From January 2020 until January 2023, Eucalitto served as the Deputy Commissioner of CTDOT. In this role, he oversaw CTDOT’s Bureaus of Finance & Administration, Policy & Planning, and Public Transportation.

Prior to joining CTDOT, he was Transportation Program Director for the National Governors Association (NGA) in Washington, DC. In this capacity, he was responsible for assisting the nation’s 55 governors (states, territories, and commonwealths) in advancing their policy objectives in transportation, including combating impaired driving and improving safety on the roadways, the implementation of innovative financing tools, transit-oriented development, and accelerating electrification of the transportation sector.

Before joining the NGA, Eucalitto was the Undersecretary for Comprehensive Planning and Intergovernmental Policy for the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management during the administration of Governor Dannel P. Malloy. In this position, he researched, evaluated, and developed transportation, environmental, and regional planning initiatives.

He began his career working in Washington, DC, for six years on the staff of former Senator Joe Lieberman as his legislative assistant, covering appropriations, transportation, and infrastructure. In this role, Eucalitto advocated for Connecticut’s transportation needs at the federal level and led efforts to protect Long Island Sound and improve the state’s air quality and environmental assets. He also secured federal protections to allow continued dredging of the state’s ports and harbors, worked to secure the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” and collaborated with CTDOT to secure annual appropriations and discretionary funding and in the consideration and passage of MAP-21.

Eucalitto earned a bachelor’s degree from the College of the Holy Cross and a master’s degree from Boston University. He is a native of Torrington and currently lives in New Haven.



Michael Shea

Deputy Executive Director/CFO, Connecticut Airport Authority

Michael W. Shea joined the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) in 2013 and currently serves as the Deputy Executive Director – Finance, Business Development, Planning & Engineering. Michael oversees the Finance/Accounting, Business Development/Leasing, and Planning/Engineering departments of the CAA and is responsible for all accounting, planning & budgeting, financial analysis, treasury, lease management, business development, and capital improvement program functions. In addition, Michael is responsible for all debt management for the CAA. Michael has over 25 years of experience in finance & accounting.

Prior to joining the Authority, Michael held high level finance & accounting roles in real estate development and property and casualty insurance. Michael began his career in public accounting and remains a licensed CPA.

Michael graduated with a B.S. in Finance from Boston College and with a M.S. in Professional Accounting from the University of Hartford.



Sen. Christine Cohen

Co-Chair, Senate Transportation Committee

Christine Cohen is the state Senator representing the needs and wishes of the approximately 100,000 residents in the 12th District towns of Branford, Durham, East Haven, Guilford, Killingworth, Madison, Middlefield, North Branford and Rockfall.

Senator Cohen is the Senate Chair of the Transportation Committee, Vice-Chair of the Banking Committee, and she sits as a voting member on General Law, Children and Finance, Revenue & Bonding committees.

Since first elected in 2019, Senator Cohen has focused her public policy energies on protecting Connecticut's environment, preventing gun violence, making Connecticut healthier, and strengthening the state's economy. Senator Cohen helped pass new state laws to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure to help address the carbon emissions in the transportation sector, ban single-use plastic bags beginning in 2021, to ban the production of untraceable 'ghost guns,' to reduce business taxes, expand workforce development training, institute a paid family and medical leave system beginning in 2022, and allow for the planting of hemp on Connecticut cropland - a brand new industry for our state.

Senator Cohen created and co-chairs the Coastal Caucus, a bipartisan group of lawmakers who focus on the issues affecting coastal towns, cities and waterways. She also uses the private-sector business experience she gained working for years at Fortune 100 companies like Stanley Black & Decker and Georgia Pacific to co-chair the legislature's Bioscience Caucus, which seeks to strengthen and promote Connecticut's robust life sciences and biotech industries.

In addition to serving in Connecticut's General Assembly, Senator Cohen and her husband Rob also run a small business, "Cohen's Bagel Company," which has been growing and thriving for 20 years on the Boston Post Road in Madison.

Senator Cohen has served on various boards and commissions in her hometown of Guilford, prior to being elected to the General Assembly she served as Chair of Operations on the Guilford Board of Education. She resides in Guilford with her husband, three children, and their rescue dog Abby.

