

# FDIC News

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## Financial Regulatory Agencies Hold Diversity and Inclusion Summit

By ANGELA McCONKEY  
Division of Depositor and Consumer Protection (DCP)

The Offices of Minority Women and Inclusion (OMWI) of six financial regulatory agencies held the second Diversity and Inclusion Summit at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago on October 24, 2019. The agencies included: The Federal Reserve System Board of Governors; The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; The National Credit Union Administration; The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency; and The United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

The goal was to bring together entities regulated by the agencies that are located in the region to highlight and discuss industry best practices involving diversity and inclusion in employment practices and in advancing supplier diversity.

The summit featured speakers from various segments of the financial industry. Joseph M. Vaughan, Executive Director of the Corporate Diversity

and Inclusion Forum, addressed “A Season of Change,” and Gail Greenfield, a Principal of Mercer, discussed “Diversity Landscape in the Financial Services Industry: Workforce Dynamics.” These topics provided participants with promising practices to advance diversity in senior ranks, promote inclusion in their workforces, and increase opportunities for diverse suppliers to serve as business partners to advance their organizations’ missions. A moderated panel discussion entitled “Leading Diversity Practices in the Industry” included members from various financial organizations.

The summit also featured a panel discussion with the OMWI Directors, who shared updates on “Regulatory Agencies’ Efforts to Collect Diversity Data.” The OMWI Directors encouraged participants to submit their voluntary self-assessment diversity forms to their respective regulatory agencies’ OWMIs in order to continue to contribute to reports that the agencies release on trends

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## AMERICA SAVES WEEK

### America Saves Week Inspires Many to Achieve Savings Goals

By ANGELA McCONKEY  
Division of Depositor and  
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America Saves Week is February 24–29, 2020. Across the country, the DCP Community Affairs Branch leads outreach to promote savings, including by collaborating with the America Saves initiative.

For example, Senior Community Affairs Specialist Mary Duron (pictured center in the image below) joined with some of the Los Angeles-based organiza-

tions the FDIC collaborates with to display the proclamation issued by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors and Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti proclaiming America Saves/Los Angeles Saves Week in the County and City of Los Angeles.

The FDIC's Los Angeles Alliance for Economic Inclusion provides leadership for Los Angeles Saves. As one example of the work of this initiative, eight events are being conducted at Los Angeles Public Libraries in lower-income communities during America Saves week to pro-

mote savings via automatic deposit.

If there are young people in your life, you can use the FDIC's Money Smart Parent/Caregiver Guides to guide them on topics such as the importance of saving. More resources for parents and caregivers are available through the FDIC's collaboration with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Use America Saves Week as a time to make use of these valuable resources and set and achieve your own financial goals. 🏠



DCP Senior Community Affairs Specialist Mary Duron (center) at event proclaiming America Saves/Los Angeles Saves Week in the County and City of Los Angeles.

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around diversity and inclusion in the financial industry. Those efforts advance the visibility and adoption of diversity and inclusion practices in the financial

marketplace. FDIC OMWI Director Saul Schwartz was among the panelists.

The summit was well-received, with financial industry organizations eager to share information and learn cutting-edge best practices. The OMWI offices at the

agencies will convene additional summits around the country to facilitate the sharing of information with organizations and to continue to promote diversity and inclusion best practices. 🏠

## MILESTONE

**Bill White**, Deputy Director and Chief Human Capital Officer in DOA, recently received a prestigious award from the Government Accountability Office (GAO), where White served for over 5 years before joining the FDIC in October 2019. At a December 12, 2019, GAO award ceremony, Comptroller General Gene L. Dodaro presented White with the Comptroller General's Award for 2019 for White's outstanding contributions to the GAO.

Each year, the Comptroller General personally selects the recipients of the Comptroller General's Award based on exceptional effort and achievement of results in support of Congress and the American people over a sustained period, which exemplifies GAO core values of accountability, integrity, and reliability.

White was most recently Chief Human Capital Officer at the GAO, where he championed diversity and inclusion efforts and led hiring flexibility initiatives. Among his many achievements

was implementing a Talent Management Advisory Committee composed of management officials to solicit input on the acquisition, retention, and development of talent at GAO.

According to the Comptroller General's Foreword in the Honor Award Program booklet: "2019 has been another outstanding year at GAO. The dedication and hard work of GAO staff continue to make a difference, both in supporting congressional oversight and in enhancing federal programs that touch the lives of virtually every American. I am honored to have this opportunity to reflect on our colleagues' outstanding contributions over the past year...Our awards ceremony recognizes individuals who have exceeded expectations through service to their communities and by leading internal improvements within GAO. Their efforts to help others and further teamwork and diversity ensure that GAO remains one of the best places to work in the federal government."

At the ceremony, Comptroller General Dodaro thanked White for his leadership in exceeding the GAO's ambitious hiring goals in 2019, and for his commitment to ensuring a diverse and inclusive culture at GAO. "I am humbled by this honor and am grateful to the Comptroller General and GAO for entrusting me with its most important asset, its people, White said. "The opportunity to weave principles and practices of diversity and inclusion into the everyday operations of an organization is one that brings significant professional and personal satisfaction to me. This award signifies the value GAO places in nurturing an inclusive workplace. I remain fully committed to bringing my passion for diversity and inclusion to the FDIC in my new role as Deputy Director and Chief Human Capital Officer. It is a privilege to be part of the FDIC family and I am excited to lend my efforts to maintaining FDIC's standing as a Best Places to Work (in the Federal Government)." 🏆



**Comptroller General Gene L. Dodaro presents Bill White with the Comptroller General's Award for 2019 for White's outstanding contributions to the GAO as its former Human Capital Officer, where he advanced diversity and inclusion initiatives. White joined the FDIC in October 2019.**

## TRANSITIONS

**Sylvia Burns** was named Chief Information Officer and Chief Privacy Officer on January 16, 2020.

Burns joined the FDIC in September 2018 and has led the implementation of the agency's five-year IT modernization plan. Prior to joining the FDIC, she served as CIO at the U.S. Department of the Interior where she successfully led the Office of the Chief Information Officer through a comprehensive reorganization that significantly improved the delivery of IT services.

Burns has been recognized as one of the top women in technology in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area by FedScoop, and among the FedScoop 50 top federal leaders in 2016. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in curriculum and geology from City University of New York at Hunter College and a Master of Science in business management and policy from State University of New York at Stony Brook. She also holds a graduate certificate in project management from George Washington University. 🏡



**Sylvia Burns**

**Brooke Aiken** joined the FDIC in August 2019 as the FDIC's first full-time Section 508 Program Manager. Brooke brings to the FDIC a wealth of experience in Section 508 Compliance and IT reasonable accommodations expertise.

Describing her responsibilities, Brooke said: "As the Section 508 Compliance Program Manager for FDIC, my role is to ensure all of FDIC's Information and Communication Technology is accessible to people with disabilities. My day-to-day responsibilities are unique and in constant movement."

Brooke's workday may consist of IT Accessibility training, web and software application reviews for 508 compliance, and ensuring the FDIC's documents (e.g., Word, PDF, Power Point, and Excel) are accessible for members of the public and FDIC employees. Brooke also provides strategic guidance for IT reasonable accommodation requests and ensures procurement language has up-to-date Section 508 clauses.

Brooke began her federal government career with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), where she served for

13 years as a federal employee and two years as a contractor. During her time at CBP, she developed an interest in Section 508 Compliance and was able to research and learn about the law and its mandate. Through her persistence, Brooke educated management about the importance of IT accessibility and spearheaded an agency-wide initiative to implement Section 508 compliance.

Brooke assisted in the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Accessible Systems and Technology, which employs 22 staff members dedicated to Section 508 compliance.

During her time with CBP, Brooke served a six-month detail with the Executive Office of the President, where she established a framework for a Chief Accessibility Officer to ensure Section 508 compliance is mandatory within the Executive Office of the President.

Brooke was also selected to detail at the General Services Administration (GSA), Government-wide, IT Accessibility Program. She provided guidance and assistance with Section 508 pro-



**Brooke Aiken**

urement review language and accessibility platforms during her time at GSA.

Currently, Brooke serves as the co-education chair for the federal-wide Accessibility Community of Practice. She is involved in the FDIC's CAN DO Network and was recently selected as a member of the FDIC Chairman's Diversity Advisory Council.

Brooke holds a Bachelor's degree in Human Environmental Services from the University of Alabama. 🏡

## TRANSITION

**Howard Whyte**, Chief Information Officer and Chief Privacy Officer, recently resigned his position to pursue an opportunity in the private sector.

"Howard has brought tremendous value to the FDIC on a host of IT and cybersecurity-related issues," said FDIC Chairman Jelena McWilliams. "We are grateful for his leadership of the CIO Organization and the advances he has made to ensure the agency is on a strong technological footing."

Whyte joined the FDIC in January 2017 as the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) and was appointed

CIO by the FDIC Board of Directors in October 2017. As CIO, he provided leadership and positive influence to meet FDIC performance goals. He also established a five-year plan to modernize the agency's IT systems and enhance security and privacy.

As CISO, Whyte worked to reduce cybersecurity risk by improving the Security Operations Center, incorporating threat intelligence into security operations, and engaging with the agency's Divisions and Offices to address IT security and privacy challenges. 🏡



**Howard Whyte**

## MOVING ON

**Name:** Melodee Brooks

**Most recent position:** Deputy Director

**Division:** Office of Minority and Women Inclusion

**Location:** Virginia Square, Arlington, Virginia

**When and where joined the FDIC:** January 2012 as Senior Deputy Director, OMWI

**Career highlights:** I have been a senior executive since 1993. I served as the Director, Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights, and subsequently as the Associate Director of Acquisition and Financial Assistance at the Department of the Interior before coming to the FDIC. I joined the FDIC to lead the efforts to implement Section 342 of Dodd-Frank.

**Retirement Date:** January 3, 2020

**Plans for retirement:** To complete and publish two books in process: "Shards

of Glass Ceiling," a nonfiction book to share my experiences and help women of color know and recognize their value when they're the only one or among the few at the top; and a romance novel, "When I Wasn't Looking." These will be my second and third books. Also, I plan to continue to play with my 96-year-old father and 93-year-old mother and enjoy their wisdom that carried me throughout my life.

**Comments and thoughts:** I have met and worked with many wonderful people throughout my career and many will continue to be friends. I hope that I have shared my spirit, enthusiasm, and passion for just being the best that I can be in whatever I do and with the people I touch. I wish the employees at the FDIC all the best and want them to understand that it is an honor and pleasure



**Melodee Brooks**

to work for the FDIC. Continue to be your best. 🏡