

September 2017 AEO New Board Members

Usman Ahmed

*Head of Global Public Policy
PayPal Inc.*



Usman Ahmed is the Head of Global Public Policy at PayPal Inc. His work covers a variety of global issues including financial services regulation, innovation, international trade and entrepreneurship. He has given talks on these subjects at conferences and universities around the world, and has published in the World Economic Forum Global Information Technology Report, MIT Press Innovations Journal and the Boston University International Law Journal. Ahmed is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law School, where he teaches a course on Fintech Law and Policy. Prior to PayPal, Usman worked at a number of Washington, D.C.-area policy think tanks focusing on good governance issues. Ahmed earned his JD from University of Michigan, his MA from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and his BA from University of Maryland.

Joshua Brackett

*Chief Financial Officer
Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs, Inc. (ACE)*



As Chief Financial Officer, Joshua Brackett oversees the accurate, reliable and timely preparation of ACE's financial information and compliance. Under his direction, ACE became nationally accredited and successfully secured debt capital from Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, PNC Bank, FHLBA and Hamilton State Bank after undergoing rigorous due diligence processes by each institution. A graduate of Berry College with a BS in Business Administration and the Community Bankers Association consumer lending school, Brackett served in banking with experience as a loan collector/auditor, financial analyst and Finance Manager with community banks.

Melissa L. Bradley

Founder and Curator

Venture DC/Project 500

Co-Founder and Managing Director

Sidecar Social Finance

Melissa L. Bradley is a tri-sector leader with more than 20 years of entrepreneurship, investment and leadership experience. She is Co-Founder and Managing Director of Sidecar Social Finance, a social impact agency that provides impact investing advisory and capital services to individuals, institutions and social enterprises. She is also Founder and Curator of Venture DC/Project 500, a Washington, D.C.-based project that seeks to create equity and opportunity in entrepreneurship through the training and visibility of diverse entrepreneurs aimed at bridging the literal and figurative innovation divide in the city.



In 2016 Melissa was named as a Nonresident Senior Fellow in the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution; Co-Chair of the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NACIE) by Secretary Penny Pritzker from the Department of Commerce; and to Mayor Bowser's Innovation and Technology Inclusion Council (ITIC).

Since 2012 Melissa has been a Professor of Practice at the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University, where she serves as an expert lecturer on Impact Investing, Social Entrepreneurship, Peer-to-Peer Economies and Innovation. In 2015 she was awarded the Entrepreneurial Faculty Excellence Award and the Joseph F. LeMoine Award for Undergraduate and Graduate Teaching Excellence. In 2016 she was awarded the MBA Excellence in Teaching Award.

Melissa currently serves as an Advisor to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Interdisciplinary Research Leaders Program, Wallet AI, the Center for the Advancement of Social Enterprise (CASE) at Duke University and the LGBTQ Center at Georgetown University. She is a Founding Advisor to the Dell Center for Entrepreneurs, as well as a Senator with the Board of Governors at Georgetown University. She is also Founder and Former Chair of the Georgetown Entrepreneurship Alliance, and was a Founding Member of The Woodhull Institute for Ethical Leadership.

Bradley served as a Presidential Appointee under President Obama, first as the Chief Strategy Officer at the Corporation for National and Community Service, which included a detail at the Department of Education, and then as Acting Director of the Social Innovation Fund.

Melissa holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from the School of Business at Georgetown University and a Master's Degree in Business Administration in Marketing from American University Kogod School of Business.

Gary L. Cunningham

President and CEO

Meda



For more than 20 years, Gary L. Cunningham has served as the top leader of philanthropic, health care, public policy and educational organizations.

Gary joined Meda as President and CEO in August 2014. Meda's proven market-based solutions address racial economic inequities by fostering minority business development in Minnesota.

Prior to joining Meda, Gary served as Vice President and Chief Program Officer for the Northwest Area Foundation and as the President and Chief Executive Officer for NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center in Minneapolis.

Gary serves on multiple boards, including: Co-chair, African American Leadership Forum; Board Chair, Association of Black Foundation Executive; Board Member, Corporation for Enterprise Development; Board Member, GREATER MSP; and Council Member, Metropolitan Council in the Twin Cities.

Gary has been locally and nationally recognized throughout his career for his commitment to civil rights, education and public policy.

Byna Elliott

Senior Vice President, Director of Community & Economic Development

Fifth Third Bank



Byna Elliott is a community reinvestment professional with 20+ years of experience, including five years administering all aspects of consumer compliance programs and Community Reinvestment Act initiatives. She started her career at the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in 1993 and moved into the financial services industry in 1998. She currently holds the position of Senior Vice President and Director of Community and Economic Development for Fifth Third Bank, a \$141 billion financial services company. She oversees their landmark \$30 Billion Community Commitment, announced in 2016. Fifth Third Bank's retail presence is Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Florida, Indiana, Georgia, Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina.

She holds a B.B.A. Business Administration from Eastern Michigan University and a Boston College Corporate Citizenship Certificate.

Her professional and civic positions include: Chairperson, Greater Works Foundation (GWF); Board & Trustee, St. Joseph Mercy Oakland; Board Member, Habitat for Humanity; Board Member, Wayne County Development Entity; Board Member, Woodstock Institute (Chicago); and Task Force Member, Detroit Neighborhood Forum.

Alex Forrester

***Co-Founder and Chief Operations Officer
Rising Tide Capital***



Alex Forrester is Co-Founder and Chief Operations Officer of Rising Tide Capital (www.RisingTideCapital.org), a non-profit organization that provides high-quality business education and consulting to low-income entrepreneurs in Northern NJ.

Alex graduated from Harvard University in 2004 with an accelerated Bachelor of Arts in Postmodern Philosophy and Theology. Driven by an interest in social justice, entrepreneurship and microfinance, Alex co-founded Rising Tide Capital in May 2004 with his fellow Harvard classmate, Alfa Demmellash.

Rising Tide Capital has since achieved national recognition for its approach to economic empowerment of low-income individuals and communities through entrepreneurship. In 2009, Rising Tide Capital was selected as a CNN Hero and recognized by President Barack Obama in a White House speech on innovative non-profit organizations.

As Chief Operations Officer, Alex is driven by an interest in the characteristics of high-performing social enterprises. He seeks to develop Rising Tide Capital into an organization that is not only efficient and effective, but sustainable, scalable and replicable to other communities. He is deeply interested in the concept of “Social Return on Investment” (SROI) and in the use of strategic philanthropy and social entrepreneurship to address systemic social problems such as global poverty, ex-offender recidivism and modern-day slavery.

Rogie D. Nelson

***Program Coordinator, Small and Minority Business
South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs***



Rogie D. Nelson is the Program Coordinator, Small and Minority Business at the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs. He was born in Sumter, S.C., where he graduated from Sumter High School in 1985. He attended University of South Carolina, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology.

Rogie started working with small and minority businesses in 1992 while employed by the South Carolina Minority Business Development Center. He then spent 10 years working for the South Carolina Department of Transportation in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program before joining the South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs in 2008.

Currently, Rogie is the Program Coordinator for the Micro Business Development program. This statewide program provides education and training, business management and technical assistance and microlending referrals to firms/individuals interested in starting and/or expanding a microbusiness. In this position, Rogie works with individuals, special interest groups, municipalities, local, state and federal governments who are involved with creating economic prosperity for minority-owned businesses.

Rogie's personal goal is to stimulate, educate and inspire communities to create and/or expand a microbusiness, and be a catalyst to bring economic prosperity to the communities that he serves.

Douglas Schaeffer

Executive Vice President, CRA Director

Woodforest National Bank



Doug is passionate about serving mission and margin through bringing transparency and innovation to economic opportunity for all. He is a financial executive with more than 30 years of experience managing critical business operations. Known for creativity, challenging the status quo, strategic thinking, bringing clarity to issues and collaboration, he builds support for contemporary responsive strategies within complex organizations and partners with external stakeholders to achieve high-impact results. Doug leverages his extensive background in strategy development, finance, treasury and corporate governance.

Doug started his career in banking as a teller in 1984 while attending college. Upon graduating, he worked for KPMG, GE Capital Mortgage, JPMorgan Chase and Ally Financial (formerly GMAC). He has held multiple positions, including: Chief Financial Officer, Chief of Staff to CEO, Strategy Executive, Deputy General Manager, Managing Director Treasury and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Executive. He led the improvement of a large community reinvestment program resulting in a regulator-approved CRA strategic plan, improved examination results and the transformation of the program into a sustainable profit-oriented business.

Doug joined the executive leadership team at Woodforest National Bank in October 2015 as EVP-CRA Director. He leads their CRA efforts, including a team of 30+ CRA professionals. He is creating innovative strategies to increase the impact of Woodforest National Bank's expansive CRA program, which covers 17 states and over 200 CRA assessment areas.

Doug is a Beta Gamma Sigma graduate of Drexel University (MS in Finance) and Rutgers University (BS in Accounting).

Doug sits on the board of CEI Capital Management, where he chairs the New Product Development Committee, and of National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders, where he is the Audit Chair. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for Moorestown Theater Company, and volunteers his time supporting Strong Women Strong Girls and other charities.