

*Foundation for National Progress*  
**Board of Directors Biographies**

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**CHRISTINA PLATT**

Christina is a senior portfolio manager specializing in socially responsible investing with the Berkeley office of Smith Barney. She was one of the original directors of the Massachusetts Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation, served on the Governor's Energy Advisory Task Force and was a founder of The New England Small Farm Institute. An original member of the Clamshell Alliance, she currently serves as an advisor to "To the Village Square," an effort to inspire and inform a new generation of anti-nuclear activists through multi-media outreach and good old community organizing (see [www.clamshell-TVS.org](http://www.clamshell-TVS.org)).

**PHIL STRAUS, chair**

Phil is a photographer. He straddles the digital/analog border with a 4X5 camera and film, scanning, Photoshop, and toned silver prints. For dozens of thousand-word equivalents answering the question, "What does he photograph?" see his website, at [www.strausphoto.com](http://www.strausphoto.com). Phil is on the board of directors of the Center for Defense Information where he's underwritten the launch of the Straus Military Reform Project. He is supporting a *MotherJones.com* project on militarism.

He's recently begun playing the piano and composing music and returned to running after a ten-year lapse due to now-eliminated arthritis. He's looking forward to a return to the study of mathematics. Phil has been a devoted go player for over 35 years.

He lives in Philadelphia with his wife, Margaret Harris. They've recently become empty-nesters. Phil has degrees in psychology and engineering. For other details of his past life, ask his cousin, Jane Butcher.

**JAY HARRIS, president**

Jay has been the publisher of *Mother Jones* since 1991 and chief executive officer of the Foundation for National Progress since 1998. Jay is a member of the board of IMAG, the independent magazine group of the MPA; a member of the board of the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*; and a member of the Social Venture Network. Prior to joining *Mother Jones*, he was general manager of *Newsweek's* Pacific edition, based in Hong Kong; publisher of *Travel & Leisure/Asia*; and director of international special projects for *Newsweek International*. He has an A.B. from Duke University and a Masters in Public and Private Management from the Yale School of Management.

**MONIKA BAUERLEIN, vice president**

Monika is the co-editor of *Mother Jones*. She started her journalistic career by typing other people's

manuscripts in archaic word processors, and researching politics for a Middle Eastern helicopter merchant. As a freelancer in New York and Washington, D.C. in the late 1980s, she covered the negotiations to end the first Gulf War and the 1988 presidential campaign; during graduate school at the University of Minnesota, she filed stories for the AP and a range of newspapers, magazines, and public radio programs, with an emphasis on politics and environmental coverage. She was a writer, managing editor, and interim editor at *City Pages*, the *Village Voice* sister paper in Minneapolis/St. Paul and came to *Mother Jones* as features editor in 2000. At the magazine, she has focused on developing political and investigative reportage and has spearheaded the magazine's new investigative team and Washington bureau.

### **CLARA JEFFERY, vice president**

Clara is co-editor of *Mother Jones*. Before joining the staff of *Mother Jones*, she was a senior editor of *Harper's* magazine, where she worked for almost seven years. Six pieces that she edited have been finalists for National Magazine Awards, in the categories of essay, profile, reporting, public interest, and fiction. Works she edited have also been selected to appear in various editions of *Best American Essays*, *Best American Travel Writing*, *Best American Sports Writing*, and *Best American Science Writing*. While at *Harper's*, she also conceived and organized a series of public forums broadcast on WNYC. Previously, Jeffery worked at *Washington City Paper*, where she wrote and edited political, investigative, and narrative features, was a columnist, and frequently appeared on FOX-TV's reporters' roundtable on behalf of the paper.

Jeffery received an MSJ with honors from Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism in 1993 and graduated cum laude from Carleton College in 1989. She grew up in Arlington, Virginia.

### **MARK C. NORTH, treasurer**

Mark North is a San Francisco Bay Area-based writer, transportation business consultant, and philanthropist. His current interests focus on exploring alternative media approaches to politics, international affairs, and culture, especially using digital technologies.

Mark's business background is in international container shipping and freight transportation. He began in the finance/leasing sector of the industry but in 1983 established and for 11 years served as the Executive Secretary of an international trade association representing the interests of transportation equipment repair companies. In that position Mark served as a U.S. expert on the International Standards Organization TC104/SC4/WG3 committee for transportation communication standards and wrote extensively on international trade and transportation issues. In 1988 he founded a corporation that established a standards-based transaction processing network for global tracking of containers. After selling the business to Sterling Commerce, a division of SBC Corporation, in 1999, Mark led Sterling's US West Coast Strategic Sales team for eighteen months before leaving to pursue opportunities in writing, publishing.

Over the past four years Mark has taken a special interest in local youth development organizations and have been involved with several Bay Area non-profits, including Sports for Kids, The East Bay Community Foundation, Destiny Arts Center, Youth Speaks, and East Oakland Boxing Association.

In 2005 he began publishing (the now-dormant) *Old Trout* magazine, “a satirical journal of political delusions, truthiness, celebrity antics, and cultural nonsense.” After six issues, Jay eventually convinced Mark he could do more good helping *Mother Jones* and the Foundation for National Progress.

### **SARA FRANKEL, secretary**

Sara Frankel has worked in media companies since starting her first job as a *Mother Jones* intern in 1986. She subsequently worked as an editor and feature writer for both weekly magazines and a daily newspaper. Since receiving her MBA in 1994, she has held a range of business positions in electronic media companies, most recently running an Internet company she founded in 1999. She is currently working as a business consultant in New York.

### **HARRIET BARLOW**

Harriet is the director of the HKH Foundation, which makes grants in areas relating to the environment, the arms race, and civil liberties, and is also director of the Blue Mountain Center, an upstate New York workplace for artists, writers and activists. Ms. Barlow has also founded and co-founded 12 public interest organizations and has been a member of the board of directors of over 50 non-profits.

### **JANE BUTCHER**

Jane is co-Chair of the Conference on World Affairs, Chair of the Dean’s Advisory Committee for Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado, is on the Advisory Board of the Autry National Center and also on the Biotech Advisory Board at the University of Colorado. She is the founder of the consulting firm Conventional Wisdom, Ltd.

### **ERIK HANISCH**

Erik is a co-founder and president of the Seattle-based Quixote Foundation. The Quixote Foundation was founded in 1997 by Erik’s father, Arthur, to advance progressive causes through the action, education & policy work of dynamic nonprofit groups. Erik’s wife, Lenore is the Executive Director of the Quixote Foundation.

### **ADAM HOCHSCHILD**

Adam is a writer and was one of the co-founders of *Mother Jones*. He is the author of six books: *Half the Way Home: a Memoir of Father and Son*; *The Mirror at Midnight: a South African Journey*; *The Unquiet Ghost: Russians Remember Stalin*; *Finding the Trapdoor: Essays, Portraits, Travels*; *King Leopold’s Ghost: a Story of Greed, Terror and Heroism in Colonial Africa*; and *Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire’s Slaves*. In 1997-98, he spent five months as a Fulbright Lecturer in India, and he teaches a writing class at the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of

California at Berkeley.

## **NICOLE MCCLELLAND**

Nicole earned B.A.s in English and Psychology from The Ohio State University and an MFA in nonfiction writing from the University of New Orleans. In between, she spent six months organic farming and scuba diving in the South Pacific. Post-Katrina, she lived in Thailand and Columbus, and has been working on a project about the Burmese refugees she taught in the former. Her work has appeared in *Mother Jones*, *The Nation*, *Orion*, *Wiretap*, and various anthologies.

## **ROBERT MCKAY**

Rob is President of the McKay Foundation, a San Francisco-based funder that supports voter engagement, community organizing and institution building efforts in low-income communities. Rob is a founding board member of America Coming Together and has been active in electoral initiatives at both the state and federal level. He also operates a venture capital fund specializing in emerging media and consumer products companies. He served six years as co-chair of the FNP Board.

## **RICHARD MELCHER**

Rick is a founding principal of Melcher & Tucker Consultants, a Chicago-based strategic marketing and communications firm advising small and midsize companies and not-for-profit organizations. Since he co-founded the business in 2000, Rick has helped clients with strategic planning, media and capital campaigns, and in building alliances. Prior to his current endeavors, Rick worked at two leading public policy web sites, and spent two decades at Business Week magazine, managing bureaus in Chicago and London, and where he received the Citation for Excellence from the Overseas Press Club for reporting on Europe and the Center for Education Reform's award for Excellence in Journalism.

Rick is a board member of the Foundation for National Progress, and serves on the national board of trustees and the Chicago advisory board of Facing History and Ourselves. He is also on the executive committee of the board of directors of Chicago Commons and is a member of the Economic Club of Chicago and the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. A graduate of Duke University, Rick and his wife, Barbara, are the parents of three children.

## **HOPE MORRISSETT**

Hope Morrissett received a BA from the University of Colorado in a combined major in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, Chemistry and Economics. She returned to academics to pursue a PhD in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology when she became pregnant with her first child, who was born with a severe genetic problem and died as a 3 month old.

Based on an experiential playgroup, she founded a school which is now turning 20 years old and has 170 children attending from pre-school through fifth grade. The school now has an intern program in association with a master's program at the University of Denver, which trains teachers in the schools' methods and philosophy.

She has also attended a hands-on healing school in New York for three years on long weekends, and spent two subsequent years there as an apprentice teacher. She is now at the point where she is ready to work to shape the world to help create a different future than the one we may be careening toward.

## **CAROLYN MUGAR**

Carolyn Mugar is and has been for twenty years the Executive Director of Farm Aid. Previous to that, she was an organizer with the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union and the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers International Union. Both unions have since merged several times. She also founded the Armenia Tree Project based in Watertown Massachusetts and Yerevan, Armenia and is very active on Armenian issues, going back and forth to Armenia several times a year. She likes to bike a lot. She walked the whole Camino in Spain over four years ago. She went to college and received a higher education.

## **JON PAGELER**

Jon Pageler has been a Vice President of Diageo, the worlds leading premium drinks company, since 2003 and is currently responsible for Marketing Communications.

At Diageo, Mr. Pageler's responsibilities include overseeing the marketing communications efforts in North America, as well as coordinating these efforts with the other Diageo markets worldwide. Prior to becoming the Head of Marketing Communications for North America, Mr. Pageler served as the Brand Communications Strategist in Diageo's world Headquarters in London.

Mr. Pageler began his tenure with Diageo in Napa, as the Diageo Chateau & Estate Wine Company's executive in charge of Corporate Relations in the role of Vice President Corporate Relations, Diageo Chateau & Estate Wines.

From 2000 to 2003, prior to joining Diageo, Mr. Pageler worked for the Crisis Management and Strategic Communications firm, Westhill Partners, where, among other responsibilities, he managed the firm's largest client, Diageo. Mr. Pageler came to Westhill from his role as Scheduler and, ultimately, Trip Director on the Bill Bradley for President Campaign, where he served for two years. From 1995 through 1998, Mr. Pageler held positions on several political campaigns including as the Scheduler for Charles Schumer's successful bid to unseat US Senator Al Damato and as Campaign Manager for Charlie King's unsuccessful bid for New York State Lieutenant Governor.

Prior to that Mr. Pageler worked for the American Red Cross as a communications specialist and as an Investigator for the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem, a non-profit criminal defense firm based on 125th Street in Manhattan.

Mr. Pageler graduated with honors and a BA in Philosophy from Carleton College in Northfield Minnesota in 1990.

## **SUSAN S. PRITZKER**

Susan has been active in the arts, education, civil rights and women's issues for most of her life. She has been a on the board of Pitzer College since 1990 and the chair since 2001. She also serves on the board of directors of Chicago-based Urban Gateways: Center for the Arts in Education, the largest arts-in-education organization in Cook County, Ill. Urban Gateways reinforces the arts curriculum in Chicago public and parochial schools by sponsoring artists to teach visual arts, dance, theater and music. Susan is also chair of the board of directors of the Chicago Foundation for Women, whose goal is to increase philanthropic giving by women for a variety of causes, including shelters for abused women and girls and programs on domestic violence and sexual assault. Susan is married to Nick Pritzker, whose family are owners of the Hyatt Hotel chain.

## **DANIEL SCHULMAN**

Dan has worked as an investigative reporter producing groundbreaking stories for *Mother Jones* and MotherJones.com. He uncovered the deceptive push polls used by independent right-wing organizations to suppress Democratic and Independent voter turnout in the 2006 midterm election. The story gained national media attention, and after the election Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) introduced legislation to outlaw harassing robo-calls and other attempts to mislead voters. A former assistant editor at the *Columbia Journalism Review*, his work has appeared in the *Boston Globe*, and the *Village Voice*, among other publications.

## **KEVIN SIMMONS**

Kevin Dunlap Simmons serves via Fundación Amador as the Director of Institutional Development for *Panamá: Puente de Vida* \ Museum of Biodiversity (Panamá: Bridge of Life \ Museum of Biodiversity). A major environmental and cultural institution currently under construction in Panama City, Panamá, the Museum of Biodiversity has been designed by Frank Gehry, Bruce Mau, and Edwina Von Gal in collaboration with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute. The Museum will become a global landmark for environmental education, biodiversity conservation, and the use of Latin American civil society to affect policy change at national and regional levels. Simmons' role involves the strategic planning for and execution of fundraising, international institutional alliances, program research and development, and creation and coordination of its Scientific Advisory Committee, chaired by Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy, as well as its Special Task Force for Endowment, chaired by Rubén Blades and whose membership includes actors Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

Previous professional positions include Site Director of the Evanston office of National Student Partnerships, guest lecturer at the University of Chicago Chapin Hall Center for Children, research associate at the Centre for Defence Studies in London, England, night patroller for the leatherback turtle program of Fundación ANAI in Parque Manzanillo, Costa Rica, bookstore clerk, and, most recently, Translating Editor for *Panamá Viejo: History, Architecture, and Restoration*, a work commissioned by the *Reina Torres Museo de la Antropología* and to be published by the University of Panamá in the summer of 2007.

Kevin focused on urban public policy and Slavic Studies as an undergraduate at Princeton University, and has completed additional academic work with the Universidad de Cuenca in Cuenca, Ecuador, as well as with the Nevsky Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia. His performing arts background includes three years as dancer and choreographer with BodyHype Dance Company in Princeton, New Jersey, training in classical piano, and more than a dozen performance credits, including creation of the role of 'The Portrait' in 2006's *Dorian*, the critically-acclaimed full-length dance adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture Dorian Gray*, and creation of the role of 'Fritz/Trudy' in 2001's *Spaghetti Western*, the first full production of a work by accomplished New York playwright Noah Haidle.

Simmons' volunteer nonprofit leadership roles include founder of Matter / Energy, a nascent arts and renewable energy organization based in Chicago's industrial corridor, Vice-President of the Bailiwick Repertory Theater, Secretary and National Performance Network Representative for Molly Shanahan / Mad Shak Dance Company, outreach advisor for the Eugene Eisenmann Avifauna Foundation, and founding member, along with landscape designer Edwina Von Gal and architect Maya Lin, of the Azuero Foundation. Opera-obsessed and a devotee of Erich Fromm, Simmons is 25 years old and currently resides in Panamá, where he enjoys watching things grow.

### **Paul Ryan**

Paul Ryan is the CEO and Co-Founder of Ryan Associates. He focuses on client and colleague relationships, and company strategic planning. He explores opportunities for the company to work in new locations, with new designers, and on new building types. In Ryan Associates' early years, Paul worked in the field defining the company's high quality standards. He was also the company's first Project Manager, developing that role as the core element that distinguishes Ryan's level of service and teamwork. Paul earned a degree in Philosophy from Santa Clara University and studied Humanities at San Francisco State. He has volunteered for several non-profits over the years including four terms as Chair of the Board of Trustees at Headlands Center for the Arts. He is currently serving on the Board of the DiRosa Preserve, an art center in the Napa Valley.