

Position 02 – Barry Mandel



Barry N. Mandel is the President and Park Director of Discovery Green, a 12-acre park that serves as a public gathering space, holds hundreds of events, and welcomed over 3 million visitors in its first 3 years. As a fourth-generation Houstonian, Mr. Mandel has exhibited his passion and commitment to Downtown Houston throughout his accomplished career. Prior to joining Discovery Green, he led many successful ventures as Chief Operating Officer at Legacy Community Health Services, President of the Houston Downtown Alliance, and Executive Director of the Theater District Association. Mr. Mandel has volunteered his time to help numerous organizations including Casa de Esperanza, American Leadership Forum, Talento Bilingue, Girls, Inc., the Holocaust Museum Houston, Houston Food Bank, and AIDS Foundation Houston.

Position 03 – William Taylor



Director, Development & Infrastructure, Precinct One
William Taylor has been working as a Director, Planning & Infrastructure at Harris County, TX for 6 years.
Harris County, TX is part of the Government industry, and located in Texas

Position 4 – Tom Flaherty



Tom Flaherty is President of Flaherty Consulting, a Business and Financial Consulting firm. He was previously CFO of Balfour Beatty Construction (formerly SpawMaxwell Company). Tom received his BBA in Accounting from Texas A&M University and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Houston Center for Photography – Board of Directors, President 2015-2017

Rice Design Alliance – Board of Directors 2008-Present, Treasurer

The Park People – Board of Directors, Board of Advisors 1990-2009; President & Chairman 1995-1996
Bellaire Planning & Zoning Commission 1999-2000

Boy Scouts / Cub Scouts – Various adult leader positions 1998-2008

Position 7 – Mindy Hildebrand



Melinda “Mindy” Hildebrand currently serves as the Chair of the Hildebrand Foundation and the Vice President of Hilcorp Ventures Inc. Hildebrand is the President and Owner of River Oaks Donuts in Houston, Texas.

Hildebrand also serves on the following boards or committees: MD Anderson, Houston – Executive Committee, Board of Visitors; University of Texas at Austin- Development Board and McCombs Advisory Council; University of St. Thomas- Advisory Board member; Museum of Fine Arts Houston- Bayou Bend and European Arts sub-committees; Houston Parks Board- Trustee; President of the Memorial Park Conservancy Endowment, Houston; Episcopal High School, Bellaire, Texas- Executive Committee and Endowment Committee; Elected to the board of the Upper Snowmass Creek Caucus, Snowmass, Colorado; Life House Houston-Advisory Board; Partnership to End Addiction, New York City-Trustee; Preservation Square, Austin, Texas-Board Member; and James Beard Foundation, New York City, Board of Director.

Hildebrand has also volunteered for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, as a member of the International Committee for 33 years and is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Houston.

Hildebrand earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Texas, Austin, has been married to Jeffery D. Hildebrand for 32 years and has 3 children.

Position 8 – Tantri Emo



Tantri Emo, Vice President, and Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Emo graduated from Curtin University of Technology in Perth, Australia (Bachelor of Commerce) and from University of Houston Clear Lake (Master Science in Finance). Prior to joining Rockwell, she worked at the City of Houston as Chief Business Officer/Finance Director.

Position 9 – Barron Wallace



As a result of his experience with virtually all types of governmental entities and diverse finance structures, Barron Wallace's public finance practice is both unique and broad. His clients benefit from his knowledge of traditional and highly structured project finance conduit transactions involving state agencies, cities, school districts, airports, higher education, housing, industrial development, private and primary secondary schools, cultural arts organizations, regional mobility authorities, special districts, and not-for-profit organizations. His multifaceted practice spans traditional municipal finance, tax increment finance, urban redevelopment, as well as general public law.

Barron's leadership, insight and in-depth understanding is beneficial in providing bond, disclosure and tax counsel to issuers, underwriters, trustees, third-party credit providers, and borrowers. He serves as bond and disclosure counsel for cities, counties, state agencies, and special districts, including local government corporations. In addition, Barron represents national and regional investment banking firms as underwriter's counsel and advises conduit bond issuers, tax increment reinvestment zones, local government corporations and certain special districts as general counsel or special counsel. As a by-product of his many years of experience and innovations in public finance, he also focuses on urban infrastructure and transportation development and public/private partnerships.

Civic leadership and support of his community play an important role in Barron's career and personal objectives. He serves on the board of directors of the Museum of Fine Arts-Houston, Houston Parks Board, Connect Houston, St. John's School, Discovery Green-Downtown Park Corporation and the NFL/NFLPA Research and Education Foundation.

Position 10 – Nick Tobenkin



NICK TOBENKIN

TG was founded by Nick Tobenkin, a D.C. politico disillusioned with the influence industries' rigidity, lack of creativity, and focus on profits. Tobenkin Group was envisioned as a vehicle to advance causes that will benefit the populace. Whether that's promoting an open internet, fighting for investments into infrastructure, or protecting healthcare treatments for disease survivors, TG will be on the front lines supporting causes that matter.

Nick has spent several years working in government relations on K Street and in candidate campaigns. He has built a strong network and reputation for getting the job done. Nick grew up in Los Angeles and is a proud alum of the University of California, Irvine.

Position 11 – Ann Lents



In April 2008 Ann Lents retired as President & CEO of the Center for Houston's Future, a not-for-profit policy planning organization. She continues to work in the policy arena as a volunteer locally as Co-Chairman of the Quality-of-Life Coalition and serves additionally on the boards of Houston Wilderness, Texas Children's Hospital, and The Park People, the Dean's Facilities Committee of the University of Texas School of Law, and as a founder of the Women's Center at the same school.

Past civic activities have focused on environmental issues, children's education and mental health, and the law, and include service on the boards of The Kinkaid School, The Kinkaid School Endowment Fund, DePelchin Children's Center, Houston Child Guidance Center, Scenic America, the UT School of Law Alumni Association, and Trees for Houston, as well as service on various committees related to the administration of justice locally.

A graduate of Wellesley College and the University of Texas School of Law, Ms. Lents practiced law with Vinson & Elkins from 1974 to 1990, where she was a partner focusing principally on antitrust, securities, and commercial litigation.

She is married to J. David Heaney II and has two children, David and Mary Elizabeth Heaney.

Position 12 – Chris George



Chris is a subject matter expert in mobility, electrification, cleanweb, cleantech, and connected vehicles. He has nearly a decade of experience in business development in mobility and automotive sectors helping automakers, consumer fleets, utilities, and top 10 dealer groups leverage technology to drive profitability through data insight and enhanced customer engagement; creating international ecosystems and communities with industry leaders, executives, governments, and grassroots; and nonprofit fundraising and leadership.

Position 13 – Cullen Geiselman



Cullen K. Geiselman was born in Houston, Texas in 1974. She attended Duke University where she received a B.A. degree in Environmental Science and Policy in 1997. She began her career studying bats in 1998 when she joined the staff of Bat Conservation International (BCI), an Austin-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of bats and their habitats worldwide. During her five-year tenure with BCI, she taught bat research and land management workshops in Arizona, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania, led natural history tours to Belize, Kenya, and Brazil, developed educational materials for children and adults, as well as presented numerous formal and informal lectures across the US.

To learn more about bats and conservation methods, she entered graduate school at Columbia University in 2003. There she worked with botanist Scott A Mori of the New York Botanical Garden investigating the role of bats in seed dispersal and pollination in lowland rainforests of South America.

During this time, she spent many months collecting data in an isolated research station in French Guiana and coauthored a book entitled *Seed Dispersal by Bats in the Neotropics*.

In May 2010 she received her doctorate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Columbia University. Cullen currently lives in Houston, works with her family on business matters and philanthropy, chairs the board of the Cullen Trust for Health Care, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Houston Zoo, the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, Bat Conservation International, Blaffer Art Museum at University of Houston, the Houston Advanced Research Center, and the Houston Parks Board. She also volunteers her time with National Park Conservation Association and the Menil Collection.

Position 14 – Andrew Price



Andrew Price has spent his entire career helping clients successfully resolve their business disputes. Whether it is before a state court jury or an arbitration tribunal, Andrew works tirelessly to achieve the best results for his clients. He has handled numerous cases involving contracts, intellectual property, securities, business torts and professional liability. He is well versed in dealing with the unique aspects of cases involving partnerships, joint ventures, or the governance of corporations. Andrew also has significant expertise in handling disputes involving cross-border transactions or foreign law issues.

Andrew is a past recipient of the American Marshall Memorial Fellowship, awarded by the German Marshall Fund to Americans identified as emerging leaders. During his fellowship, Andrew spent six weeks traveling across Europe where he met with leaders and discussed pressing business and political issues.

Andrew has held numerous Firm leadership positions, recently completing a three-year term as the Hiring Partner responsible for attorney employment across the United States. He currently serves on the Firm's Political Committee.

Position 15 – Laura Spanjian



Laura Spanjian is the public policy director for Airbnb for the western US. Doing business in 191 countries and 65,000 cities, with almost four million listings, Airbnb is quickly becoming one of the largest online travel platforms in the world.

Spanjian has over twenty years of policy and legislative experience working with city, state, and federal governments, with expertise in environmental policy and sustainability.

For Airbnb, Spanjian works with cities and states to craft new policies that create smart regulations for the emerging short-term rental and online travel business. Spanjian also coordinates Airbnb's sustainability efforts, working on greening Airbnb's operations as well as forming partnerships that foster Airbnb's sustainability goals.

Spanjian joined Airbnb in 2015 from the City of Houston Mayor's Office, where she was the chief sustainability officer for Mayor Annise Parker. During her six-year tenure, she created innovative programs and policies that have transformed and improved the quality of life in Houston.

She was responsible for the launch and/or passage of many initiatives, including: energy efficiency programs, leading the City's LED streetlight conversion program; renewable energy projects, positioning Houston as the largest municipal purchaser of renewable energy in the nation; Houston Bike Share and other bike initiatives and policies; Houston Drives Electric and anti-idling policies; waste diversion initiatives and the city e-cycling program; City Gardens and Farmers Market initiatives; Urban Grows; and Go Healthy Houston; among others.

In addition to working for Mayor Annise Parker, her career includes roles as Assistant General Manager at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, where she managed four divisions, including sustainability planning and legislative affairs; and Government Affairs Director at the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency. She has two BA degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and a master's degree from Stanford University. Spanjian and her partner, Susan Christian, have two young boys, Eli, and Ethan.

Position 16 – Dina Alsowayel



Dina is Associate Director of Women's Studies and the University of Houston. She joined the university in 1998 as a post-doctoral fellow in Religious Studies. She received her M.A. and PhD from Rice University in Political Science, her JD from University of Houston, and her B.A. from Wellesley College. Dina teaches a variety of courses in the History department, including history of the Modern Middle East, State and Society in the Middle East, Women and Islam, A History of Islam, War in the Middle East, and a History of the Palestine-Israeli Conflict. She often takes students to the Arab and Muslim world.

Position 17 – Beto Cardenas



A highly accomplished and dedicated senior legal professional with an extensive history in government and private practice, advocacy, due diligence, agreement negotiation and execution, tax policy and regulation, immigration law, governmental affairs, and client relations. A proven aptitude for cross-functional collaboration with diverse industries and leaders to effectuate change. Excels at emphasizing interpersonal communication and cultivating client and strategic relationships. A top performing and client-centric leader providing superior service to clients driving institutional success.

Beto represents businesses affected by America's immigration laws, and advises corporate and academic clientele seeking resolution on statutory and regulatory issues. He has extensive experience in drafting legislative solutions on diverse matters and, in his tax policy practice, assists clients with issues pending before governmental entities, including negotiation of tax abatements on behalf of newly constructed industrial and commercial properties, and industrial district agreements for facilities located in cities' extra-territorial jurisdictions.

During the 109th and 110th Congress, Beto served as general counsel to the senior United States Senator from Texas, the Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, advising her on judicial appointments, legal affairs, and legislative matters. Prior to joining Senator Hutchison's senior staff, Beto was employed by the Texas Tech University System as counsel to the chancellor and director of federal relations. Building a better Houston is a passion for Beto, and he dedicates a substantial portion of his time to making sure nonprofit, civic and cultural organizations, and poverty-stricken individuals have high-quality legal representation. He is a member of the board of directors of the Houston Food Bank, Texas Tech University School of Law Foundation, and the Houston Parks Board. He previously served as an appointee to the Harris County Housing Authority board of commissioners, ushering in as chairman a change in administrative leadership, implementation of accountability measures, and guided transparency with reforms in ethics, policies, and procedures.

Position 18 – Don Woo



President of Mission Construction, Don's construction experience spans over 32 years. He joined Mission Construction in 1978, near its inception and has worked his way to the position of principal-in-charge and directs the general management and operations of the firm. Don received his Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the University of Houston. He is on many boards including Associated General Contractors of America, Depelchin Children's Center, Education Foundation of Harris County, Gee Association Education Foundation, Houston Baptist University, Houston City Club, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Advance Team, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Board of Advisors, Memorial Hermann Hospital Health Ventures, Hermann Hospital System, Mental Health Association of Greater Houston, St. Christus Foundation for Healthcare, The Star of Hope, The One Hundred Club of Houston, and Theater Under the Stars.

Position 19 – Jenny Phillip



Shell

Strategy and Public Policy for Energy and Sustainability, Former Chief Strategy Officer for Greater Houston Partnership

Position 20 – Tom Bacon



Bacon is a founding principal of The Lionstone Group. With more than 21 years of experience in commercial real estate, Bacon's areas of expertise include finance, acquisition, development, and leasing. In addition to overall management of Lionstone, Bacon is responsible for all investments in Houston.

Prior to forming Lionstone, Bacon started a Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. incubated technology company in the business of developing software to be delivered in an application service provider environment for the execution of commercial real estate leasing and sales transactions. In this role Bacon worked closely with Goldman Sachs in developing and implementing strategies for securing widespread industry adoption of transaction and information delivery software to service landlords, tenants, and brokers.

The majority of Bacon's career was as Senior Vice President with the international Hines real estate firm. During his fifteen-year tenure with Hines, Bacon was involved in the acquisition, development, financing, leasing and sale of office, residential and industrial real estate representing more than \$1.5 billion in value.

Bacon established Hines' operations in Latin America in 1992. Under his leadership, Hines' Latin American operations grew to encompass a portfolio of office, residential and industrial properties valued more than \$350 million.

Bacon was also one of the architects of Hines' first Emerging Markets Fund, the \$ 410 million fund formed to manage the acquisition, development, operation and disposition of high-quality office, residential, mixed-use, and other real estate in emerging market countries. The fund has provided financing for projects in Mexico, South America, Poland, Russia, and China. A second fund, Emerging Markets Fund II, in the amount of \$436 million closed in January 1999.

A graduate of the University of Texas School of Architecture, Bacon received his MBA from Rice University.