

Policy/Executive Team



PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Jennifer Barrera took over as president and chief executive officer of the California Chamber of Commerce on October 1, 2021.

She has been part of the CalChamber team since 2010 and stepped into the top position after serving as CalChamber executive vice president, overseeing the development and implementation of policy and strategy for the organization, as well as representing the CalChamber on legal reform issues.

Barrera is well-known for her success rate with the CalChamber's annual list of job killer legislation, efforts to reform the Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) and leadership working with employers on critical issues, including most recently those arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, she advises the business compliance activities of the CalChamber on interpreting changes in employment law.

She led CalChamber advocacy on labor and employment and taxation from September 2010

through the end of 2017. As senior policy advocate in 2017, Barrera worked with the executive vice president in developing policy strategy. She was named senior vice president, policy, for 2018 and promoted to executive vice president on January 1, 2019.

From May 2003 until joining the CalChamber staff, she worked at a statewide law firm that specializes in labor/employment defense. She represented employers in both state and federal court on a variety of issues, including wage and hour disputes, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, breach of contract, and wrongful termination. She also advised both small and large businesses on compliance issues, presented seminars on various employment-related topics, and regularly authored articles in human resources publications.

Barrera earned a B.A. in English from California State University, Bakersfield, and a J.D. with high honors from California Western School of Law.



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OF STAFF FOR POLICY

Ben Golombek joined the California Chamber of Commerce on January 17, 2022 as executive vice president and chief of staff for policy.

In this role, Golombek heads the CalChamber policy staff, providing strategic oversight and management of CalChamber's legislative and regulatory priorities.

Most recently, Golombek served as the West Region vice president for public affairs for AT&T, where he managed a team of 20 to create and implement legislative campaigns and media strategies to educate and influence lawmakers, regulators and consumers for eight states, including California.

Golombek has previous experience serving

as chief of staff to three members of the California State Assembly, including the chairs of the Assembly Revenue and Taxation, and Assembly Appropriations committees.

Prior to his State Capitol experience, Golombek worked at Los Angeles City Hall, where he served as deputy city controller, communications director for a city councilmember and deputy press secretary for Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

Golombek graduated from Northwestern University, has an M.B.A. from the University of California, Davis, and completed the prestigious Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs.

Staff to: *Privacy and Cybersecurity Committee*

Agenda for California Recovery

2022 Business Issues and Legislative Guide

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SENIOR POLICY ADVOCATE

Adam Regele joined the California Chamber of Commerce in April 2018 as a policy advocate specializing in environmental policy, housing and land use, and product regulation issues. He was named a senior policy advocate in April 2021 in recognition of his efforts on behalf of members.

He came to the CalChamber policy team after practicing law at an Oakland-based law firm—Meyers, Nave, Riback, Silver & Wilson, PLC—where he advised private and public clients on complex projects involving land use and environmental laws and regulations at the local, state and federal levels. His extensive environmental and waste regulatory compliance experience includes defending in litigation matters related to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Before joining Meyers Nave, Regele handled state and federal environmental litigation and administrative proceedings as an associate at a Bay Area law firm that focused on environmental, natural resources, land use, labor and local government law.

He served as a federal judicial law clerk to the Honorable Edward J. Davila of the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California and as a legal fellow with the Oakland City Attorney’s Office prior to entering private law practice.

Regele earned a B.S. in environmental science at the University of California, Berkeley, and a J.D. from UC Hastings College of Law, where he was symposium editor and research and development editor for the *Hastings West-Northwest Journal*.

Staff to: *Food and Agriculture Committee, Environmental Policy Committee*



SENIOR POLICY ADVOCATE

Leah B. Silverthorn joined the California Chamber of Commerce in May 2018 as a policy advocate. She specializes in climate change, air quality, energy, environmental justice, marijuana/cannabis, and transportation and infrastructure issues. In April 2021, she was named a senior policy advocate in recognition of her efforts on behalf of members.

She brought to the CalChamber more than decade of legal experience in environmental, energy, and land use matters. Immediately before coming to CalChamber, she was the principal owner of Silverthorn Legal, based in Seattle, Washington. She focused on environmental litigation, contaminated property redevelopment, and environmental cost recovery and defense.

Silverthorn has represented Fortune 500 companies and property owners against claims by U.S., Washington, Oregon, and California regional environmental entities.

She also handled cases dealing with environmental recovery claims, environmental insurance, and toxic

tort laws at Wooden McLaughlin in Indianapolis, Indiana; and at Hunsucker Goodstein, with offices in California, Washington D.C., Colorado, and Seattle. Her clients at Wooden McLaughlin included large commercial and multi-family real estate developers, oil and gas companies, and insurance carriers, as well as small farms and restaurants.

Before entering private practice, Silverthorn was a staff attorney at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management Office of Legal Counsel.

She is an honors graduate of Indiana University-Bloomington, with a B.S. in public affairs and environmental management. She earned her J.D., with honors, at the Indiana University McKinney School of Law, where she was articles editor for the *Indiana International and Comparative Law Review* and a member of the Moot Court Board.

Staff to: *Environmental Policy Committee, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee*



POLICY ADVOCATE

Brenda Bass joined the California Chamber of Commerce in January 2022 as a policy advocate specializing in water supply and storage issues.

She came to the CalChamber policy team from the Sacramento office of Downey Brand, where she was a senior associate. She advised public agency and private clients on environmental review requirements, as well as applying for and complying with water quality permits.

Bass logged experience with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) litigation and groundwater quality issues for clients throughout California. She also advised clients on Clean Water Act matters, compliance with state and federal laws

governing stormwater and wastewater quality, as well as assisted agricultural enterprises with rapidly changing irrigation discharge regulations.

Before joining Downey Brand, Bass practiced at a California boutique environmental firm. She also externed for a federal bankruptcy judge in Sacramento.

Bass earned a B.A. in linguistics at the University of California, Davis, and a J.D. with distinction from the McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific, where she was primary editor of the *McGeorge Law Review*.

Staff to: *Water Resources Committee*



POLICY ADVOCATE

Ashley Hoffman joined the California Chamber of Commerce in August 2020 as a policy advocate specializing in labor and employment and workers' compensation issues.

Before joining the CalChamber policy team, she was an associate attorney in the Sacramento office of Jackson Lewis P.C., representing employers in civil litigation and administrative matters as well as advising employers on best practices, including compliance with laws such as the California Labor Code, California Wage Orders, and the Fair Employment and Housing Act.

She previously worked as a litigation associate and a summer associate at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP, Los Angeles, representing clients in a variety of matters, including employment discrimination,

consumer protection class actions, trademark disputes, immigration matters, and other issues.

She also was a law clerk at the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee in Memphis and a judicial extern for the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Pasadena.

Hoffman holds a B.A. with high honors in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and earned her J.D. from the UCLA School of Law where she was a Michael T. Masin scholar, an editor at the *UCLA Law Review*, and staff member for the *Women's Law Journal*.

Staff to: *Labor and Employment Committee, Legal Reform and Protection Committee, Workers' Compensation Committee*



POLICY ADVOCATE

Robert Moutrie joined the California Chamber of Commerce in March 2019 as a policy advocate. He leads CalChamber advocacy on occupational safety, tourism, insurance, unemployment insurance and immigration, as well as representing employer interests on education issues.

He is CalChamber's expert on the COVID-19 workplace regulation, and was closely involved in its drafting and amendments process at Cal/OSHA.

Moutrie has represented clients on matters such as consumer fraud litigation, civil rights, employment law claims, tort claims, and other business-related issues in federal and state courts.

He previously served as an associate attorney at the Oakland-based firms of Meyers, Nave, Riback,

Silver & Wilson, and at Valdez, Todd & Doyle; and as a junior associate attorney at the Law Offices of Todd Ruggiero in San Francisco. He also served as a legal intern for the San Francisco Public Defender's Office and the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office.

Moutrie earned a B.A. in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and a J.D. with honors from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. He is an instructor for the nationally ranked UC Hastings Trial Team.

Staff to: Education Committee, Workplace Safety Subcommittee, Tourism Committee, Immigration Committee



POLICY ADVOCATE

Preston R. Young joined the California Chamber of Commerce in October 2019 as a policy advocate, specializing in health care policy and taxation issues.

Young came to the CalChamber from the Sacramento law firm of Schuering Zimmerman & Doyle, LLP, where he had been a partner. He specialized in multiple aspects of health care law, medical malpractice, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), product liability, and elder abuse litigation.

He previously was an attorney with Powers &

Miller in Sacramento, specializing in insurance defense and product liability litigation. He also worked as an attorney at State Farm Insurance in San Francisco.

Young holds a B.A. in communications from Saint Mary's College of California, and earned a J.D. from Golden Gate University School of Law, where he was associate editor of the *Environmental Law Journal*.

Staff to: Health Care Policy Committee, Taxation Committee



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CORPORATE AFFAIRS

Dave Kilby, executive vice president, corporate affairs, joined the California Chamber of Commerce staff in December 1988 after more than 11 years in local chamber of commerce management.

In addition to working with CalChamber major members, he serves as CalChamber corporate secretary and coordinates Board relations. Kilby also serves as president/chief executive officer of the Western Association of Chamber Executives.

During his first 11 years at CalChamber, Kilby served as the CalChamber's lobbyist on economic development, land use and small business issues.

Over the years, he has coordinated local chamber relations, grassroots legislative action efforts, the CalChamber's weekly legislative conference call and the annual business legislative summit.

Kilby is a member of the U.S. Chamber's Committee of 100 and in 2011 the American Chamber of Commerce Executives named him to its "People Who Shape People" influential leaders list.

He has a B.A. in political science from California State University, Fresno.



EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Martin R. Wilson, executive vice president of public affairs, joined the California Chamber of Commerce in October 2011.

Wilson oversees all CalChamber public affairs and campaign activities, including the Public Affairs Council, a political advisory committee made up of the CalChamber's major members; its candidate recruitment and support program; and its political action committees: ChamberPAC, which supports pro-jobs candidates and legislators, and CalBusPAC, which qualifies, supports and/or opposes ballot initiatives.

He is the CalChamber liaison to JobsPAC, an employer-based, independent expenditure committee that supports pro-business candidates.

Wilson has more than 40 years of experience in California politics, playing leadership roles in the election and re-election of two governors, and a U.S. senator. He also has orchestrated numerous successful ballot measure and public affairs campaigns.

In addition to his campaign experience, Wilson

has served in government as a senior staff member at the local, state and federal levels.

Before joining the CalChamber, Wilson was managing partner of Wilson-Miller Communications, where he also advised Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as head of the Governor's political and initiative committee, the California Recovery Team. Before founding his own firm, Wilson was managing director for Public Strategies Inc. in Sacramento for five years and held a similar position with Burson-Marsteller for six years.

Wilson has served as senior fellow for the UCLA School of Public Affairs, board member for the California State Fair and director of the Coro Foundation, a public affairs training organization.

He graduated from San Diego State University with a B.A. in history.

Staff to: *Public Affairs Council, ChamberPAC Advisory Committee, ChamberPAC, CalBusPAC, Candidate Recruitment and Development Fund*
Also: *JobsPAC Executive Director*



VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNICATIONS

Ann Amioka has been a communications specialist at the California Chamber of Commerce since 1980. Since 1982, she has been editor of the CalChamber's legislative newsletter, *Alert*. She oversees editing and production of CalChamber communications and the corporate website.

Before joining the CalChamber staff as editor of the CalChamber's agricultural labor relations newsletter, Amioka was a reporter for a daily newspaper in Yolo County. She has a B.A. in history from Stanford University and an M.A. in history from California State University, Sacramento.



VICE PRESIDENT, MEDIA RELATIONS AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Denise Davis is the chief liaison with the news media for the California Chamber of Commerce. As vice president for media relations and external affairs, she oversees communications strategy and outreach, and manages the CalChamber's involvement in select issue advocacy and ballot measure campaigns.

Before joining the CalChamber, Davis was a senior-level communications consultant working on a number of high-profile campaigns, legal matters and policy issues. She was Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's chief deputy communications director and has 14 years of experience serving three

California attorneys general as a spokesperson and victim advocate. She also directed media relations for a national, nonprofit legal foundation.

Over the course of her career, Davis has worked closely with statewide officeholders, Cabinet members, major corporations and a variety of trade associations. As such, Davis has developed expertise in the areas of environmental law, land use regulation, water law, resource management, criminal justice issues, correctional law, consumer law, health care and labor relations.

Davis graduated from the University of California, Davis, receiving a B.A. in communications.



VICE PRESIDENT, CORPORATE RELATIONS

Drew Savage was named vice president of corporate relations at the beginning of 2001. The position is dedicated to enhancing the CalChamber's profile with major corporations.

Savage came to CalChamber in 1990 as a membership specialist following three years in a similar position at the Illinois Chamber. He was named manager of the

CalChamber's membership sales team in October 1994. After taking on additional responsibilities for working with the state's growth industries and developing relationships with larger companies, Savage was promoted to vice president of membership in late 1999.

He holds a B.A. in political science from the University of Illinois at Chicago.



VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Susanne Thorsen Stirling has headed CalChamber international activities for more than four decades.

She is an appointee of the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to the National Export Council, and serves on the U.S. Chamber of Commerce International Policy Committee, the California International Relations Foundation, and the Chile-California Council.

In previous years, Stirling was an appointee of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. to the California International Trade and Investment Advisory Council, and served on the Board of Directors of the International Diplomacy Council, the World Affairs Council of Northern California (Sacramento), and the Danish-American Chamber of Commerce.

The CalChamber is a past recipient of the U.S. Presidential Award for Export Service, and received the Presidential Citation from the government of the Republic of Korea. In November 2019, Stirling

was presented with the "Outstanding Woman of the Year in International Trade" award by the Women in International Trade, Los Angeles (WIT-LA).

In March 2021, Senator Bill Dodd named Stirling "Woman of the Year" for Sacramento County, praising her as having been an ambassador for international trade for many years.

Before joining the CalChamber, Stirling held positions in public affairs and public relations for Burmeister & Wain A/S, an international shipbuilding company based in Copenhagen.

Stirling, originally from Denmark, studied at the University of Copenhagen and holds a B.A. in international relations from the University of the Pacific, where she served as a member of the Board of Regents for nine years. She earned an M.A. from the School of International Relations at the University of Southern California.

Staff to: Council for International Trade

California Foundation for Commerce and Education



PRESIDENT

Loren Kaye was appointed president of the California Foundation for Commerce and Education in January 2006.

The Foundation is affiliated with the California Chamber of Commerce and serves as a “think tank” for the California business community. The Foundation is dedicated to preserving and strengthening the California business climate and private enterprise through accurate, impartial and objective research and analysis of public policy issues of interest to the California business and public policy communities.

Kaye has devoted his career to developing, analyzing and implementing public policy issues in California, with a special emphasis on improving the state’s business and economic climate.

Kaye also was a gubernatorial appointee to the state’s Little Hoover Commission, charged with evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of state agencies and programs. He served in senior policy positions for Governors Pete Wilson and George Deukmejian, including Cabinet Secretary to the Governor and Undersecretary of the California Trade and Commerce Agency.

Kaye also has represented numerous private sector interests, managing issues that affect specific business sectors to promote an improved business climate or to resist further regulation or costs on business.

Kaye is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego, with a degree in political science.

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