



# ABOUT THE ATTENDEES



## Michelle Vopni | Ernst & Young | Dallas Office Managing Partner

As the Office Managing Partner, Michelle is responsible for leading day-to-day practice operations in one of the firm's largest markets, as well as working to provide a positive work environment for the office's more than 3,000 employees. Michelle also serves as the "face and voice" of EY in the Dallas community. She is the firm's spokesperson on a variety of topics with local professional organizations and at numerous community events that support the firm's commitment to education and mentoring.

Michelle has been an EY partner for 17 years and has 30 years of experience serving large public and private clients in the retail, consumer product and industrial product industries. Michelle's experience includes activities related to public offerings, SEC reporting, and mergers and acquisitions with significant technical experience with inventory valuation, revenue recognition, lease accounting and restructuring charges.

Michelle is the 2021 Board Chair for the Dallas Regional Chamber. She also serves on the board of directors for United Way of Metropolitan Dallas, American Heart Association and the Dallas Catholic Foundation.

Michelle earned a BBA degree from the University of Texas at Austin. She is a Certified Public Accountant.



## Bob Pragada | Jacobs | President & Chief Officer

Bob Pragada is a global business executive with 30 years' experience in engineering, consulting, technical services, and construction. He has a successful track record of transforming global, diverse businesses to create shareholder value. He is considered a subject matter expert on organizational leadership, lean project delivery, and M&A, and he has deep global experience from his career living and working in Europe, Middle East, Asia and the Americas.

Currently, Bob is the President and Chief Operating Officer of Jacobs Engineering Group, a Fortune 500 professional and technical solutions company listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: J). In his role, Bob has executive oversight of all global operations consisting of both the Critical Mission Solutions (CMS) and People & Places Solutions (P&PS) lines of business. With approximately \$14 billion in revenue and 55,000 employees across five continents, Jacobs is one of the world's largest and most diverse providers of technical, scientific, professional and project delivery solutions. Bob is a member of Jacobs' executive leadership team and interacts regularly with its Board of Directors. He was recently named the Washington Exec Public Company Chief Operating Officer of the Year for 2021.

Bob's tenure at Jacobs has been defined by his efforts leading the enterprise-wide transformation, which directly led to material improvement in the company's profitability and market leadership. He led the successful acquisition of CH2M, a \$5 billion diversified technical services leader in the infrastructure, water, environmental and nuclear space. This transaction, which closed at the end of 2017, was one of the largest of its kind in the engineering and construction sector. Immediately following the close of the acquisition, Bob led the company's geographical expansion, innovation in project delivery, and smart solutions including the company's recent partnerships with large-scale private sector clients, sovereign nations, and local governments to build technically complex facilities and greenfield smart cities. In late 2020, Bob was instrumental in leading Jacobs' acquisition of a majority stake in PA Consulting, a multibillion dollar world-leading digital consulting firm based in the UK, and he now serves as an executive leader and Board Member for that organization.

Previously, Bob served as President, CEO, and Board Member of The Brock Group, a privately held industrial services company in the oil and gas, manufacturing, and general industrial markets. At Brock, he worked to improve execution platforms, overall customer experience and increase professional opportunities for the company's 17,000 employees. During his tenure, The Brock Group was named one of Engineering News Record's (ENR) five top specialty contractors, placed second in ENR's top 20 firms in industrial services, and earned numerous honors for excellence in safety.

Prior to joining The Brock Group, Bob spent over eight years at Jacobs where he built his reputation for servicing process and industrial market customers at the highest level. He previously served as Group Vice President responsible for a \$1 billion, 3,000 employee global business providing engineering, construction, fabrication and technical services to the industrial and manufacturing sectors. Prior to joining Jacobs in 2006, he was the Chief Operating Officer at Kinetics. In six years guiding Kinetics' global business, his international expertise helped the global contracting firm grow to more than 2,000 employees around the world with annual revenues of \$700 million.

In complement with his executive role at Jacobs, Bob serves as a Director on the Boards of Eaton (NYSE:ETN – a \$17.9 billion dollar power management company), HydroChemPSC (a billion dollar Littlejohn Capital owned company), Riggs Distler (a \$500 million dollar Oaktree Capital owned company), the U.S. India Business Council, and the Board of Trustees of the Dallas Mavericks Foundation. He has also served on the Executive Council of the Dallas Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors since July 2018 and is the 2022 Chair Select, and as co-chair of the Diversity in Leadership Sub-Council of the DRC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council since July 2020.

Bob's leadership approach was honed during his nine years of service as a U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps and Seabees Officer, during which time he provided base construction and maintenance services at the White House, Camp David, Naval facilities (internationally and in the U.S.), along with global contingency operations. Serving in multiple operations and project management positions, he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. From his naval service, Bob brings a strong commitment to philanthropy and improving lives. He is a supporter of Youth Services and sits on the Board of Directors of the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation. He is an active member of the U.S.N.A. and Stanford Alumni associations and a contributor to local and national charities, including serving at-risk youth in Philadelphia and Dallas.

Bob holds a B.S. in Systems Engineering with distinction from the United States Naval Academy, M.S. in Engineering and Management from Stanford University, and attended the Executive Leadership Program at the University of Michigan. While at the Naval Academy, he was a collegiate rugby player on the Navy's nationally ranked team and went on to play on the All-Navy and All-Combined Services teams after graduation.

He currently resides in Dallas, Texas with his wife, Jessica and his two sons, Bobby (Stanford University Graduate) and Cahlin (Rice University Graduate). He enjoys cinema, running and all forms of competitive sports.



Dale Petroskey | Dallas Regional Chamber | President & CEO

Dale A. Petroskey assumed the position of President and CEO of the Dallas Regional Chamber (DRC) on April 1, 2014. He works with the Board, staff, and more than 600 member companies to increase economic prosperity and enhance the quality of life for all throughout the region. The DRC focuses on economic development initiatives, improving education at all levels, and setting public policy direction designed to maintain a pro-business, pro-growth climate in North Texas.

Mr. Petroskey brings to the Chamber a strong background in public policy, strategic communications, and non-profit management, having held leadership positions in all three sectors – public, private, and non-profit – for more than 35 years.

After graduating from Michigan State University, he worked 18 years in Washington, D.C., where he served as Chief of Staff to Congressman Bill Goodling (PA), Assistant White House Press Secretary to President Ronald Reagan, and Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of Transportation under then-Secretary Elizabeth Dole.

At The White House, Mr. Petroskey served as a spokesman for President Reagan and led the staff responsible for the preparation of every official White House document released to the media. In addition, he traveled extensively and accompanied the President to his historic first meetings with Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 1985, and in Reykjavik, Iceland, in October 1986. He also accompanied the President and Mrs. Reagan to Camp David on 10 different weekends.

From 1988-1999, Mr. Petroskey served as a senior executive at the National Geographic Society, the world's largest educational membership organization. He was named the first-ever Vice President of Public Affairs in 1988 and was promoted to Senior Vice President of Mission Programs in 1996. In that role, he was the senior executive responsible for the committee that funded scientific research and exploration projects for well-known scientists and explorers such as Jane Goodall, Bob Ballard, and Sylvia Earle. He also oversaw a 50-state geography education program, which still includes the National Geography Bee, which was hosted for years by Alex Trebek, as well as exhibits, the public lectures program, and fundraising.

From 1999-2008, Mr. Petroskey was President of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, New York, where he was the primary link to all living Hall of Famers and their families and led the day-to-day operations of one of the nation's best-known and most respected museums – a premier symbol of American achievement. While there, he was instrumental in launching the museum's first-ever national traveling exhibition, Baseball As America, which was seen by more than 2 million visitors in 15 respected museums throughout the U.S., including the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science in Fair Park. The first induction ceremony Mr. Petroskey oversaw in 1999 welcomed George Brett, Nolan Ryan, Robin Yount, and Orlando Cepeda to the Hall of Fame in front of a crowd of 50,000 – the largest to that point. That number was eclipsed in 2007, the final induction of Mr. Petroskey's tenure, when Cal Ripken, Jr. and Tony Gwynn drew more than 75,000. Membership grew from 4,000 to 32,000 during his tenure, and he also helped create the Hall of Fame's Development Office, which now provides an important source of revenue.

One of his greatest sources of satisfaction and pride was working closely with the Board to initiate and implement a one-time-only, five-year study and process for considering and electing Negro League players, managers, and executives. That process resulted in the election of 17 Negro Leaguers in 2006, nearly doubling the number in the Hall of Fame.

Mr. Petroskey is a member of numerous Boards, including The Alfalfa Club of Washington, D.C., SMU's Lyle School of Engineering, Dallas Medical Resources, Educate Dallas, Clayton Kershaw's Challenge, the Dallas Mavericks Advisory Council, and the Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation.

Mr. Petroskey and his wife, Ann, both graduates of Michigan State University, have been married since 1978. They have three married children: Kathleen, an SMU graduate living and working in Dallas; Frank, a Tufts University graduate living and working in London; and Claire, a College of Charleston graduate living and working in Charleston, SC.



Angela Farley | Dallas Regional Chamber | CFO & COO

Angela Farley is the Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer for the Dallas Regional Chamber, one of the largest and most established business membership organizations in the nation, representing more than 1,100 companies and more than 500,000 employees.

Ms. Farley leads the financial and operational efforts across the DRC's strategic pillars of economic development, talent attraction, education and workforce, as well as the pro-growth public policy agenda that supports these areas.

Before being named as CFO and COO in January 2018, for five years Ms. Farley was the DRC's Senior Vice President of Education and Workforce, where she led the DRC's efforts to grow and develop the region's existing talent and workforce. In this role, she was responsible for connecting business members with education programs, legislative efforts, and partnerships to support regional educational improvements and workforce readiness from Pre-K through Higher Education.



Before joining the DRC in 2012, Ms. Farley was the CFO of Command and Control Environments in Grapevine, Texas. Earlier in her career, she worked as a Certified Management Accountant and consulted for several national firms, including Haynes and Boone LLP, serving clients in highly regulated industries with a specialty focus on government contracts and accounting investigations.

Ms. Farley was chosen by Governor Abbott in 2018 to represent the state of Texas at The White House Summit on State-Federal STEM Education, led by The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. She also serves on a number of boards and councils, including as Governor Abbott's appointee to the Pathways to Technology Advisory Council, the Dallas County Workforce Board, The EducateDallas PAC Board, the Texas Student Success Council, the Junior League of Dallas' Advisory Board, and the Board of Directors for the American Chamber of Commerce of Executives (ACCE). She is also a member of the Executive Women's Roundtable.

Ms. Farley and her husband, Travis, live in Dallas and have two grown children.



Jonathan Neerman | Jackson Walker | Partner

Jonathan Neerman is a highly skilled trial attorney with experience in all phases of litigation, not only at the trial and appellate levels in federal and state courts, but also in various alternative dispute resolution forums. His experience working with clients from the earliest stages of their disputes allows him to bring a uniquely broad-based perspective to the matters he handles.

Jonathan's practice includes all aspects of commercial litigation, arbitration, complex business litigation, real estate litigation, securities litigation, and regulatory enforcement, primarily involving financial institutions. He has represented clients in industries ranging from banking and financial services to real estate and media.

Jonathan has handled high-stakes disputes under the ERISA statute. He represents the employer/sponsors of retirement plans, as well as product and service providers to such plans, when the plans' fiduciaries are alleged to have caused the plans to pay excessive fees, select poor-quality investments, or engage in "prohibited transactions."

Jonathan has particular experience representing broker-dealers, investment advisors, and clearing firms in state court, federal court, and arbitrations on a nationwide basis. He has also counseled clients involved in federal and state securities investigations and litigation, including those related to the Securities and Exchange Commission and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority. He also has led intense and efficient domestic investigations for companies, broker-dealers, and investment advisors.

Jonathan also regularly counsels individuals and businesses on government relations matters at the local, state, and federal levels. Previously, he served as the Chairman of the Dallas County Republican Party, where he counseled candidates and officeholders regarding compliance with state and federal campaign finance laws. Jonathan also has an active pro bono practice, primarily working with families returning from China to complete their international adoptions. Since 2006, he has helped more than 200 families throughout Texas complete their journey to adopt.



Scott Orr | Fidelity Investments | Vice President of Southern Regional Public Affairs

Scott is Vice President of Government Relations and Head of Southern Regional Public Affairs for Fidelity Investments, serving in government relations for almost 10 years. He is responsible for all governmental relationships at the local, state and federal levels for Fidelity regions west of New York/New Jersey, working closely with Fidelity's Washington-based team. He also oversees Fidelity's civic and community relations efforts, including volunteerism for its 7,500 Texas-based employees and working with its strategic nonprofit partners and other philanthropic efforts. He speaks frequently to client groups and financial professionals regarding the regulatory and political climate in Washington and its implications for investors.

In Scott's original career with Fidelity Investments, he worked for 12 years as portfolio manager and money market group leader in the fixed income department of Fidelity Management & Research, managing over \$11 billion in mutual funds. He currently is Public Policy Chair for the Dallas Regional Chamber and a board member of more than a dozen national and regional civic, trade and nonprofit organizations. Between his time at Fidelity as portfolio manager and his current role, Scott spent a decade serving as the CEO of two nonprofit organizations and seven years as an elected public school board trustee. Scott is a Chartered Financial Analyst and earned a BBA degree in accounting from Abilene Christian University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.



Jeff Jeter | The University of Texas at Arlington | Vice President of Government Affairs

Jeff Jeter is the Vice President for Governmental Relations at the University of Texas at Arlington. In this role, Mr. Jeter serves as the primary liaison between the UT Arlington Leadership, students, faculty and staff with the Texas Legislature on the wide range of budget and policy issues and concerns that affect higher education in Texas generally and the many different UT Arlington constituencies. He also represents the University in its interactions with all areas of Federal and Texas policy, executive branch offices, agencies, chambers of commerce, and all levels of elected officials. Mr. Jeter advises the President of the University on strategic initiatives and communications to advance the University's mission.

Mr. Jeter began his career in state government working in the Texas House of Representatives as the Assistant Sergeant at Arms in the Texas House of Representatives under Speaker Tom Craddick and Speaker James E. (Pete) Laney from 1996-2005. In 2005, He moved to the Senate and joined Senator Chris Harris's office as Chief of Staff. In his 7 years with Senator Harris, Jeter also served as his Legislative Director, Campaign Director and primary fundraiser.

Mr. Jeter is originally from Houston where he attended K-12 and graduated from The Kinkaid School. He holds a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin. He has a wonderful daughter(12) who attends Kealing Middle school in Austin, Texas.



Lori McMahon | Toyota Motor North America | Director of Government Affairs

Lori McMahon serves as a director of government affairs for Toyota Motor North America managing activities from the company's North American headquarters in Plano, Texas. In this role, Lori is responsible for working with local, state and federal officials on diverse business and technology related issues. Prior to taking on this new role, she spent nearly 20 years in federal related service, most recently as chief of staff to U.S. Congressman Sam Johnson.

Throughout her career Lori has worked in both the legislative and executive branch, including as a political appointee in the Bush Administration at the U.S. Department of Transportation as the White House liaison and deputy chief of staff. In this role she served as a senior advisor in the day-to-day management of the \$61 billion agency under the leadership of Secretary Norman Y. Mineta. She also served as the vice president of communications and industry relations at the American International Automobile Dealers Association. In these senior management roles, she was responsible for operations, communications and organizational development.

Lori is active in her North Texas Community serving on numerous boards. She is currently serving on the executive committee of the Texas Association of Manufacturers and the North Texas Commission. Other board service includes the Texas Lyceum and the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas, along with active engagement with the Dallas Regional Chamber as a former board member.



Matt Garcia | Dallas Regional Chamber | Senior Vice President, Public Policy

Matt Garcia currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Public Policy for the Dallas Regional Chamber, one of the largest and most established business organizations in the state of Texas. Mr. Garcia leads the policy efforts for business priorities through issue advocacy, member education, and collaboration with our regional partners.

Mr. Garcia's career also includes service as Chief of Staff for Texas to U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions (TX- 32); Managing Advisor of Government Affairs for Sunwest Communications; Director of External Affairs for Leon Capital Group as well as various senior financial roles for two publicly traded companies.

Mr. Garcia is a graduate of Leadership Dallas and a member of numerous Boards, including the North Texas Commission, the Chairman's Task Force for the State Fair of Texas, the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas, Texas Exes Dallas Chapter, and Brother Bill's Helping Hand.

Mr. Garcia received his degree from the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin. He and his wife, Jennifer, live in Dallas with their two children.



Steve Montgomery | MontgomeryGR | President

Steve Montgomery brings 30 + years of public and private sector experience in the areas of public affairs, governmental relations, business development, organizational leadership, and strategic communications.

He applies his skills to help guide local companies through the challenging waters of governmental contracting and shaping public policy to achieve success and growth. Steve thrives on engagement in the local business, community, and government conversation and enjoys connecting people across a spectrum of disciplines to ensure the sum is always greater than the parts.

Steve received his BA in Government from the University of Texas at Austin and his MBA from the University of Texas at Arlington. He and his wife Rebecca live in Fort Worth.



Tom Stallings | Mosaic Strategies | Founder - Strategy

Tom is the firm strategist, providing a mix of anticipatory vision, acute political sense and pragmatic implementation for all Mosaic Strategy Partners clients.

Tom has spent his career in politics. The former Chief of Staff for Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, the chief elected officer of Tarrant County, Tom also served as Chief of Staff in the United States House of Representatives and Senior Policy Advisor on the issues of energy, environment, technology, telecommunications, trade and transportation in the United States Senate.

Before spending more than a decade of service in Washington D.C., Tom was a small business owner—founding, managing and operating successful startup companies in Texas.

Tom earned a bachelor's degree and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) both from Texas Christian University. In 2018, Tom was named one of the "400 People Who Run Fort Worth," by Fort Worth Magazine. Tom lives in Fort Worth with his wife Amanda and their three daughters.





Kristian Havard Scales | DFW International Airport | Department Head, Government Affairs

Kristian leads the Government Affairs department for DFW International Airport. She comes from Sabre where she led the global Corporate Social Responsibility efforts for the leading technology provider to the global travel and tourism industry. She brings her background in public affairs management, social innovation strategy and policy creation to the aviation industry.

She has a strong background in strategic public and governmental affairs management with an emphasis on legislative relations, political consulting and coalition building. Her work has included representation and management of legislative, regulatory and administrative issues affecting clients in the public safety, economic development, hospitality, arts, infrastructure and aviation industries.



Rachel McCormick | Canada | Consul General of Canada in Dallas

Rachel McCormick is currently the Consul General of Canada to the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

She was head of the Energy and Environment Section at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC from 2014 to 2019.

She joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 2004. In Ottawa she worked in divisions responsible for sustainable development, energy, climate change and circumpolar affairs. She represented the Government of Canada in a range of international forums, including the Arctic Council, the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation and the United Nations.

Previously, she held positions within the Canadian energy sector and at the World Trade Organization in Geneva. She has a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Economics for Land Use and Environmental Studies from the University of Saskatchewan and a Ph.D. in Environmental Science from the University of Calgary.



Becky Redman | Lockheed Martin | Senior Manager - Government Relations

Becky Redman has extensive experience in managing and analyzing issues that impact Lockheed Martin Aeronautics operations on federal, state, and local levels. In addition to government relations, Becky supports a grass roots advocacy team working in forty-four states on important Aeronautic programs. She also serves as the project lead on key congressional member and committee visits to the Aeronautics facilities as well as working on state and federal legislative issues for LM Aero. Prior to joining Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, she served as District Director for State Senator Kim Brimer, District 10 – Fort Worth, Texas. Redman was responsible for the management and office administration of Senator Brimer's district office and directed state policies and legislation. Before joining Senator Brimer's team, Redman was District Manager for State Senator Mike Moncrief, District 12 - Fort Worth. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville.

Becky is a Board member for the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association (TTARA) and serves as Board Secretary for the Texas Association of Manufacturers (TAM) and a member of the Texas Defense, Aerospace and Aviation Alliance (TDAAA). In addition, Becky is immediate Past Chair for the Texas Association of Business (TAB) where she also serves on the TXBIZ Votes Board of Directors. Becky is a Board Member for the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce where she serves as Co-Chair of the Government Relations Committee.

Lockheed Martin is a global security and aerospace company. Lockheed Martin researches, designs, develops, manufactures, integrates, and sustains advanced technology systems, products, and services, and provides management, engineering, technical, scientific, logistics and information services.



Joe Oyler | Dallas Regional Chamber | Managing Director, Public Policy

Joe Oyler currently serves as the Managing Director of Public Policy for the Dallas Regional Chamber, one of the largest and most established business organizations in the state of Texas. In collaboration with our members, Mr. Oyler leads the DRC's transportation, infrastructure, and energy policy efforts and advances the DRC's policy priorities at the Federal level.

Mr. Oyler previously served as the Managing Director of Leadership Programs for the DRC, where he managed Leadership Dallas and oversaw the Executive Women's Roundtable, Welcoming New Executives, Leadership Dallas Alumni, and Young

Professionals programs.

Prior to joining the DRC, Mr. Oyler served as a Communications and Legislative Affairs Consultant within the Department of Justice; Military Program Management Consultant within the Department of Defense; Policy Intern to U.S. Congressman Rob Wittman (VA-1); and Legislative Researcher at The Franklin Partnership, a government relations firm that represented the City of Fort Worth.

Mr. Oyler served 6 years in the United States military as a commissioned officer in the Marine Corps Reserve.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Virginia Wesleyan College.



Morgan Christian | Dallas Regional Chamber | Manager, Public Policy

Morgan Christian currently serves as Public Policy Manager for the Dallas Regional Chamber. She supports the DRC's efforts at the local, state, and federal levels to advance pro-business, pro-growth policies that ensure the region's continued prosperity while maintaining a high quality of life for all its residents. Morgan also works closely with the DRC's Communications and Marketing teams to share the story of the DRC's advocacy initiatives and how they relate to the growth of the Dallas Region to elevate the DRC's brand within the DFW community.

Prior to joining the DRC, Morgan worked for the Communities Foundation of Texas and for Dallas College. As a member of CFT's 2019 North Texas Giving Day Team, she provided support to nonprofits for the largest community-wide giving event in the U.S., helping drive awareness and engagement that led to a record \$50 million in donations. At Dallas College she supported efforts to inform the public about the community college district's proposed (and passed) \$1.1 billion bond program, and she also assisted with the rebranding and unified accreditation process that followed.

As a political science student at the University of North Texas, Morgan served as a legislative intern for Congresswoman Kay Granger (TX-12) through the N.T.D.C. program. Her writing for the Loyola Phoenix, Loyola University Chicago's student newspaper, was recognized by the Illinois College Press Association and the Society of Professional Journalists' Region 5 Chapter.

Morgan is a member of the Resource Center's Young Professionals Advisory Council in Dallas. She is a graduate of the International Baccalaureate program at the Bavarian International School in Haimhausen, Germany.





Nicole Fain | Dallas Regional Chamber | Vice President, Events  
Nicole Fain oversees more than 200 yearly events at the DRC.

Prior to joining the DRC, she worked at Crowdfunder, the events division of The Dallas Morning News, on community-facing events such as The Dallas Festival of Ideas, Actions Speak Louder forums, Aurora, EarthDay Texas, editorial initiative The Pulitzer Prize Centennial Celebration, and One Day University.

She previously worked as a tour manager across North America for William Morris Endeavor and Harpo Productions on Oprah Winfrey's The Life You Want Weekend, and the largest women's event in the world, Women of Faith.

Fain holds a Master of Divinity from Golden Gate Seminary and bachelor's degree from Baylor University. She volunteers in Dallas with YoungLife Capernaum and is active at Shoreline Church.



John Gonzales | U.S. Chamber of Commerce | Executive Director, Government Affairs, Southwest/South Central Region

John M. Gonzales is director of the Southwest-South Central Regional office, which represents eight states. He helps lead the regional offices' efforts to build and maintain relationships in the area. He also works with a variety of members and elected officials on pivotal issues, programs, and services to maintain legislative, political, and grassroots resources that are key to achieving the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's public policy goals.

Gonzales brings more than 25 years of experience in the federal government and politics to his role in the U.S. Chamber's Dallas regional office. He has been a member of the regional team since 2005.

Before joining the Chamber, Gonzales was district director for Rep. Michael Burgess, M.D. (R-TX), where he managed the daily operations of the office. Gonzales served on Sen. Phil Gramm's (R-TX) reelection campaign in 1989. In 1991, he joined the Bush-Quayle 1992 reelection campaign in Washington, D.C., working in the Treasury and Finance Division.

In 1993, he joined Kay Bailey Hutchison's (R-TX) campaign for the U.S. Senate. After a landslide victory, Gonzales moved back to Dallas to join her district office.

During his five-year tenure, he served in a number of roles. After a short stint in the private sector with a telecommunications company, he rejoined Sen. Gramm's office as deputy state director of constituent services until 2002.

Gonzales serves on the board of directors of the North Texas Commission, the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce Executives, and the North Texas District Export Council. He also serves on the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition as a Texas advisory board member.

A native of Dallas, Gonzales graduated from the University of Texas at Dallas and the U.S. Chamber Institute for Organization Management. He resides in Dallas with his family.