Brian A. Benjamin is the New York State Senator for District 30, which encompasses Harlem, East Harlem, and the Upper West Side. He was born in Harlem to Caribbean immigrants who came to this country seeking new opportunities. His parent’s union jobs allowed them to send Brian to earn his undergraduate degree in Public Policy from Brown University and his MBA from Harvard Business School.

Brian returned to Harlem to build affordable housing, creating over a thousand units of environmentally sustainable, affordable housing while helping young people develop work skills and secure construction jobs.

In 2012 Brian was a delegate for President Barack Obama and a member of President Obama’s National Finance Committee, and later served as the Richmond Field Director in Terry McAuliffe’s gubernatorial campaign. Brian has also been heavily involved in the community, serving as the Chair of Community Board 10 up until his election.

In the New York State Senate, Brian has distinguished himself as a leader in criminal justice reform and affordable housing, sponsoring bills to close Rikers Island, to divest the New York State Public Pension Common Fund from private prisons, and keep rent controlled apartments affordable. He serves as the chair of the Budget and Revenue committee, and as Senior Assistant Majority Leader.
Gerald Cardinale

Gerry Cardinale is the Founder and Managing Partner of RedBird Capital Partners, an investment firm focused on building high growth companies with flexible, long-term capital in partnership with entrepreneurs and family offices.

Since its launch in 2014, RedBird has led over $4 billion in equity and co-investments across 26 portfolio companies in its key industry verticals of Sports, TMT and Financial Services. The firm’s investment mandate is predicated on a highly entrepreneurial, company-building mentality, with an emphasis on long-term capital appreciation and compounding equity returns over longer holding periods to maximize superior risk-adjusted returns. Prior to founding RedBird, Gerry spent 20 years at Goldman Sachs where he was a Partner of the firm and a senior leader of the Merchant Bank’s private equity investing business.

Gerry is a Trustee of Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City and leads one of the multi-state selection committees that awards Rhodes Scholarships each year. Gerry received an Honors B.A. from Harvard University and an M.Phil in Politics and Political Theory from Oxford University where he was a Rhodes Scholar.
Dr. Martin Chavez

R. Martin Chávez is a computer scientist, entrepreneur, investor, and risk manager. Over his 19 years at Goldman Sachs, he held multiple senior roles as a partner, Management Committee member, Chief Information Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and global co-head of the Securities Division. Since his retirement in 2019, he continues to serve as a Goldman Senior Director. Prior to joining Goldman Sachs, Marty was the CEO and co-founder of Kiodex, acquired by Sungard in 2004, and Chief Technology Officer and co-founder of Quorum Software Systems.

He serves as President of the Board of Overseers of Harvard University for the 2020-21 academic year, as well as on the boards of Grupo Santander, Paige, Recursion Pharma, and Sema4; the Stanford Medicine Board of Fellows; the Advisory Council of the Stanford Center on Longevity; and others.
Edith Cooper

Edith has built her career on creating environments where people can perform to their potential, and she founded Medley to bring this expertise to a broader audience. Her special ability to help people see a greater version of themselves is reflected in the Medley experience; Medley is a company that harnesses the power of small groups to help people grow.

Prior to Medley, Edith spent over thirty years on Wall Street building various franchises. She is a former Partner of Goldman Sachs where she most recently led its Global Human Capital Management division, was on the Management Committee, and was one of ten Executive Vice-Presidents. Edith is a regular commentator on topics including leadership, culture, and talent. She has been the subject of several profiles, including by CNN's Leading Women Series, Crain's Most Powerful Women, American Banker's Most Powerful Women and Black Enterprise Magazine.

In addition to her role as Co-Founder of Medley, she serves on several public company boards, including Slack, Etsy, and EQT Partners, and nonprofit boards, including the Museum of Modern Art, the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and Mount Sinai Hospital. Edith earned an MM from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and an AB from Harvard College. She is a determined athlete, mother of three adult children, and resides in Connecticut with her husband.
Margaret M. Crotty is the CEO of Partnership with Children, a major provider of behavioral health services and community school management through a broad range of federal, state and city contracts. Under her leadership, PWC has grown organically and through acquisition to provide a wide portfolio of social-emotional learning, community health, anti-racism initiatives, and trauma-informed counseling programs, and has become one of New York City's largest providers of school-based mental health services. Previously, Ms. Crotty launched and led Save the Children’s flagship $2 billion initiative to reduce global child and maternal mortality, supporting Millennium Development Goals #4 and #5. She was also President and CEO of AFS-USA Intercultural Programs, formerly the American Field Service, which has provided intercultural exchanges for over 300,000 students since 1947. In the for-profit sector, Margaret held several executive positions at EF Education, the world’s largest privately-held education company, in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Paris. She was a founding executive of EF’s online language education business and president of EF’s higher education business. She has lived in Indonesia twice, working for McKinsey & Co. and Save the Children.

She graduated from Princeton University with honors in African-American Studies, received an MBA from Harvard Business School, and completed her Masters in Public Health at Columbia University. She serves on the Boards of Northwell Health, ACCESSHealth, the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health Foundation, the Human Services Council, The Open Medical Institute, and the United Hospital Fund. She is a member of the Young Presidents Organization (YPO), and the Council on Foreign Relations. She also chairs the Emerging Leaders Program for nonprofit managers. She lives in New York City with her husband and son.
Rich Friedman

Rich is chairman of the Merchant Banking Division (MBD), helping to lead the development of Goldman Sachs' broader alternatives business. He is a member of the Management Committee, chair of the MBD Corporate and Infrastructure Investment Committees, and co-chair of the MBD Real Estate Investment and Firmwide Investment Policy Committees. Previously, he was global head of MBD for 21 years, until 2019. Rich joined Goldman Sachs in 1981 and was named partner in 1990. Rich is a fellow and the secretary of the Corporation of Brown University and is cochairman of the Board of Trustees of the Mount Sinai Health System. He is also founder of the Friedman Brain Institute at the Mount Sinai Health System. Rich earned an AB from Brown University in 1979 and an MBA from The University of Chicago in 1981.
Kimberley D. Harris is Executive Vice President of Comcast Corporation and General Counsel of NBCUniversal.

In this role, Harris oversees all international government and regulatory affairs for Comcast, supporting the company’s businesses worldwide. Additionally, as General Counsel of NBCUniversal, Harris provides legal advice to senior management team and oversees the legal function across all NBCUniversal divisions. Harris joined NBCUniversal in 2013 from Davis Polk & Wardwell, where she was a partner in the litigation department.

From 2010 to 2012, Harris served in the White House Counsel's Office, and became the principal Deputy Counsel and Deputy Assistant to the President in 2011. At the White House, she advised senior Executive Branch officials on congressional investigations and executive privilege issues. In addition, Harris developed and implemented the White House response to congressional investigations, and managed litigation matters relating to the President.

She serves on the boards of directors for the Advocates for Children of New York, an organization that provides legal and advocacy services to at-risk students in the New York City school system, and the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. Harris is also a member of the Advisory Board for the Yale Law School Center for the Study of Corporate Law, and the Board of Mount Sinai Health System.

Harris graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University, and holds a law degree from Yale Law School. She lives in Westchester County, New York with her husband and three sons.
Mellody Hobson

As Co-CEO, Mellody is responsible for management, strategic planning and growth for all areas of Ariel Investments outside of research and portfolio management. Additionally, she serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ariel Investment Trust—the company’s publicly traded mutual funds. Prior to being named Co-CEO, Mellody spent nearly two decades as the firm’s President.

Outside of Ariel, Mellody is a nationally recognized voice on financial literacy. She has conducted extensive research on minority investing patterns and pens a column for Black Enterprise Magazine. Her leadership has also been invaluable to corporate boardrooms across the nation. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Starbucks Corporation; a director of JPMorgan Chase; and a director of Quibi, a short-form video content company. She previously served as Chairman of the Board of DreamWorks Animation until the company’s sale and was also a long-standing board member of the Estée Lauder Companies.

Mellody’s community outreach includes her role as Chairman of After School Matters, a Chicago non-profit that provides area teens with high-quality after school and summer programs. Additionally, she is vice chair of World Business Chicago; co-chair of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art; and a board member of the George Lucas Education Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies. She also serves on the board at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA). Mellody is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, The Rockefeller Foundation Board of Trustees, and serves on the executive committee of the Investment Company Institute.

Mellody earned her AB from Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of International Relations and Public Policy. In 2019, she was awarded the University’s highest honor, the Woodrow Wilson Award, presented annually to a Princeton graduate whose career embodies a commitment to national service. She has also received honorary doctorate degrees from Howard University, Johns Hopkins University, St. Mary’s College, and the University of Southern California. In 2015, Time Magazine named her one of the “100 Most Influential People” in the world.
Earvin "Magic" Johnson

Earvin "Magic" Johnson is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Magic Johnson Enterprises, an investment conglomerate that provides high-quality products and services that focus primarily on ethnically diverse and underserved urban communities. Having left the basketball court for the boardroom, Mr. Johnson parlayed the skills and tenacity he acquired on the court into a winning formula for his successful business ventures.

For the last two decades, Mr. Johnson has consistently turned heads with his unprecedented partnerships. In his early years as an entrepreneur, he forged an alliance with Sony Pictures to develop Magic Johnson Theatres. In 1998, he teamed with Starbucks to become the only franchisee in the history of the company, acquiring and eventually selling 125 stores in a lucrative move which further solidified his position in the business world. Both ventures served as catalysts for redevelopment in urban communities, and are widely recognized as the corporate blueprint for engagement and success with urban consumers across America.

Still a commanding presence in the sports world, he made history in 2012 when he became co-owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers, a Major League Baseball franchise that was purchased for an astronomical $2 billion dollars. It was the highest purchase price for any professional sports team at the time. He also co-owns the Los Angeles Sparks of the WNBA, Major League Soccer’s Los Angeles Football Club, and eSports franchise Team Liquid.

Mr. Johnson continues to expand his influence through a number of other investments. He currently has controlling interests in EquiTrust, a $20 billion financial services company, and SodexoMAGIC, a food service and facilities management company.

The Lansing native is constantly evolving and remaining relevant in a dynamic digital age by broadening his scope into infrastructure and technology. In 2015, Magic Johnson Enterprises and Loop Capital formed an alliance to create MJE-Loop Capital Partners. The firm raised a fund committed to investing millions of dollars on infrastructure improvement in the United States.

Operating under the philosophy that true success is making others successful, he is one of the leading investors in a number of minority-owned tech companies that include Uncharted Power, an award-winning power and data infrastructure technology company; ShotTracker, a company that makes wearable technology for basketball players that helps track player and ball movement; Jopwell, a diversity and hiring recruiting platform; and MiTú, the Latino-fueled media brand and digital network that connects thousands of Latin content creators with viewers around the world. He is deliberate in his investment strategy to bring positive impact to the community.
Pablo Legorreta

Mr. Legorreta has over 20 years of experience investing in pharmaceutical royalties, and building and managing a rapidly growing life sciences investment company that is today one of the largest dedicated life sciences investors in the world. Prior to founding Royalty Pharma in 1996, Mr. Legorreta was an investment banker at Lazard Frères in Paris and New York. Mr. Legorreta is also a co-founder of Pharmakon Advisors, a leading provider of debt capital to the life sciences industry.

Mr. Legorreta serves on the Board of Directors of Epizyme (Nasdaq: EPZM) and on the Board of Governors of the New York Academy of Sciences, as well as the Boards of Trustees of Rockefeller University, Brown University, the Hospital for Special Surgery, Pasteur Foundation (the U.S. affiliate of the French Institute Pasteur), Open Medical Institute and Park Avenue Armory.

Mr. Legorreta is the founder and chairman of Alianza Médica para la Salud, a non-profit dedicated to enhancing the quality of health care in Latin America by providing doctors and healthcare providers with continued education opportunities. Since its foundation in 2010 AMSA has provided over 450 scholarships to Mexican and Latin American doctors and healthcare providers to study abroad. Mr. Legorreta has a degree in industrial engineering from Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City.
Ken Mehlman

Ken Mehlman (New York) has spent 25 years working at the highest levels in government, politics, business and philanthropy.

He is a Partner, Global Head of Public Affairs & Co-Head Global Impact at KKR. Since joining KKR a decade ago, Ken has architected KKR’s responsible investment efforts that seek to create shared value for KKR investors and other stakeholders. He has also worked to identify investment opportunities by leveraging geopolitical, public policy & ESG trends.

KKR Global Impact is the firm’s private market investing platform focused on businesses that promote commercial solutions to global challenges associated with economic development, environmental management, next generation energy, agricultural and food production, responsible land use and education & learning.

Ken spent a dozen years in national politics and government service, including as 62nd Chairman of the Republican National Committee and Campaign Manager of President Bush’s 2004 re-election campaign, the only Republican presidential campaign in 30 years to win the popular vote. Ken also served in high level positions in Congress and the White House.

Mr. Mehlman, who currently lives in New York City, graduated with a B.A. from Franklin & Marshall College and holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School. Mr. Mehlman is Chairman of Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Policy Advisory Board. He is a trustee of Mt. Sinai Hospital of New York, Franklin & Marshall College, Teach for America, and Sponsors of Educational Opportunity (SEO). Mehlman was active in the successful effort for marriage equality and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.
Lisa is global chief operating officer for the Engineering Division and the firm's global strategists. In this role, she has oversight for the technology management and finance functions. Lisa serves on the Engineering Division Executive Leadership Group, Firmwide Technology Risk Committee. She is also co-chair of the Americas Inclusion and Diversity Committee and is sponsor of the Firmwide Black Network and a member of the Goldman Sachs Women’s Network.

Lisa is a member of the Board of Advisors of Launch With GS, Goldman Sachs’ $500 million commitment to invest in companies and investment managers with diverse leadership. Lisa was chief operating officer for the Securities Division in Asia Pacific from 2009 to 2015. She joined Goldman Sachs in 2004 as an attorney in the Legal Division, and was hired in 2005 to become the chief operating officer for the Fixed Income, Currency and Commodities (FICC) Bank Loan Syndications and Trading businesses in New York and London. Lisa was named managing director in 2006 and partner in 2012. Prior to joining the firm, Lisa was a corporate attorney in the law firm of Richards Spears Kibbe & Orbe, where she was elected to partner in 2004.

Lisa is actively involved in the Foundation of Orthopedics and Complex Spine and the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation. Lisa earned a BA in Sociology, summa cum laude, from the University of Minnesota in 1993 and a JD from Harvard Law School in 1996.
Jodie Patterson

Jodie Patterson is an author, activist, beauty explorer and mother of 5. She holds the position of Chair of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation Board, our nation’s largest LGBT organization. As a globally recognized activist, she speaks on topics of radical parenting, identity, and gender.

When her son announced at the age of 3 “Mama I’m not a girl. I’m a boy”, she set out to inform herself, shift her own bias and change the way her community understood gender. Patterson chronicled that journey in her memoir, The Bold World: A Memoir of Family and Transformation - hailed by Alice Walker as “Marvelous”.

Cosmopolitan Magazine filmed a mini documentary on Jodie’s family in 2016 - reaching over 11 million views.

Her second book, Born Ready: The True Story Of A Boy Named Penelope allows her 5 children’s voices to be heard, showing us how an entire community can be flexible and change for those they love.

Patterson is also a long-standing entrepreneur, co-founding two beauty companies and receiving Beauty Skin Expert of the Year award by Cosmopolitan Magazine. She co-owns the live performance venue Joe’s Pub at the Public Theater.

Along with the work Patterson does with the Human Rights Campaign, she sits on Mount Sinai’s Institute for Health Equity Research Task Force, the Advisory Board of the Ackerman Institute’s Gender & Family Project, and Mount Sinai’s Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery Advisory Board. The United Nations recognized Patterson as a Champion of Change.

Jodie Patterson lives in Brooklyn where she co-raises her children with love, education and family solidarity.
Dr. Ruth Simmons

Ruth J. Simmons serves as President of Prairie View A&M University. She was President of Brown University from 2001-2012. Under her leadership, Brown made significant strides in improving its standing as one of the world’s finest research universities.

A French professor before entering university administration, President Simmons held an appointment as a Professor of Comparative Literature and Africana Studies at Brown. After completing her Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literatures at Harvard, she served in various faculty and administrative roles at the University of Southern California, Princeton University, and Spelman College before becoming president of Smith College, the largest women’s college in the United States. At Smith, she launched a number of important academic initiatives, including an engineering program, the first at an American women’s college.

Simmons is the recipient of many honors, including a Fulbright Fellowship to France, the 2001 President’s Award from the United Negro College Fund, the 2002 Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, the 2004 Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, the Foreign Policy Association Medal, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the Centennial Medal from Harvard University. Simmons is a member of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Council on Foreign Relations, and serves on the boards of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the Holdsworth Center. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Square. Awarded numerous honorary degrees, she received the Brown Faculty’s highest honor: the Susan Colver Rosenberger Medal in 2011. In 2012, she was named a ‘chevalier’ of the French Legion of Honor.