

Melwood IPI Conference

AGENDA

8:30 am-9:30 am | Session 1: The Power of Inclusion

Director Jenny R. Yang

Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs at the Department of Labor

Executive Director Kimberly Zeich

U.S. AbilityOne Commission

Chai Feldblum

Vice Chairperson, U.S. AbilityOne Commission

Moderator: Larysa Kautz

President & CEO, Melwood

9:30 am-10:30 am | Session 2: Built to Last: The NPA of the Future

Julie Christensen

Executive Director, Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)

Millisa Gary

AbilityOne Representative, General Services Administration

Larysa Kautz

President & CEO, Melwood

Moderator: Molly Weisner

Reporter, Federal Times

10:30 am-10:45 am | Break

10:45 am-11:45 am | Session 3: Competitive Advantage: Federal Contractors and Section 503

Craig Leen

K&L Gates, Former Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP)

Sarah von Shrader

Director Research and Program Evaluation, Yang-Tan Institute on Employment and Disability, ILR School at Cornell University

Jayna Rust

Counsel, Thompson Coburn LLC

Moderator: Elizabeth Guevara

Senior Manager, Inclusion, Diversity & Giving, GDIT

11:45 am-12:45 pm | Lunch

12:45 pm-1:45 pm | Session 4: Fast Track to Inclusion: Can AbilityOne be a pipeline to 503 Compliance?

Dwight Davis

President, Global Connections to Employment

Steve McBride

Vice President, Operations, Skills'kin

Candee Chambers

Executive Director, DirectEmployers Association

Moderator: Jim Cook

VP, Strategic Engagements & Partnerships, MITRE

1:45 pm-2:45 pm | Session 5: Congressional Panel Discussion: Procurement Policy with Purpose

Phoebe Ball

House Education and Labor Committee, Majority Staff

Amanda Lowe

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Majority Staff

Brad Thomas

House Education and Labor Committee, Minority Staff

Moderator: Brigitte Custer

Vice President, Consulting Expert, CGI Federal

2:45 pm-3:00 pm | Break

3:00 pm-3:40 pm | Closing Session: It Takes a Village

Chairman Andrés Gallegos

Chairman of the National Council on Disability

4:00 pm-6:00 pm | Networking Session

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BIOGRAPHIES

Director Jenny R. Yang | Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs at the Department of Labor

Jenny R. Yang joined the Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) as its Director on January 20, 2021. From 2013-2018, she served as Chair, Vice-Chair, and Commissioner of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), upon unanimous Senate confirmation. Prior to joining the EEOC, Ms. Yang spent a decade representing workers in complex nationwide employment discrimination and wage and hour actions as a partner at Cohen Milstein. Before that, she served as a Senior Trial Attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Employment Litigation Section.

Executive Director Kimberly Zeich | U.S. AbilityOne Commission

Kimberly M. Zeich became the Commission's Executive Director in September 2022, after serving for a year as Acting Executive Director. Zeich has served in progressively responsible positions on the Commission staff for more than 25 years, including Deputy Executive Director; Director, Program Operations; Director, Business Development and Team Leader, Public Affairs. During her tenure on the Commission staff, Zeich has been responsible for overseeing the review, rulemaking and administrative processes used to make additions, deletions or changes to the official Procurement List of AbilityOne products and services.

Chai Feldblum | Vice Chairperson, U.S. AbilityOne Commission

Chai Feldblum is a long-time civil rights advocate and scholar, specializing in issues regarding LGBTQ+ people, people with disabilities and women. She was a law professor at Georgetown Law in Washington DC for many years, helping non-profit organizations advance their legislative social justice goals through a Federal Legislation Clinic staffed by law students. Chai helped draft and negotiate the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and, as a Commissioner of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, spearheaded coverage of LGBT people under sex discrimination law. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the AbilityOne Commission, a federal agency devoted to the employment of people with significant disabilities.

Chairman Andrés Gallegos | Chairman of the National Council on Disability

Andrés J. Gallegos, Esq. is the Chairman of the National Council on Disability. He is a shareholder with the law firm of Robbins, Salomon and Patt, Ltd., in Chicago, Illinois, where he focuses his practice on disability rights and healthcare law. He is the immediate past Chairman of the Board of Directors of Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago, Chicago's Center for Independent Living, and is a two-term past-member of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois, having been appointed by the governor. He is also a board member of ADA 25 Advancing Leadership Institute, a Chicago-based non-for profit whose mission is to increase civic engagement and diverse leadership in the Chicago region by developing and building a network of leaders with disabilities.