Bill Nigut  
SE Regional Director  
Anti-Defamation League

Bill Nigut is the Southeast Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League, an international organization dedicated to fighting the fighting bigotry toward the Jewish people and to securing justice and fair treatment for all.

He joined ADL in January, 2007, after spending three years as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Metro Atlanta Arts and Culture Coalition (MAACC), a unique public/private partnership dedicated to making the Atlanta region a premier center for the arts. Bill joined MAACC in October, 2003, as the first president of the organization.

From 1983 to 2003, Bill served as the Political Reporter for WSB-TV. During that time he covered five presidential campaigns, traveling the country states; reported from every national political convention from 1984 to 2000; frequently reported news from the White House and Capitol Hill. Bill also covered 19 sessions of the Georgia General Assembly, as well as gubernatorial, congressional and statewide election campaigns. In 1992, Bill became the first local political reporter in the nation to create and host town hall meetings that brought then-governor Bill Clinton and President George H. W. Bush to Atlanta for one-hour broadcasts which Bill hosted. Prior to those telecasts, no major party candidate for president had ever participated in local television forums.

Bill’s background is a mixture of arts, journalism and politics. He studied English and journalism at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He was a student at the Art Institute of Chicago, where he studied acting at the Goodman School of Drama of the Art Institute. He worked as an actor in New York and Chicago, and founded a Chicago theater company – The New Chicago City Players - in 1970.

In 2004, Bill and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Music Director Robert Spano created “Symphony 360,” a new subscription series designed to attract new audiences to the ASO. He performed for three seasons of Symphony 360 concerts, from 2005 through 2007.

Bill is married to Atlanta native Janece Shaffer. Janece is a playwright whose new works have been produced by the Alliance Theatre Company, Theatrical Outfit, Horizon Theatre, the Alabama Shakespeare Company, the Jewish Theatre of the South, and others here in Atlanta as well as by regional theaters across the country.

Denis O’Hayer  
Host, “All Things Considered,”  
WABE-FM 90.1

Denis O’Hayer is the local host for the afternoon news block (“The World,” “All Things Considered,” “Marketplace”) on WABE-FM 90.1, Atlanta’s NPR affiliate. He joined the station in January, 2009; after 11 years as the political reporter for WXIA-TV, Channel 11. Prior to that, he spent 19 years as an anchor at Newsradio WGST. O’Hayer also appeared regularly on WPBA-TV, Channel 30, where he hosted “The Layman’s Lawyer” from 1987-2004; and “Atlanta This Week” from 1996-2001. During his years at WGST, he was the moderator of “Counterpoint,” a political debate show, and was the host “Sixty at Six,” an hour-long news block which started as a nightly update on the Persian Gulf War.

O’Hayer’s career honors include a National Headliner Award; national honors from United Press International, and Investigative Reporters and Editors; three Achievement in Radio Awards
for his interviews; the Associated Press Award for best television spot news coverage; and a regional Emmy award. He is the immediate past president of the Atlanta Press Club.

In 1997, he joined the Southeast Bureau of CNN, where he produced stories on the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, until he moved to WXIA. He began his radio career in 1976 at WGCH in Greenwich, Conn.

O'Hayer is a past president of the Atlanta Press Club; a member of the Leadership DeKalb class of 1990; and the Leadership Atlanta class of 2004. He is a graduate of Middlebury College in Vermont, with a degree in Spanish. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Atlanta.

**Chris Clark**  
**President & CEO**  
**Georgia Chamber of Commerce**

Georgia Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Chris Clark, a native of Fitzgerald, GA., earned his bachelor’s degree from Georgia Southern University and received his master’s in public administration from Georgia College and State University.

He is an advisory board member for the University of Georgia’s Board of Visitors and a member of the advisory board for the College of Liberal Arts at Georgia Southern University; is a graduate of Georgia’s first executive leadership program; and served as president of the Georgia Economic Developers Association in 2009. He served previously as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and prior to that was executive director of the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority. He also served as deputy commissioner for global commerce at the Georgia Department of Economic Development.

He, his wife Tiffany and son Christian reside near Peachtree City in Fayette County.

**Stanley S. Jones, Jr**  
**Partner**  
**Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP**

Stan Jones, a partner of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, practices in Atlanta. Mr. Jones has more than 25 years of experience in the practice of healthcare law, governmental relations and administrative law.

Mr. Jones is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. He is a member of the American Bar Association and the American Health Lawyers Association. Mr. Jones is listed in The Best Lawyers In America for governmental relations law (2007-2011) and a Super Lawyer in healthcare and government relations.

Mr. Jones serves on the Executive Committee of the Dean’s Council for the Emory University School of Public Health. Mr. Jones has served on Governor Perdue’s Mental Health Service Delivery Commission which was created by an Executive order issued on August 7, 2007 and now on the Behavioral Health Collaborative. He has served as chairman of the board of Visiting Nurse Health Systems, Inc. and Mental Health of America. He also is a founding board member of the Atlanta Community Court Foundation. Previously he served as chairman of the Georgia Commission on Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Service Delivery, and as Vice President for Public Policy of the National Mental Health Association. He was also the founding president of Project Interconnections, an initiative that, under the leadership of Honorary Chairperson and former first lady Rosalynn Carter, has built over 200 units of housing in Atlanta for homeless persons suffering from mental illness. Mr. Jones has been
extensively involved in the mental health movement in Georgia since working on gubernatorial and presidential commissions for the Carter family.

Mr. Jones earned a Juris Doctor, cum laude, from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1977. From Oxford University, he earned a Master of Arts in Modern History and Economics in 1980, and a Bachelor of Arts in the same subjects in 1974. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History, magna cum laude, from Harvard College in 1971. A recipient of the Rhodes Scholarship, Mr. Jones is a member of Blue Key.

Roy Fickling
Council Member
Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians

Fickling is the owner and president of Fickling & Company, Inc., a Macon, Georgia-based regional real estate development, brokerage, management and consulting firm, since 1993, and an officer/director of several closely held investment and operating companies including Riverside Automotive, Inc. and Riverside Ford, Inc.

He serves as a director of two publicly traded companies: Oxigene Inc. (NASDAQ:OXGN), a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company based in Waltham, MA and Piedmont Community Bank Group, Inc. (OTC:PBCN) based in Gray, GA. Fickling was a founding director of Rivoli Bank & Trust of Macon and of Beech Street, U.K., Ltd. of London, England, an international healthcare administration firm. He was a major shareholder and advisor to Beech Street Corporation, the largest private PPO network, prior to its acquisition by Concentra, Inc. in 2005.

Fickling currently serves on the Georgia Ports Authority and the Georgia Rail Passenger Authority and previously on the Georgia Technology Authority. Fickling currently serves on several civic boards including the Macon/Bibb County Chamber of Commerce, Macon Economic Development Commission, Education First, Shield Club, WRALC Museum of Aviation, and the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame (Board of Electors). In the past, Fickling served on the board of the Macon Downtown Rotary Club, the Commission on Macon/Atlanta Rail, Macon Economic Development Commission, Wesleyan College (Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Finance Committee), Tubman African American Museum, City Club of Macon, Mid Summer Macon, Cherry Blossom Festival, United Way of Central Georgia, Mercer University Executive Forum (steering committee), and the American Heart Association of Macon.

Fickling has received several awards for his civic involvement including WRLAC 116th Air Wing Honorary Commander, Keep Macon/Bibb Beautiful Leadership Award, Macon Economic Development Commission Champion of the Year (twice), Macon Arts Alliance Cultural Leadership Award, Keep Macon/Bibb Beautiful Man of the Year Award, and Macon Magazine Young Leader of the Year.

Fickling holds a B.A. in Business Administration (Banking & Finance) from the University of Georgia.

Stephen D. Dolinger
President
Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education

Steve Dolinger is President of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, an Atlanta based non-profit organization dedicated to improving public schools across Georgia through research, advocacy and communication. He brings over 40 years of experience in education and non-profit leadership.
Dr. Dolinger came to the Partnership from the position of Superintendent of Schools in Fulton County, Georgia. During his seven-year tenure with Fulton County, Money Magazine rated the school system as one of the top school systems in the nation. Dr. Dolinger introduced many changes in the Fulton County school system based on the principles and practices of business management and he received national recognition for many of these reforms, including from the National School Board Association and Harvard University. In 2001 he was named Georgia School Superintendent of the Year.

Reflecting his personal and professional commitment to education, Dr. Dolinger currently serves on numerous boards, including Voices for Georgia’s Children, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and the Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement. In addition, he has been appointed to the President’s Roundtable of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the cabinet of the Georgia Children’s Health Alliance, and the education and health advisory committee for The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

Dr. Dolinger spent 26 years in Fairfax, Virginia where he served in various administrative and teaching positions. He received an undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University, a master’s degree from George Mason University and a doctorate from Vanderbilt University.

He and his wife, Jane, live in Atlanta and have two sons and five grandchildren.

Teresa Rivero
Senior Program Officer, Education
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Teresa Rivero, Senior Program Officer, Education, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is a member of the College Ready Team and works in four states: Georgia, Florida, Kentucky and North Carolina. Prior to joining the Foundation, she lived in Atlanta and was the Grant Officer for the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation and affiliated foundations. Teresa was also the Associate Director for the Latin American Association and Program Manager for the Whitefoord Elementary School based health clinic. She is a graduate of Emory University, where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Finance and a Master’s in Public Health. She has an MBA from Georgia State University. Teresa has a strong record of public service that includes being a volunteer in the Peace Corps in Honduras, coaching a youth soccer team, and serving on the Emory University Board of Trustees.

Ralph R. Smith
Executive Vice President
Annie E. Casey Foundation

Ralph R. Smith is Executive Vice President of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a private philanthropy dedicated to helping build better futures for disadvantaged children in the United States. Jim Casey, one of the founders of United Parcel Service, and his siblings established the Foundation – named in honor of their mother -- in 1948. The Foundation seeks to foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today’s vulnerable children and families.

Smith was a member of the Law Faculty at the University of Pennsylvania, a nationally recognized legal scholar and attorney, authoring briefs in landmark cases before the United States Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals. During his two decades on the law faculty Smith taught Corporations, Securities Regulations and Education Law and Policy. His service outside the Law School includes serving in senior leadership positions for the School District of
Philadelphia (including chief of staff and chief operating officer), as a key advisor to the Mayor of Philadelphia on children and family policy, and as the founding director of both the National Center on Fathers and Families and the Philadelphia Children’s Network.

Smith joined the Casey Foundation in 1994 as director of planning and development and is presently Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer. In addition to his work within the Foundation, Smith has spent the last decade working with a broad range of efforts to advance philanthropy in the United States and around the world. He is former chair of the Council on Foundations board and serves on the boards of the Foundation Center, Wachovia Regional Foundation, Venture Philanthropy Partners, the Clinton Center on Community Philanthropy and the Annenberg Institute for School Reform. He is a member of the Advisory Council of the Aspen Institute’s Nonprofit Sector and Philanthropy Program and was an active participant in the International Network on Strategic Philanthropy.

**Atiba Mbiwan**

**Associate Director**

**The Zeist Foundation**

Atiba Mbiwan joined the staff of The Zeist Foundation, a family foundation based in Atlanta, in October 2006 to fortify their grantmaking in the areas of Education, Arts & Culture and Health & Human Services. Prior to joining The Zeist Foundation, Mr. Mbiwan served as the Program Officer responsible for education grantmaking at the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation from 2001-2005.

Before joining the philanthropic sector, Mbiwan worked in the nonprofit field with organizations that touched on youth development - serving homeless families across Georgia, supporting young social entrepreneurs in the southeast region and building quality after school programs around Atlanta. He was instrumental in creating and sustaining AmeriCorps Programs in Georgia throughout the 1990s and has been a consultant with the Corporation for National and Community Service.

With a B.A. degree in Economics and a love for Mathematics, Mbiwan taught a range of Math courses at an alternative high school in Providence, RI for five years and then spent two years teaching Math and counseling middle school students in an experimental multi-district collaborative in Rhode Island. He has been a PTA Secretary at his children’s elementary school when it was a site-based management pilot and volunteered to help launch one of the first start-up charter schools in metro Atlanta.

Mbiwan earned his B.A. in Economics/Urban Studies at Brown University (’82) and spent one semester at the University of Lagos, Nigeria (Fall 1980). He was a 1985 National Endowment of the Arts Summer Fellow at the City University of New York Graduate Center and was a member of the 2008-09 class of the Education Policy Fellowship Program sponsored by the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education. He has two adult children (graduates of Spelman/Georgia Tech and University of Georgia), one son in high school and a grandson in elementary school.
Stephanie V. Blank  
Trustee  
The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation

Stephanie Blank has a passion for making a difference in the lives of children. A native of North Carolina, she grew up believing that education and community involvement are twin pathways to creating a just and more inclusive society.

Stephanie is the founding chair of GEEARS (Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students). In this capacity, she is leading the effort to create a statewide organization that will champion efforts for children from birth to age 5.

As the Chair of the Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta Foundation Board of Trustees from 2006 to 2010, Stephanie has worked to enhance medical services and programs for all children, with special emphasis on those children whose families could not otherwise afford quality care.

Stephanie chaired the capital campaign for the Imagine It! Children’s Museum of Atlanta and is a co-founder of Mothers & Others for Clean Air, an organization dedicated to educating the general public on how they can immediately reduce family members’ and children’s exposure to damaging air pollution. She has also served on the boards or committees of the Woodruff Arts Center, the Atlanta Symphony Center, The GA State Advisory Council on Early Education, The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum in Atlanta, the Tourism Task Force of the Governor’s Commission for A New Georgia, and the transition team for Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed.

Both Stephanie and her husband, Arthur M. Blank, are well-known as community leaders and philanthropists. Driven by their belief in the importance of giving back to society, they devote their time and financial resources to numerous causes.

Stephanie is a trustee of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. The Blank Family Foundation, along with the Blanks’ personal giving, has granted more than $260 million to support early childhood, education, the arts, and parks and green space. Together, Arthur and Stephanie were named as the 2000 Georgia Philanthropists of the Year by the National Society of Fundraising Executives. In 2001, they were joint recipients of the Anti-Defamation League’s Abe Goldstein Human Relations Award.

Stephanie received the Girls’ Opportunities for Adventure and Leadership “Going for the GOAL” Award in 2001. In 2006, she was named the YWCA of Greater Atlanta’s Woman of Achievement. In addition she has served on Governor Perdue’s Georgia State Advisory Council on Early Learning and Care.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Design from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. Her professional interior design career has focused on creating a positive “sense of place” for people, designing welcoming and comfortable work and home environments that enable people to feel and to be their best. Her work has been featured at the 1999 and 2000 Symphony Decorator Showhouse in Atlanta, and at the American Craft Council Show. She also served on the Architectural Advisory Committee for the new Atlanta Symphony Center.

Stephanie and Arthur Blank are the parents of three young children, a son and boy-and-girl twin.
Maria Elena Retter  
Executive Director  
The Goizueta Foundation

Maria Elena Retter, Executive Director of The Goizueta Foundation, was born in Havana, Cuba. Founded by Roberto C. Goizueta, former Chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company, The Goizueta Foundation aims to support transformative educational initiatives that improve academic preparedness, access, graduation and success. Prior to joining The Goizueta Foundation, María Elena worked for The Coca-Cola Company and IBM with a focus on process improvement, strategic planning, evaluation and technology. María Elena holds a bachelor’s degree in biology with a minor in education from the University of Miami.

María Elena is currently on the Board of Trustees for the Southeastern Council of Foundations (SECF) and serves on the Leadership Development and Governance Committees. During 2009-2010, María Elena served on the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta’s Early Education Commission (EEC) that was assembled to review early child care and education in Georgia. The Commission’s work has resulted in the creation of the Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS), which will serve as a leader in establishing key, strategic initiatives designed to lay to the groundwork for collaboration and partnerships to ensure that Georgia’s youngest citizens will enter kindergarten ready to succeed. As a refugee grateful for the opportunities in the United States, María Elena works to ensure that all children succeed in their educational endeavors.

Elizabeth A. “Lizzy” Smith  
Grants Officer  
Robert W. Woodruff Foundation

Lizzy Smith serves as Grants Officer for the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, Lettie Pate Evans Foundation and the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation. Although each is governed by a separate charter and self-perpetuating board of trustees, the Foundations share a common office and administrative staff.

Prior to joining the Foundations’ staff in April 2005, Ms. Smith was with the fund-raising consulting firm of Coxe Curry & Associates for seven and one-half years. In her role as Campaign Director, she provided consulting services on capital and annual campaigns for numerous metro Atlanta non-profit organizations. Prior to Coxe Curry & Associates, Ms. Smith was Director of Special Events for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in Raleigh, N. C.

A native North Carolinian, Ms. Smith is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a B. A. in Economics. Ms. Smith serves on the Southeastern Council of Foundations Board of Directors and is chair of the membership committee. She also serves as chair of the Atlanta Advisory Board of the Foundation Center.