

FEDERAL ACQUISITION INSTITUTE



Suspension & Debarment – What Makes a Successful Meeting Acquisition Seminar

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Participants of SDO Mock Meeting with Clark Industries

(Click participant name to read his/her official bio)

Role in Mock Meeting	Name/Official Title
Suspension & Debarment Official	Maria C. Swaby Suspension & Debarment Official, General Services Administration
Agency Counsel	Michael Thompson Integrity Officer, Suspension & Debarment Division, General Services Administration
Suspension & Debarment Staff Member	Dylan Mooney Integrity Officer, Suspension & Debarment Division, General Services Administration
President and CEO, Clark Industries	Michael D. Russell Suspension & Debarment Official, Department of Homeland Security
Senior Vice President, Clark Industries	Sarah Drabkin Integrity Officer, Suspension & Debarment Division, General Services Administration
Ethics & Compliance Officer, Clark Industries	Lori Y. Vassar Director, Administrative Remedies Division, Office of Inspector General, Department of Interior
General Counsel, Clark Industries	Barry E. Berkowitz Suspension & Debarment Official, Department of Commerce
Partner, Schmidt & Duché, LLP	Bill Schmidt Deputy Director, Suspension & Debarment Division, General Services Administration

Maria C. Swaby

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Suspension & Debarment Official, General Services Administration



Maria Swaby is the Suspension and Debarment Official (SDO) for the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). As SDO, Maria takes appropriate suspension, debarment or other administrative actions with government-wide effect to protect the Federal Government's interests. In addition, Maria supports GSA's Senior Procurement Executive on a variety of acquisition policy and government contracts issues. Maria is also GSA's Agency Protester Official (APO) and she hears and decides protests filed at the agency level. Prior to the SDO and APO positions, Maria was the

Director, Suspension & Debarment and Contract Remedies Division for GSA. In that role, Maria was responsible for the management and oversight of GSA's suspension and debarment program, and the agency protest, eligibility determination, task order, and metrication ombudsman functions.

Maria received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and French from the University of Connecticut and a *Juris Doctor* from the University of Connecticut School of Law. Maria studied for one year in Rouen, France, during college, and for one semester in Aix-en-Provence, France, during law school. She also has an LL.M. degree from The George Washington Law School. Maria is a member of the Connecticut Bar Association, the American Bar Association - Public Contracts Law Section, and the National Contract Management Association. She is a former co-chair of the ABA Suspension & Debarment Subcommittee, speaks regularly on the topic of suspension and debarment to the legal, government, contractor and public procurement communities, and serves as a consultant to foreign governments on their suspension and debarment systems.

Michael Thompson

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Integrity Officer, Suspension & Debarment Division, General Services Administration



Michael Thompson is an Integrity Officer in the Suspension & Debarment Division at the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). Michael analyzes Suspension & Debarment cases, agency protests, and various other government contract policy issues in support of GSA's Suspension & Debarment Official, Agency Protest Official, and Senior Procurement Executive. Michael has been with GSA since 2009 and previously worked in the Office of the Chief Counsel at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the Department of Homeland Security.

Michael received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from the University of Oregon and a *Juris Doctor* from The George Washington University Law School. Michael is a member of the National Contract Management Association and holds a Level I Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting and a Level I Federal Acquisition Certification-Contracting Officer's Representative. Michael speaks regularly on the topic of Suspension & Debarment, and the personnel and computer systems that support successful Suspension & Debarment programs, to the Government, contractor, and public procurement communities.

Dylan Mooney

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Integrity Officer, Suspension & Debarment Division, General Services Administration



Dylan Mooney is an Integrity Officer in the Suspension & Debarment Division at the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). Dylan's role as an Integrity Officer involves analysis of Suspension & Debarment cases, agency protests, and various other government contract policy issues. Dylan has been with GSA since August 2015. Prior to this Dylan attended American University Washington College of Law, where he completed a number of internships throughout the Federal Government including, the Office of the Inspector General at the Department of the Interior, the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals, the Office of the Chief Counsel at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and GSA in the Suspension and Debarment Division. Dylan was also a 2015 Presidential Management Fellowship Finalist.

Dylan received a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies with minors in Japanese Literature and Language & Business Administration from The University of Iowa. Dylan studied abroad for one year in Nagoya, Japan, where he attended Nanzan University and took intensive Japanese language courses. Dylan received a Juris Doctor from American University Washington College of Law in May 2015.

Michael D. Russell

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Suspension & Debarment Official, Department of Homeland Security



Mr. Russell joined the Management Directorate in 2011 as the Senior Counselor to the Under Secretary for Management. Mr. Russell also serves as the Suspension and Debarment Official for DHS and as the final Administrative Grievance Official for DHS HQ. Mr. Russell also serves a critical role concerning the formation of: delegations; directives; and instructions; and conference approvals.

Mr. Russell joined DHS in 2003 as an Attorney Advisor and *de facto* Acting Deputy Associate General Counsel until the arrival of the Associate General Counsel in January 2004. Mr. Russell was selected as DHS' first Appropriations Counsel in July 2004 and promoted to the Senior Level. Mr. Russell was promoted into the Senior Executive Service in 2006 as the Deputy Associate General Counsel for General Law.

Mr. Russell earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from Birmingham-Southern College. He graduated from the University of Alabama School of Law, and earned a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the United States Naval War College. Mr. Russell is licensed to practice law in Alabama.

Mr. Russell received a commission through the Graduate Law Program of the Air Force Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), and was appointed a Judge Advocate. He served approximately five years on active duty, with duty assignments in Texas and Alaska. He served as a reserve Judge Advocate for sixteen years, primarily at the legal office at Headquarters, Air Force Office of Special Investigations.

Mr. Russell served as a civilian attorney in the Coast Guard for 12 years during which he served as a senior attorney in the Office of Claims and Litigation, the Deputy Chief, and later the Chief of the Coast Guard's Office of General Law. He next served as the Deputy General Counsel for the Department of Defense Education Activity, the position he left to join the Department of Homeland Security.

Sarah Drabkin

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Integrity Officer, Suspension & Debarment Division, General Services Administration



Sarah Drabkin is an Integrity Officer in the Suspension & Debarment Division at the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). Sarah analyzes Suspension & Debarment cases, agency protests, and various other government contract policy issues in support of GSA's Suspension & Debarment Official, Agency Protest Official, and Senior Procurement Executive. Sarah has been with GSA since 2015 and previously worked in the Office of Recipient Integrity Coordination in the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Sarah received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History from Old Dominion University and a *Juris Doctor* from The University of District of Columbia David A. Clarke, School of Law. Sarah is a member of the National Contract Management Association and holds a Level I Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting and a Level I Federal Acquisition Certification-Contracting Officer's Representative.

Lori Y. Vassar

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***Director, Administrative Remedies Division, Office of Inspector General,
Department of Interior***



Lori Vassar has over 30 years of legal experience with the Federal Government. Previously, she held positions as an attorney/adviser on international claims and investment disputes with the Office of Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State; the Deputy General Counsel to the Inspector General, General Services Administration; and Counsel to the Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Treasury. She currently oversees the Administrative Remedies Division, which is responsible for suspension, debarment, and Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act referrals.

Lori graduated with distinction as an Echols Scholar from the University of Virginia and holds a law degree from the American University. She is a Certified Compliance & Ethics Professional and a Certified Fraud Examiner.

Barry E. Berkowitz

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Suspension & Debarment Official, Department of Commerce



Mr. Barry E. Berkowitz joined the Department of Commerce, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration team in January 2011 and is responsible for portfolio management, technical and programmatic evaluation, functional acquisition oversight and strategic sourcing initiatives across the Department. Mr. Berkowitz has over 35 years experience in acquisitions, engineering, management, and major systems development.

Prior to joining the Department of Commerce, Mr. Berkowitz was the Director for Cost Analysis for the Department of Energy (DOE). In that role, he was charged with the creation of the office to effectively manage cost analysis on behalf of the Department. His other civilian federal service includes the Chief of the Congressional, Budget and Program Integration Division for the Air Force Acquisition Capability Directorate for Information Dominance and a senior Operations Research Analyst, Cost Analysis Improvement Group (CAIG), Office of the Secretary of Defense.

During his 13 years within private industry, Mr. Berkowitz held positions as Chief Information Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Vice President of Engineering and Operations. Mr. Berkowitz retired from the U.S. Air Force, where he served for over 20 years in various capacities including pilot, engineer, program manager, and teacher.

Barry and his wife Linda currently reside in Virginia. They have two grown daughters and three wonderful grandchildren.

Bill Schmidt

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Deputy Director, Suspension & Debarment Division, General Services Administration



Mr. Schmidt is the Deputy Director of GSA's Suspension & Debarment Division. He manages an office that develops action recommendations to GSA's Suspension & Debarment Official. Mr. Schmidt has nine years of experience in government-contracts law and policy. He previously worked in two law firms and GSA's Office of General Counsel. Mr. Schmidt's work included representing contractors and the government in litigation and policy matters, and participating in the procurement process in both government and contractor roles. He has a *Juris Doctor* degree from George Washington University Law School and a Bachelor of Science degree from Syracuse University.

