

President Obama Announces Recess Appointments to Key Administration Posts

Four Appointees Have Waited an Average of 303 Days for Senate Confirmation

WASHINGTON – President Obama announced today his intent to recess appoint four nominees to fill key administration posts that have been left vacant for an extended period of time.

“At a time when our nation faces so many pressing challenges, I urge members of the Senate to stop playing politics with our highly qualified nominees, and fulfill their responsibilities of advice and consent,” **President Obama** said. “Until they do, I reserve the right to act within my authority to do what is best for the American people.”

The President announced his intent to recess appoint the following nominees:

Maria del Carmen Aponte, Nominee for Chief of Mission, Republic of El Salvador; Elisabeth Hagen, Nominee for Under Secretary for Food Safety, Department of Agriculture; Richard Sorian, Nominee for Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services; and Dr. Winslow Sargeant, Nominee for Chief Counsel of Advocacy, Small Business Administration

Winslow Sargeant is currently a Managing Director in the technology practice at Venture Investors, where he works with entrepreneurs to create innovative companies in underserved communities. From 2001 to 2005, he was the program manager for the Small Business Innovations Research (SBIR) Program in Electronics, a new office in the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Engineering Directorate. Previously, Sargeant co-founded Aanetcom, a fabless semiconductor chip startup company with seed funding from Cisco systems which was acquired by PMC-Sierra. Prior to Aanetcom, he held senior engineering positions at Lucent, AT&T Bell Labs and IBM. Sargeant currently serves on the Boards of Silatronix and Pattern Insight. He serves as a Director of the University of Wisconsin Foundation and was the Vice Chairman of the UW-Madison Astronomy Board of Visitors. He is a member of the Boards of Directors of WiCell, WiSys and the Waisman Center. Sargeant is a Trustee for the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) and also serves on Purdue University Discovery Center's Research Board of Visitors. Sargeant received the inaugural 2002 University of Wisconsin Distinguished Young Alumni Award and was a 2003 Outstanding Engineering Alumni Awardee from Northeastern University. He received a B.S. from Northeastern University, an M.S. from Iowa State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, all in Electrical Engineering. He is a member of the society of Kauffman Fellows, Class 11.