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Senator Leticia Van de Putte
Texas State Senate

Senator Leticia Van de Putte, a pharmacist for more than 30 years, represents a large portion of San Antonio and Bexar County. A former five-term state representative, she is now serving her fifth term as a Texas State Senator for District 26.

Senator Van de Putte is a strong advocate for children, veterans, and quality public education. She currently serves as Chair of the Veteran Affairs and Military Installations Committee, and serves as a member of the Senate Committees on Education, State Affairs, and Business and Commerce. She is also the Chair of the Texas Senate Democratic Caucus.

Nationally, Senator Van de Putte served as co-chair of the 2008 Democratic National Convention, joining the ranks of Texas women, such as Barbara Jordan and Ann Richards. She has been actively involved in the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), serving as President from 2006 to 2007. Senator Van de Putte is a member of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, where she served as President from 2003 to 2005. She also currently serves on the American Legacy Foundation Board, which oversees the settlements of 46 states with the tobacco industry, and she is the subject of a book written by Dr. Sharon Navarro titled, "*Latina Legislator: Leticia Van de Putte and the Road to Leadership.*"

Senator Van de Putte currently lives in San Antonio with her husband of 32 years, Pete, and has six children: Nichole, Vanessa, Henry, Gregory, Isabella, and Paul. She is also the proud grandmother of two adorable grandsons, Julian Claiborne and Jove Sebastian Stiles.



Senator Spencer Coggs
Wisconsin State Senate

Senator Spencer Coggs was first elected in November 2003 in a Special Election, and then re-elected to four-year term in November 2004 and 2008. Before running for the Wisconsin State Senate, Senator Coggs served in the State Assembly for 21 years.

The Senator has held many committee positions over the years, and currently serves as Chair of the Senate Committee on Labor, Elections, and Urban Affairs; Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on

Public Health, Senior Issues, Long Term Care and Privacy; and Vice-Chair of the Senate Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs. Additionally, Senator Coggs serves on committees of Biotechnology and Financial Institutions, Joint Legislative Council, Educational Communications Board, and the Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council.

Senator Coggs previously worked as a Health Officer for the City of Milwaukee, a postal worker, and an industrial printer. He is Past President of the National Labor Caucus of State Legislators and currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Additionally, Senator Coggs is Chairman of the Board of the Martin Luther King Heritage Health Clinic and the Isaac Coggs Community Health Center.

Senator Coggs is married with two children. He is a graduate of Riverside University High School, the Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



Peggy Kerns
Director, Center for Ethics in Government, National Conference of State Legislatures

Peggy Kerns is director of the Center for Ethics in Government, located at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), Denver, CO. Funded by NCSL's Foundation for State Legislatures, the center champions ethical standards and practices for legislators, legislative staff, and advocates in the legislative process. The Center conducts seminars in value-based ethics and provides 50-state research on ethics laws on its Web site: www.ncsl.org

Kerns' prior work experience includes elected offices at the state and local levels, presidential appointment to a federal agency, and private sector positions in two manufacturing companies. Prior to becoming the center's first director in 1999, Kerns was deputy assistant secretary for the Office of Intergovernmental and Interagency Affairs at the U.S. Department of Education, in Washington, D.C. From 1989 to 1997, she served in the Colorado House of Representatives, including two years as minority leader. Her most important legislative work was in the areas of education, welfare reform, and domestic violence. She received outstanding legislator awards from a variety of business, nonprofit, and education groups. Before being elected to the Colorado General Assembly, she served on the Aurora (CO) City Council for six years.

A former businesswoman, Kerns worked for the Samsonite Corporation and Mountain Medical Equipment, both in Denver, CO. She graduated from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa, and holds a masters degree in public administration from the University of Colorado. She and her husband Pat have two children and four grandchildren.



Bruce Feustel
Senior Fellow, Legislative Management, National Conference of State Legislatures

Bruce Feustel has worked in or for United States state legislatures for 35 years. A former Wisconsin legislative attorney, he currently is a Senior Fellow at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), where he provides training and educational programs for legislators and legislative staff and participates in management studies of legislatures. He has organized and taught at committee chair and new legislator training seminars, provided skill

training for staff, produced CDs on “How to be an Effective Legislator,” provided staff support to NCSL’s Legislative Effectiveness Committee and made presentations on communication, change, facilitation and ethics. Bruce’s international work involves organizing and teaching at seminars on bill drafting and the legislative process and conducting parliamentary needs assessments, including projects in Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ghana, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo, Mongolia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.



Maggie Lamborn
International Programs, National Conference of State Legislatures

Maggie Lamborn has worked in the International Programs department of the National Conference of State Legislatures for two years. In her capacity, Maggie plans, coordinates, and executes legislative exchanges including study tours, workshops, meetings, and conferences. Over the past few years, she has worked on programs with South Africa, Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Nigeria, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Kosovo. Additionally, Maggie plans and executes conference activities for over 250 legislators and legislative staff from over 31 countries in collaboration with NCSL’s annual Legislative Summit which draws approximately 7,000 attendees in total. Maggie obtained a Bachelors of Arts in International Politics and minors in African Studies and Kiswahili from Brigham Young University.