



KEN ABRAMS

BIOGRAPHY

Ken Abrams is a retired DEA Supervisory Special Agent who served as Country Attache in Romania at the U.S. Embassy. He is also a certified DEA Academy Instructor, formal Federal Corrections Officer, and United States Air Force Marksmanship Instructor.

More recently, he is an Adjunct Professor at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Virginia. He is proficient in the Spanish and Romanian languages. More importantly, he is also a husband, father, and grandfather.



TAMMY KNESS

BIOGRAPHY

Tammy Kness has dedicated her career to serving the critical missions of federal, state, and local agencies with 20 years at General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT). As the senior vice president of Human Resources and Corporate Communications reporting to President Amy Gilliland, Tammy is responsible for GDIT's people strategy as well as talent acquisition, employee relations, benefits and compensation, learning and development, diversity and inclusion, HR operations and technology, and corporate communications. A strong advocate for culture where people feel valued, empowered, and supported, Tammy works to ensure that GDIT consistently prioritizes employee well-being and champions professional growth and career mobility across an engaged workforce.

Since joining GDIT, Tammy has served in a number of leadership roles including Vice President of Operations for the company's Federal Civilian portfolio where she led contracts, subcontracts, risk management, data privacy, strategic planning, and execution efforts across the portfolio. Tammy also served as a vice president and general manager of GDIT's health solutions sector.

Prior to joining GDIT, Tammy held leadership and engineering positions at SYSCOM and Keane, Inc.

Tammy earned a bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of Maryland. She serves on the Board of Directors for Peter and John Ministries and the Finance Committee for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Maryland.



RONALD MARCUS, M.D.

BIOGRAPHY

Ron Marcus, M.D., is a neuroscience expert with more than 30 years of successful neuroscience drug development experience. At Karuna Therapeutics, he is currently working on a New Drug Application for KarXT in the treatment of schizophrenia. He initiated the ARISE (adjunctive schizophrenia) and ADEPT (psychosis in Alzheimer's Disease) programs while at Karuna.

Prior to joining Karuna, Ron was Chief Medical Officer at Terran Biosciences, a biotech company focusing on a MRI-based imaging diagnostic (using AI), and schizophrenia therapeutics. Dr. Marcus has held executive management positions at several biopharmaceutical companies developing treatments for the central nervous system, including Supernus Pharmaceuticals, Cerecor Inc., and Spinifex Pharmaceuticals. He spent more than 20 years at Bristol-Meyers Squibb (BMS) in senior clinical leadership roles within their Neuroscience division, including Executive Director, Neuroscience Global Clinical Research. In this role, he was the Life Cycle Management Team Leader for Abilify® (aripiprazole), a market-leading antipsychotic, and spearheaded an industry-leading lifecycle management program with more than 20 New Drug Applications (NDA) and supplemental NDAs. The Abilify LCM program has been recognized within the industry for its innovation, strategic and scientific excellence. Dr. Marcus also oversaw the Neuroscience Protocol Review Committee at BMS for more than 20 years, providing rigorous scientific review and input into the study design of approximately 350 clinical trials.

Dr. Marcus received his B.A. in psychology from University of Virginia and M.D. from University at Buffalo (SUNY). He completed his residency in psychiatry at New York Presbyterian-Weill Cornell Medical Center. He has authored more than 90 peer-reviewed publications. He also is an Adjunct Associate Professor Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Johns Hopkins Medical Center.

Lastly, he lives with his son Daniel who has been living with schizophrenia for the past 10 years. He understands from first-hand experience how this disorder impacts families as well as understanding the limitations of current treatment programs in the state of Maryland.



FORREST POINDEXTER, M.A., M.B.A., ED.D.

BIOGRAPHY

Forrest Poindexter, age 52, was born in Washington, D.C., to Shirley D. Poindexter and David J. Poindexter. Forrest Poindexter has six siblings, of which four are living. Forrest Poindexter attended Bradford University and California State University, Northridge, where he received an Undergraduate Degree in English, two master's degrees and an Ed.D. Forrest Poindexter has served in the United States Navy and has spent a considerable amount of time in education. Currently, Forrest Poindexter serves as Bishop for Worship and Praise COG. Forrest Poindexter has and continues to volunteer for individuals who suffer from H.I.V./A.I.D.S., those who suffer from mental disabilities, cancer, and the elderly. Forrest Poindexter suffers from several disabilities, including mental, in which he has personal knowledge! As an Advocate, Forrest Poindexter has created an Equal Minority and Human Rights group and conducts interviews and creates Podcasts.

Utilizing social media, Mr. Poindexter discusses issues that affect Human Rights including legislation that takes away programs that provide for those with Mental Illnesses and other people with disabilities.

Currently, Forrest Poindexter attends Coppin State University where he is obtaining a Degree in Non-Profit Business Management. Upon graduation, Forrest Poindexter will work within the Non-Profit industry to better serve those with various disabilities, and to challenge systemic discrimination.



ANTHONY SARTONI

BIOGRAPHY

In March 2020, Anthony launched Evolving Minds, a mental health nonprofit with a mission to create a culture of care.

Anthony has developed innovative mental health at work programs that center community, connection, and culture-building for nonprofit professionals, educators, social impact organizations, and retail workers. He has also designed mental health programs for students.

Anthony has trained over one thousand program graduates, and his programs have demonstrated compelling impact - including an over 30% reduction in symptoms of depression, anxiety, and stress, and a 50% reduction in absenteeism (employee call outs) and an 89% increase in empathy.

With Evolving Minds, he is committed to building a caring work culture. To make that commitment a reality, he has instituted four-day work weeks, protected weekly time to practice resilience skills such as gratitude, joy, and mindfulness, and established clear work boundaries with technology, with no work or work messages on the weekends.

He currently is a professional speaker with Active Minds, one of the country's leading mental health nonprofits. He sits on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee and Board of Directors for Inward Bound Mindfulness Education (iBme), a nationally renowned mindfulness nonprofit. He is also a founding equity team member of Vitalize Care, a Y Combinator-backed start-up, where he designed one of the largest healthcare specific mindfulness learning curricula in the digital mental health space.

His work has been featured in Mental Health America's Workplace Mental Health Toolkit and Mindful Magazine, and he was selected for the 2022 Rising Terp Alumni Excellence Award by the University of Maryland.

Recently, he was showcased in the Change the World Exhibit by the Do Good Institute for his organizing efforts as a student, where he launched a campus-wide campaign, #30DaysTooLate to address the inaccessibility of mental health resources on campus. This campaign inspired the University of Maryland to invest hundreds of thousands of dollars in mental health infrastructure.

He is a graduate of Tara Brach and Jack Kornfield's two-year Mindfulness Meditation Teacher Certification Program, and holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Maryland.



Up for
Re-
Election

GIA GRIER-MCGINNIS, DR. PH.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Gia Grier McGinnis has over 15 years' experience in a broad range of areas, including community-university program development, informal environmental education, health equity, and health advocacy.

Dr. Grier McGinnis is the Executive Director of the UMB CURE Scholars Program, a healthcare pipeline program for West Baltimore youth that is a joint initiative of the Office of the President of the University of Maryland, Baltimore and the University of Maryland's Marlene and Stewart Greenbaum Comprehensive Cancer Center. Prior to joining the CURE family, she served for 12 years in leadership positions at Johns Hopkins University's Center for Social Concern, the student life civic engagement center for the Homewood campus. Dr. Grier McGinnis has also worked as a public outreach specialist for a global engineering firm, a research assistant for the University of Michigan's Minority Environmental Leadership Development Initiative, and an AmeriCorps VISTA member for a leadership development program serving Washington, DC, middle school students housed at the Children's Environmental Health Network.

Dr. Grier McGinnis is a member of the Maryland Public Health Association and served as a member of their advocacy committee for two years. She has previously served on the Community-University Advisory Board for Morgan State University's ASCEND Prevention Science Research Center. She is also a member of the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education's Strategic Steering Committee.

Dr. Grier McGinnis earned her bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Washington College and her master's degree in environmental policy from the University of Michigan, with a research focus on environmental justice and health and diversity in the environmental field. She completed her DrPH at Morgan State University's School of Community Health & Policy in 2019. Her doctoral practicum experience and research was conducted in partnership with the anti-tobacco community-based participatory research initiative, Communities Engaged and Advocating for Smoke-Free Environments (CEASE).

A Baltimore City native, Dr. Grier McGinnis lives with her children and her partner Edd in Northeast Baltimore. She loves connecting with parks and green space for overall wellness and has a passion for community engagement and inclusion in healthcare and STEM fields.

The logo features the text "Up for Re-Election" in a white, cursive script font. The text is arranged in three lines: "Up for" on the top line, "Re-" on the middle line, and "Election" on the bottom line. The text is set against a dark blue background with a large, light blue circle behind the words "Up for" and "Re-". There are also several smaller, light blue circles of various sizes scattered across the dark blue background.

Up for
Re-
Election

SHAREESE STRONG

BIOGRAPHY

Shareese Strong is an esteemed member of NAMI Maryland's Board of Directors. She is also a trained NAMI Basics Teacher – a free class for parents and caregivers of youth experiencing a mental health condition - a NAMI Maryland Ambassador Speaker, a Steering Committee Member for NAMI Southern Maryland, and an avid mental health advocate.

She has over 20 years' experience in information technology and is currently an IT Systems Manager for the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC).

In addition, she is the owner of a non-profit called LifeTeam Inc., which provides service, advocacy, support and awareness to target areas such as mental health.

Up for
Re-
Election

LINDA WEINBERG

BIOGRAPHY

Linda Weinberg provides practical advice to business and institutional clients on international trade law, including export controls, foreign assets control, and customs. She works regularly with the U.S. and foreign government agencies that regulate international trade to help clients realize their distinct objectives surrounding their global commerce initiatives.

Co-chair of Barnes & Thornburg's international Trade Practice Group, Linda advises and represents clients on commodity jurisdiction, export classification, licensing, technical assistance agreements, and enforcement related to defense articles and dual-use items, encryption software and technical data and services. Her experience extends to a range of industries, including aerospace, satellite, nuclear, electronics, defense, security and software, among others. She has represented clients in export control matters elevated to the inter-agency Operating Committee and the Advisory Committee on Export Policy.

Linda is a member of the core team assisting the Special Compliance Coordinator appointed by the U.S. Department of Commerce to monitor, assess, and report on the U.S. export control compliance of Zhongxing Telecommunications Ltd. of Hi-New Shenzhen, China (collectively, ZTE).

In addition, Linda provides clients with counseling, licensing services and enforcement representation with respect to U.S. economic sanctions, related USA PATRIOT Act issues, anti-boycott regulation and CFIUS. Notably, she assists research and development companies and universities in complying with U.S. export control laws, particularly with respect to technology transfers to foreign national researchers and students.

Linda's practice also encompasses U.S. Customs regulations on imports, including free trade agreements, country-of-origin marketing, valuation, classification, security, transportation issues, domestic preferences and enforcement of intellectual property rights. She resolves complex free trade agreement verifications, seizures, voluntary disclosures, and penalties. Linda has successfully pursued binding rulings, regulatory changes, protests, petitions, and litigation. She also assists clients with tariff matters under Section 301 and Section 232, as well as enforcement of exclusion orders issued by the International Trade Commission under Section 337.

Linda works diligently with her clients to minimize legal spend and maximize efficiency by designing internal international trade systems that make sense to her client's business model. She is most appreciated for her clear answers to complicated and difficult questions. A collaborator by nature, Linda strives to serve as the ultimate team player when it comes to designing solutions that work for her client's specific company, industry, and operations.

Linda takes time to educate her clients and the greater community on the complex and relevant issues that impact international trade today. She teaches basic and advanced level courses across the country on compliance with U.S. export control laws and regulations, including the International Traffic and Arms Regulations (ITAR), the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), and U.S. sanctions and embargoes.