

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **The Honorable Hilda L. Solis**

The Honorable Hilda L. Solis was confirmed as Secretary of Labor on February 24, 2009. As Secretary, she has worked to implement the provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) (P.L. 111-5) that will protect workers who have lost their jobs, provide new training opportunities for workers looking to upgrade their job skills, and create new job opportunities in emerging sectors, such as clean energy and health IT.

Prior to her confirmation, Secretary Solis represented the 32nd Congressional District of California, a position she held from 2001 until 2009. As a Member of Congress, her priorities included expanding access to affordable health care, protecting the environment, and improving the lives of working families. A recognized leader on clean energy jobs, she authored the Green Jobs Act, which provided funding for “green” collar job training for veterans, displaced workers, at-risk youth, and individuals in families under 200 percent of the federal poverty line. She also served as the Democratic Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues during the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Secretary Solis served in the California State Assembly from 1992 to 1994, and in 1994 made history by becoming the first Latina elected to the California State Senate. As the Chair of the California Senate Industrial Relations Committee, she led the battle to increase the state's minimum wage from \$4.25 to \$5.75 an hour in 1996. She also authored a record seventeen state laws aimed at combating domestic violence.

Secretary Solis obtained her bachelor’s degree from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.

### **Ellen Galinsky**

Ellen Galinsky is President and Co-Founder of the Families and Work Institute (FWI). At the Institute, Ms. Galinsky co-directs the *National Study of the Changing Workforce*, the most comprehensive, nationally representative study of the U.S. workforce – originally conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor in the 1977 and updated every five years.

She also co-directs *When Work Works*, a project on workplace flexibility and effectiveness funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation that has produced a series of research papers and has launched the Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility, and conducts the *National Study of Employers*, a nationally representative study that has tracked trends in employment benefits, policies, and practices since 1998. Ms. Galinsky also directs *The Supporting Work Project*, a Ford Foundation project that funds communities across the country to connect lower- and mid-wage employees to publicly funded work support through their employers. Before co-founding FWI, Ms. Galinsky was on the faculty of Bank Street College of Education for 25 years, where she helped establish the field of work and family life.

She earned her bachelor’s degree in child study from Vassar College and her master’s of science degree in child development/education from Bank Street College of Education.

**Donna M. Klein**

Donna Klein is the President and Founder of Corporate Voices for Working Families, the leading national business membership organization representing the private sector voice in the dialogue on public policy to improve the lives of America's working families. As a nonpartisan 501(c)3 organization, Corporate Voices facilitates research to advance policy changes in government and business on worker flexibility, family economic stability, early childhood education and after-school care, youth transitions, and the future of the mature workforce.

Prior to joining Corporate Voices, Ms. Klein was Vice President of Workplace Effectiveness at Marriott International, Inc., Washington, DC, for 20 years, where she guided the strategic formation, implementation, and management of corporate-wide diversity and work-life initiatives, including initiating Marriott's award-winning Women's Leadership Initiative. She also has served as Chair of The Conference Board's WorkLife Leadership Council, and as a member of the Conference Board's Diversity Council. She most recently served on the faculty of the Salzburg Global Seminar on Women in Business and Politics.

Ms. Klein received her bachelor's degree in psychology and business administration from the University of Akron.