

Denise M. Berger, FAIA
Chief of Operations/Engineering Department
The Port Authority of NY & NJ

With a career that spans over 30 years, Denise M. Berger oversees the day-to-day activities of the Engineering Department which is comprised of 570 staff members and a professional services budget of \$1.3 billion. She ensures that Design and Construction Management are aligned to deliver the Agency's \$32.2 billion ten-year Capital Plan and oversees the Department's Program Management, Project Controls, Project Scheduling, Construction Cost Estimating, Technology, Strategic Planning, and the Department's Financial Services. Through her long-term vision, she shaped the culture of the Agency by promoting excellence in transportation planning, design, construction and elevated environmental stewardship and resiliency. Berger has led many large scale capital projects across all business departments including Aviation, Tunnels Bridges & Terminals, Port Authority Trans-Hudson (PATH), Ports and the World Trade Center. After 9/11, she handled significant sensitive projects related to the World Trade Center Master Plan. She is also credited with leading the department's initial response to the Super Storm Sandy recovery efforts. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Denise has dedicated time to inspiring high school students to pursue careers in design and construction. She serves on the executive Board of Directors of ACE (Architecture, Construction and Engineering) Mentor Program of Greater New York, WTS International and Professional Women in Construction. In 2016, Berger founded the Port Authority Women's Council, whose mission is to empower women to advance in leadership roles.

Kathyann Cowles, AIA, NCARB, AAA
Architectural Principal
KC Architects, LLC

Kathyann Cowles has over 35 years of experience as an Architect for diverse and complex design and construction projects focusing on Academic, Science and Technology environments. She studied at Boston College and received her Architectural degree from Pratt Institute. Cowles began her architectural career in Boston, working with several high-profile Architects, establishing her own firm, KC Architects in Boston, in 1985. Returning to Connecticut, she worked at the SLAM Collaborative for many years before launching a partnership with ID3A, an interior design and Architectural firm, in 2011. In 2018, Kathy again established KC Architects, LLC, Connecticut, where she continues to maintain her trusted clients and architectural projects and has expanded services to include Alternative Dispute Resolution services as an architect, and Panel Member of the American Arbitration Association. She is a member of several industry organizations including the American Institute of Architects, Professional Women in Construction, and The Construction Institute where she is currently co-chair of the Board of Advisors, as well as community organizations including the Glastonbury Youth Football Association, Fox Memorial Clinic and CT Humane Society Boards of Directors. Cowles was awarded the 2018 Construction Institute "Distinguished Achievement Award" for contributions to the advancement of the regions design, construction and facilities communities, was a recipient of a 2018 "Higginbotham Fellowship" to study Dispute Resolution. She is the Co-editor/ author of "The Future of the Design and Construction Industry" and is currently working with the Construction Institute on a publication on Protocols for Communication in the AEC industry.

Carolina Cudemus-Jones
Director of Design and Construction Management
University of Massachusetts – Amherst

Mireya "Carolina" Cudemus-Jones is the Director for Design and Construction Management for the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Cudemus-Jones has over 20 years of experience in complex private and public commercial construction projects including healthcare, higher education and K-12 schools. Prior to joining UMass – Amherst, she served as a Pre-Construction Executive with Gilbane Building Company. Her responsibilities included her assignment as Deputy Director of a \$1.7 billion School Reconstruction Program and Pre-construction Manager for the University of Connecticut as well as direct on-site construction management. Cudemus-Jones holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master's in Business Administration. She is also a certified Design Build Institute of America Associate, a 2016 American Arbitration Association Higginbotham Fellow, and was recognized by the Connecticut Association of General Contractors as the 2016 Project Manager of the Year. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Construction Institute, and is actively involved with the Connecticut Professional Women in Construction.

Laura A. Cruickshank, FAIA
Associate Vice President, Master Planner & Chief Architect
University of Connecticut

Laura Cruickshank, FAIA, the University of Connecticut's Master Planner and Chief Architect and Associate Vice President for University Planning, Design & Construction, is responsible for the immediate and long-range planning, design and construction of UConn's \$2B Capital Plan for Storrs, the Regional Campuses and Law School. Prior to UConn, Laura Cruickshank was the Yale University Planner and directed planning and design on the Yale central campus; and led Yale planning, design and construction for the Yale-NUS College in Singapore. Prior to Yale, she was in private practice for over twenty years. Cruickshank received a Bachelor of Arts from Mount Holyoke College and Master of Architecture from the University of New Mexico School of Architecture & Planning. She holds architectural registration in Connecticut and is an elected member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, the Society for College and University Planning, the Association of University Architects and the National Organization of Minority Architects.

Jenny Drescher
Founding Partner
The Bolder Company

Jenny Drescher is an invigorating speaker and coach with a bold, funny style. An accomplished performance Improviser, instructional designer, and candid-yet-kind facilitator, she draws out courage and playfulness in her audiences and students. She delights in guiding people to break free of patterns that hold them back and liberate the powerful leader within. Drescher has 10+ years of coaching and training experience in workplaces, service agencies, and schools. A certified coach since 2007, Jenny's corporate work background includes inside and outside sales, customer service and account management.

Patricia Filippone
Executive Director
University of Massachusetts Building Authority

Patricia Filippone has been Executive Director of the University of Massachusetts Building Authority (UMBA) since February 2014. As Executive Director, Filippone oversees an ambitious \$3.1 billion growth plan that includes the building and renovation of academic and research buildings, dormitories, and athletic facilities on all five UMass campuses. The UMass Building Authority is currently managing more than 40 construction projects that will significantly improve teaching, learning and student life at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Boston, Dartmouth, Lowell, and Worcester. Filippone joined UMBA in 2012 as Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. As CFO, she managed all aspects of finance, including controller, treasury, risk management, business systems, and capital planning. Prior to joining UMBA, she served in various positions at The Broad Institute, including Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Treasurer, Senior Financial Officer and Controller. Previously, she was Director of Allston Finance at Harvard University and 12 years at the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority. Filippone is a member of the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants, the Treasurer's Club of Boston, Financial Executives International, Boston Women in Public Finance and Babson College BASE.

Anna Greenwald
CEO
On the Goga

Anna Greenwald is a mindfulness coach, speaker, writer, registered yoga teacher, and CEO of On the Goga, a Philadelphia-based corporate wellness company committed to a simple, guiding principle: Happy People Do Great Things. Through her work she serves companies of every size, creating culture-driven wellness programs that enhance personal and organizational success. Greenwald believes that successful teams are made of thriving individuals, and that companies that nurture personal development gain a unique advantage in the competitive landscape. She has worked with individuals and teams including Johnson & Johnson, PwC, The Philadelphia Eagles, L'Oreal, Urban Outfitters, Jet.com, and more. Greenwald has been featured as a writer and mindfulness expert in the Association for Talent Development Magazine and Philadelphia Magazine. Her public speaking engagements include work with HR Today Radio, Women to Watch Radio, EmployeeCycle Podcast, DisruptHR Philadelphia, and the Healthy Philly Speaker Series.

Kevin Grigg, PE
President and Chief Executive Officer
Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.

When Kevin Grigg joined Fuss & O'Neill as Chief Operating Officer in 2012, he brought with him a fresh perspective on how to manage the company. He had many years of experience running regional operations of national and multinational firms, and while he liked this kind of work, he wanted to be involved in a firm where he could really get to know people and have a positive impact on the company as a whole. Grigg was named President and CEO on July 1, 2018. Over the past few years, Grigg has worked closely with senior leaders, project managers, and corporate services to help ensure healthy and sustainable profitability and cash-flow. Taking a closer look at the way Fuss & O'Neill historically operated, he has been integral in improving management practices, setting goals, and developing processes that will allow the company to meet those goals. He is also reconfiguring Fuss & O'Neill's business development program to help the company position itself more effectively externally, understanding that building client relationships is essential to long term success. Grigg's favorite part of his job is when he is able to walk around to say hello to employees. He genuinely enjoys getting to know our staff and clients as he works to make a great firm even better.

Nancy Hagstrom
CEO

Interscape Commercial Environments

Before establishing her first Teknion furniture dealership in Vermont in 1989, Nancy Hagstrom was a mother, an English teacher, horse trainer, equitation coach, director of a therapeutic riding program and 4-H leader. "My exposure to the adult world before entering the business world was limited to participation on several non-profit boards, fund raising and social interaction. My day to day world was filled with the joyous honesty of children and the beauty of horses and Golden Retrievers." Her leap into the business world was focused on establishing a dealership that provided design services and furnishings for business, healthcare, and education markets in the southern Vermont and New Hampshire territory. As a small business owner she filled many roles; manager, furniture specialist, designer, project manager and sales representative. Under Hagstrom's leadership the business grew to include earning the business and respect from Fortune 100 and 500 accounts such as Entergy and Procter & Gamble. In 2006 she expanded on her entrepreneurial spirit and opened a second dealership in downtown Hartford, CT in partnership with her son, Josh. Interscape Commercial Environments has continued to grow and now operates out of an expanded showroom in Farmington, CT. "The foundation of our business has always been values first. Interscape has an amazing team of talented people whose values align with ours. Our success is a result of that foundation, serious attention to customer service, and quality products."

Frank Hayes

Chief Operating Officer/Building Division President
BOND Brothers, Inc.

As Chief Operating Officer and Building Division President, Frank is responsible for driving profitable growth and enabling operational excellence for BOND. With over 25 years of construction experience, he brings strong leadership and management expertise in planning, preconstruction and project delivery. He has led numerous corporate initiatives, including the development of people strategies, plans for continued regional expansion, best-in-class project delivery, and state-of-the-art technology platforms. Prior to working with BOND, Frank held leadership positions in both construction and institutional settings and formerly served as the Chief of Operations for Harvard Business School. He has served on many industry committees including the Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Massachusetts, Associated General Contractors (AGC), Department of Community & Housing Development, Fenway Alliance, Rebuilding Together Boston and Society of College and University Planning.

Karrie Kratz

Vice President

Gilbane Building Company

Karrie Kratz is a Vice President of Gilbane Building Company, and is currently the Operations Manager of Gilbane's Connecticut office. Karrie leads Gilbane's field operations, which are comprised of a diverse portfolio of complex projects including one of the state's largest projects, Renovation of 165 Capital Ave., several K-12 projects such as Greenwich New Lebanon Elementary School and West Haven High School, Fairfield University, and Danbury Hospital. A 19 year veteran of the Construction Management industry, she has held the positions of Accounting Clerk, Project Accountant, Project Engineer, Manager of Engineering, Regional Quality Manager, Project Manager and Senior Project Manager and Operations Manager over the course of her career. Kratz is a 2007 graduate of New England Institute of Technology, B.S. Architectural Building Engineering Technology. A 2010 recipient of the PWC – Woman on the Rise Award and AGC's 2013 Project Manager of the Year, 2016 Hartford Business Journal 40 under 40 honoree and an ENR Top Young Professional, Karrie has dedicated her career to building collaborative teams and providing exceptional client satisfaction on all of Gilbane's Connecticut projects. In addition to participating in several industry organizations and mentoring youth interested in the construction industry, she is also an active member of the Girl Scouts of Connecticut and a meal site team leader for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantry.

Julia McFadden

Associate Principal
Svigals + Partners

Julia McFadden is an Associate Principal with Svigals + Partners - a New Haven, Connecticut architecture and planning firm known for its imaginative integration of design, sculpture, and artwork. Following an undergraduate degree in Theatre Arts and a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Minnesota, McFadden pursued post-graduate work at the Institute for Public Art + Design at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design to expand upon her interest in creating meaningful places through designs encompassing art, landscape, and structures. Prior to joining Svigals in 2008, she worked for ten years in residential design, five years with her own residential firm. This work honed her design thinking around the immediacy and intimacy of our living spaces, strengthened by two years of study with the Wind & Water School of Feng Shui, becoming a certified practitioner in 2010. Through her project experience, McFadden has developed particular expertise in facilitating and leading user and community programming workshops. She recently facilitated a design process with a group of New Haven mothers to create a Memorial Garden for Victims of Gun Violence.

Jane Milas
Managing Director
Garcia & Milas, P.C.

Jane Milas is the Managing Director of Garcia & Milas, P.C. Her construction law practice includes public and private vertical construction projects as well as heavy and highway projects. She regularly appears in State and federal courts, and before administrative tribunals and arbitration panels. Milas has held a number of leadership positions in local and state bar associations, including President of the New Haven County Bar Association and Chairman of the Construction Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association. She has been honored as a Charter Fellow of the Construction Lawyers Society of America as well as being named a New England Super Lawyer for various years, including top 50 Women (New England 2010) in the area of Construction Litigation (selection criteria found at www.superlawyers.com). Milas recently was chosen as a 2019 recipient of the Honorable Anthony V. DeMayo Pro Bono Award for her work with the CT Veterans Legal Center. She is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College, Northwestern University, and the University of Connecticut School of Law.

Luiza Mills
Vice President of Human Resources
Interstate Electrical Services

Luiza Mills's education, energy, passion for excellence and ability to focus on the details while never losing sight of the broader picture are assets that help Interstate and its employees achieve continued success. Human Resources provides consistent and fair, quality internal customer service to all Interstate employees. Mills is one of the key leaders at Interstate driving the company's lean and prefabrication initiatives. She is responsible for the policies and programs that affect employees, their families and their day-to-day work experience. Specific responsibilities include recruitment and orientation, benefits administration, compensation, disability compensation services, employee/labor relations, employee career planning and organizational development, training, mentoring, affirmative action and diversity programs. She is a member of the New England Employee Benefit Council (NEEBC), Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM), American Payroll Association (APA), ABC Human Resource Committee, and the ABC Apprentice Oversight Committee.

Jessica M. Nicklin, PhD
Associate Vice President for Student Success, Associate Professor, Psychology
University of Hartford

Jessica Nicklin earned a BA in psychology (2004) and a PhD in Industrial-Organizational Psychology (2009) from the University at Albany. Her consulting roles include a Test Developer Associate for American College Testing (ACT), a Personnel Research Psychologist for the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), and a Market Research Analyst for IBM. Nicklin joined the University of Hartford Department of Psychology faculty in 2009 and has served as the Undergraduate Director (2012-2015), Director of the Online Masters Program in Organizational Psychology (2014-2018), and Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences (2015-2018). Currently, Jessica is the Associate Vice President for Student Success. She maintains an active research program, focusing on organizational justice, workplace motivation, and work-life balance. She has published 25 journal articles and book chapters, an edited book on Work-Life Balance in the 21st Century, and has given over 50 presentations.

Ellen Ornato
Founding Partner
The Bolder Company

Ellen Feldman Ornato is a dynamic facilitator with a warm, engaging style. She loves to see people evolve into who they're meant to be through self-discovery and to see team members develop excellent communication practices and connect more deeply, building strong foundations of trust and respect. Ornato's diverse work background includes stints as a city planner, an economic development official, and a marketing director in a large retail chain. Prior to launching The Bolder Company, she owned a learning company and a marketing & public relations agency. She is certified in MBTI (Myers Briggs), Unconscious Bias, and DISC. Ornato holds an MA in Urban Planning and BA in Sociology/Spanish.

Anna H. Rappaport
Executive Coach
Excelleration, LLC

Anna Rappaport, J.D., PCC, is a former lawyer and the founder of [Excelleration Coaching](#). She has been coaching for 19 years and helps executives and lawyers with leadership, business development and career strategy. She is Co-Chair of the American Bar Association's (ABA) Lawyer Leadership and Management Committee and on the Leadership Council of the ABA Dispute Resolution Section. Rappaport publishes in *Law Practice Today* and *The National Law Review*, and speaks around the country on various career and business development topics. She has extensive international experience having worked in Japan, Thailand and most recently, Turkey. Rappaport has also worked for the Federal Government in the area of export controls, served as a consultant on US policy, and taught snowboarding. She received a J.D. from The George Washington University Law School and a B.A. in Political Science from Tufts University.

Genevieve Rigler
Undergraduate Student and Researcher
University of Connecticut

Genevieve Rigler is a graduating senior from the University of Connecticut. In fall 2018, she enrolled in the Professional Women in Construction Mentor Program as a mentee, where she was paired with Carolina Cudemus, Director of Design and Construction at the University of Massachusetts. Their discussions proved pivotal to her future choices of leadership. Around the same time, Genevieve attended the Women Who Build Summit in 2018 for the first time and was encouraged to inspire excellence and community with her colleagues. She then assumed the role as President of the UConn Chapter of Chi Epsilon, the National Civil Engineering Honor Society where she coordinated Fundamentals of Engineering review sessions, the inaugural Ice Cream Reception for all UConn civil and environmental engineering students, alumni, and faculty and began an undergraduate mentorship program. It is important to her that students beginning their engineering career have the resource to continue in the field. She will begin her Master's in Environmental Engineering in the spring of 2020, working on a PIRE Food and Water Security Project located in the Blue Nile Basin, Ethiopia.

Debra K Rubin
Editor-at-Large/Management, Business and Workforce
Engineering News-Record Magazine

Debra K. Rubin is Editor-at-Large/Management, Business and Workforce for Engineering News-Record magazine. She covers business and management news, issues and trends related to global engineering, architecture, construction and related firms, as well as overall industry trends in regulation, risk and compliance, workforce development, education, and other key areas in the U.S. and abroad. Rubin launched ENR's Top 200 Environmental Firms ranking, which tracks the \$53-billion global environmental services sector, and is editor of ENR WorkforceToday, a monthly e-newsletter. Rubin has covered the industry for more than two decades and is the recipient of numerous industry and professional awards for her editorial efforts. She is a key organizer of ENR's annual Groundbreaking Women in Construction conference, which has become a much-anticipated forum for issues in industry talent management and success for women in construction at all levels and all sectors. Rubin is a former public affairs officer for the U.S. Dept. of Labor and a former reporter for The Record newspaper in Hackensack, NJ.

Catherine E. Shanks
Conflict Resolution Professional

Catherine Shanks is a conflict management professional with over twenty-five years of experience in the industry. She worked for the American Arbitration Association for more than two decades, providing case management services, operations and business development leadership as well as extensive staff, neutral and customer education. Shanks is a past chair of the American Bar Association's Forum on Construction Law's Division 1: Litigation and Dispute Resolution. In addition, she has served as an adjunct instructor of ADR at Wentworth Institute of Technology. She is currently working on a writing and content development endeavor.