



AMERICAN BENEFITS  
COUNCIL

March 26, 2018  
NR 2018-08

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Council elects new Board of Directors leadership; appoints new members of health policy team

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Benefits Council is pleased to announce new leaders of its Board of Directors and expansion of the health policy team.

### New Board Leadership

Elected as chair of the Council's Board of Directors is **Jeff Mains**, assistant vice president, health plans at AT&T. "Jeff's election reflects the high esteem with which he is held by his colleagues on the board. He is a dedicated member and creative thinker. We are fortunate to benefit from his leadership," said Council president James Klein.

"The Council is a respected voice in Washington and delivers enormous value to its members. I am honored to assume the chair and confident we will continue to build on a 50 year tradition of excellence," said Mains. "This is a particularly important moment for employee benefits. In addition to significant public policy challenges and opportunities, the Council is devoting time and energy to understanding and helping to shape the role of employee benefits in the evolving workforce."

Also elected as Officers are:

- Vice Chair **Marianne McManus**, director, benefits services team, IBM Corporation
- Vice Chair **Tresia Franklin**, director, rewards and employee relations, Hallmark Cards, Inc.
- Treasurer **Cindy Donohoe**, vice president, benefits, BAE Systems
- Secretary **Cliff York**, head of pensions and benefits, BP America Inc.

**Allison Klausner**, vice president, counsel benefits, CBS Corporation, assumes the role of past chair.

Elected to the Executive Board of Directors are:

- **Peter Baxter**, senior vice president, insurance & financial services, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
- **David Blake**, senior tax counsel, ExxonMobil
- **Rick Jones**, senior partner, Aon
- **Margaret Raymond**, managing counsel, vice president, T. Rowe Price
- **Tracy Watts**, senior partner, national leader for U.S. health care reform, Mercer

They join executive board members: **Mark Azzarello** (International Paper), **Margery Brittain** (MetLife), **Alan Glickstein** (Willis Towers Watson), **Fred Thiele** (Microsoft) and **Justine Turpin** (United Parcel Service).

### Health Policy Team

“We are delighted to announce that **Ilyse Schuman** is our new **senior vice president, health policy**, succeeding Katy Spangler,” Klein said. Schuman now directs the development and advocacy of all health policy priorities.

“Ilyse comes to the Council with broad and deep experience in employee benefits and legislative affairs,” Klein said. “Her [extensive experience](#) includes senior positions on Capitol Hill and roles in the corporate, trade association and legal arena.” Schuman was most recently partner and co-chair of the Workplace Policy Institute at Littler Mendelson, P.C.

“In the various capacities that I have served in Washington D.C., I always appreciated the Council’s reputation for thoughtful, nonpartisan advocacy on behalf of employer sponsors of benefit plans. I look forward to continuing that tradition as I work on behalf of the Council’s members who represent preeminent leaders in providing employee benefits,” Schuman said.

Klein added, “I am pleased that **Katy Spangler**, who recently launched Spangler Strategies LLC, will continue working closely with the Council as senior advisor to advance initiatives supporting innovative health benefit purchasing strategies and our other legislative efforts. Joined by **Kathryn Wilber**, senior counsel, health policy, our health team is respected and effective as policy advocates for employer sponsors.”

For more information on the Council’s staff or leadership, or to arrange an interview with Council President James Klein, please contact Jason Hammersla, vice president, communications, at [jhammersla@abcstaff.org](mailto:jhammersla@abcstaff.org) or by phone at (202) 289-6700 (office) or (202) 422-4652 (cell).

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*The American Benefits Council is the national trade association for companies concerned about federal legislation and regulations affecting all aspects of the employee benefits system. The Council’s members represent the entire spectrum of the private employee benefits community and either sponsor directly or administer retirement and health plans covering more than 100 million Americans.*