



## ON YOUR BEHALF

**On Your Behalf: NYCPA at the Annual SOMOS Legislative Conference:** Legislative Task Force member **Michael Durant**, PAC member **A’Isha Torrence**, former Board Member **Ramona Cedeño**, and Government Relations Manager Jovan C. Richards attended the 2024 SOMOS Legislative Conference hosted by SOMOS, Inc., which is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that unites the Latino and other key vulnerable communities to advocate for and elevate social consciousness on public policy in collaboration with the New York State Assembly/Senate Puerto Rican & Hispanic Task Force.

This conference has been called the unofficial start of the new legislative session. During the event, our team was able to discuss our legislative priorities with **Governor Kathy Hochul**, **Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins**, **Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie**, **Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli**, **New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams**; **Sens. Michael Gianaris (Deputy Senate Majority Leader)**, **James Saunders, Jr.**, **Leroy Comrie**, **Andrew Gounardes**, **Cordell Cleare**, **Robert Jackson**, **Luis Sepúlveda**, **Gustavo Rivera**, **Nathalia Fernandez**, **Kristen Gonzalaz**, **Jamaal T. Bailey**, **Jessica Ramos**, **Kevin S. Parker**, **Shelley Mayer**, **Brad Hoylman-Sigal**, **Sean Ryan**, **Jose Serrano**, **Jeremy Cooney**, and **Zellnor Myrie**.

Additionally, we also had an opportunity to engage with **Assembly members Khaleel M. Anderson**, **Landon C. Dais**, **Chris Burdick**, **Dana Levenberg**, **Latrice M. Walker**, **Amy Paulin**, **Kimberly Jean-Pierre**, **Harvey Epstein**, **Michaelle C. Solages**, **Jessica Gonzalaz-Rojas**, **Tony Simone**, **Edward Gibbs**, **Chantell Jackson**, **Amanda Septimo**, **John Zaccaro, Jr.**, **Jo Anne Simon**, **Alex Bores**, **Simcha Eichenstein**, **Brian Cunningham**, **Catalina Cruz**, **Clyde Vanal**, **Grace Lee**, **Karines Reyes (Puerto Rico & Hispanic Legislators Task Force)**, **Rodneyse Bichotte-Hermelyn**, **Jenifer Rajkumar**, **Yudelka Tapia**, and incoming freshman **Jordan Wright**.

Further conversation included **Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark**, **Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalaz**, **NYC Councilmembers Farrah Louis** and **Gale Brewer**, **Mayors Yadira Ramos-Hurbert** and **Omayra Andino**, numerous educational institutions, and the NYS Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Conversations ranged from financial literacy to how CPAs can work with the local, county, and state governments for the public's best interests.



NYCPA Members A'Isha Torrence, Michael Durant and Ramona Cedeno with Bronx District Attorney Darcel Clark (D-Bronx)

NYCPA Government Relations Manager Jovan C. Richards with Deputy Senate Majority Leader Mike Gianaris (D-Queens)



NYCPA Members A'Isha Torrence and Michael Durant with State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal (D-Manhattan)

## HOW IT WORKS

**How Does the Presidential Cabinet Work:** The Cabinet is an advisory body made up of the heads of the 15 executive departments. Appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate, the members of the Cabinet are often the president's closest confidants. In addition to managing major federal agencies, they play an important role in the presidential line of succession—after the vice president, speaker of the House, and Senate president pro tempore, the line of succession continues with Cabinet offices in the order in which the departments were created.

All Cabinet members take the title "Secretary," except for the head of the Justice Department, who is styled "Attorney General." The executive departments include Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, Treasury, and Veteran Affairs.

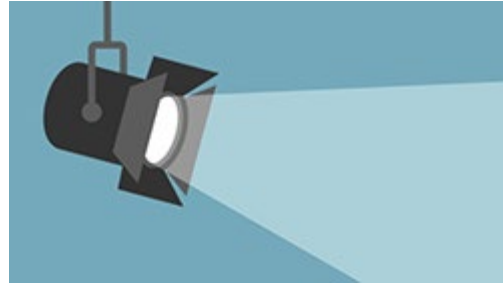
In addition to the department heads, the Cabinet also includes the vice president, the U.S. trade representative; the directors of the Central Intelligence Agency, National Intelligence, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Small Business Administration; the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, the chair of the Council of Economic Advisers; and the White House chief of staff.

While there is no right or wrong way to nominate Cabinet members, recently, Cabinet positions have gone to individuals who helped "bankroll" presidential campaigns. Historically, however, such high positions have gone to individuals with keen insight into the respective government agency. After each Cabinet member is selected, the Senate will hold hearings, essentially serving as an interview. Once the Senate confirms the Cabinet member, they assume full responsibility for their appointed office. [Keep track on President-elect Trump's Cabinet picks.](#)

### Power of Attorney E-Signature Expansion

**BACKGROUND:** Although New York state passed its historic e-signature bill, the NYCPA Government Relations Team is looking for an expansion that would allow documents to be signed electronically by someone holding Power of Attorney.

**UPDATE: A.182 (Magnarelli) / S.758 (Liu)** was first introduced in the 2023 legislative session, but it is expected to return to committee in the 2025 legislative session.



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### STATE AND FEDERAL UPDATES

Get the latest information from the following statewide officials and the federal government:

#### Governor Kathy Hochul:

- [Gov. Hochul Announces \\$22 Million is Now Available to Strengthen and Modernize New York's Electric Grid](#)
- [Gov. Hochul and Mayor Adams Provide Update on Statewide Drought](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Unveils Plans for Future of Transit and Traffic in New York City, Including a 40% Reduction in Congestion Pricing Tolls](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces Launch of Holiday Toy, Coat, and School Supply Drive to Benefit New Yorkers in Need](#)
- [Gov. Hochul Announces New York State Exceeds 30% Minority- and Women-Owned Business Utilization Goal for Fourth Straight Year](#)

#### Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli:

- [State Comptroller DiNapoli Releases Municipal & School Audits](#)
- [DiNapoli: State Needs to Improve Oversight of Child Care Grants](#)
- [DiNapoli: Local Sales Tax Collections Up 2.3% in October](#)
- [DiNapoli: State Pension Fund Valued at \\$274.6 Billion at End of Second Quarter](#)

#### Attorney General Letitia James:

- [AG James Reminds New Yorkers to be Cautious in Charitable Giving for Wildfire Recovery](#)
- [AG James and Acting DTF Commissioner Hiller Secure More Than \\$6 Million from Sotheby's Tax Fraud](#)
- [AG James Urges Veterans and Service Members to File Claims to Receive Refunds from Harris Jewelry Settlement](#)

#### The White House:

- [Statement from Pres. Joe Biden on a Record 20 Million New Business Applications](#)
- [Statement from National Economic Advisor Lael Brainard on the October 2024 Consumer Price Index](#)
- [The Biden-Harris Administration Marks the Anniversary of the Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity Leaders's Summit](#)

To keep you informed of the latest news:

- [Tax Interest Rates Set to Dip in the First Quarter of 2025](#), *The Trusted Professional*
- [After Trump's Win, Accounting Professionals Are in a 'Wait-and-See' Mode on IRS' Future](#), *The Trusted Professional*
- [FASB Solicits Comments on Financial Key Performance Indicators](#), *The Trusted Professional*
- [AICPA Write to Congress About Delaying BOI Reporting for at least a Year](#), *The Trusted Professional*
- [Intuit, H&R Block shares fall after report that Trump government efficiency team is considering tax-filing app](#), *CNBC*
- [Trump's cut to Biden's EV tax credit, backed by Musk, may impact auto industry, experts say](#), *Fox News*
- [New York's Embattled Tax on Remote Workers Faces Key Court Test](#), *Bloomberg Tax*
- [Power shift in Washington, D.C., creates uncertainty for New York state budget](#), *Spectrum 1 News*
- [Hochul eyes higher tax receipts to drive down N.Y.'s debt](#), *Spectrum 1 News*
- [Balance is crucial to state support for farmers, New York state comptroller says](#), *Spectrum 1 News*
- [Rallies held in New Jersey, Long Island for action to combat revived congestion pricing plan](#), *ABC 7 News*



## HAVE A LEG/REG ISSUE?

Your issues matter to us! The NYCPA's Government Relations Team wants to help you be heard in the halls of power. If you have a suggestion for our Legislative Agenda, if you are having trouble getting through red tape, or if you would like assistance reaching your local or state officials, please email Media & Government Relations Manager Jovan C. Richards at [jrichards@nysscpa.org](mailto:jrichards@nysscpa.org).



## THE CPA PAC AND THE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

The **CPA Political Action Committee (PAC)** is bipartisan and raises funds to amplify the NYCPA's collective voice in Albany. The NYCPA distributes PAC donations to New York political candidates who understand the profession's needs and concerns. When you [donate to the PAC](#), you help send a clear message to legislators that issues important to the profession affect the wider business community and the public interest—and that we will be heard.



The **Legislative Task Force (LTF)** is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of New York state laws, legislation, rules and regulations related to the accounting profession, in particular, and business, in general. In conjunction with the Society's legislative staff, the LTF proactively recommends to the NYCPA Board various amendments and changes to existing legislation and regulations on a continual basis.

The **AICPA's State Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Team** supports and advocates for state-level policymaking that promotes the profession while protecting the public interest in the United States. [Catch up on all the current news.](#)

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