

This memorandum is sent in response to your request for a list of all the “czars” in the Administration of Barack Obama and contact information for each of them. **Table 1**, below, lists the name, position, date the appointment was announced, and authority providing for the appointment (if available), for each individual. A blank in the authority column means that we were unable find a statute or executive order for the position. The positions listed are those which have been discussed in the news media or by the President as “czars,” and may refer to a use of that word to convey an intense focus on an issue of great interest to the public, rather than a White House coordinating role.

Table 1. Selected Appointments, Administration of President Barack Obama

Name	Position	Date Appointment Announced	Authority
<i>Appointed by President Obama</i>			
Herbert M. Allison, Jr.	Assistant Secretary for Financial Stability; Counselor to the Secretary of the Treasury	April 17, 2009	P.L. 110-343, October 3, 2008, 12 U.S.C. §5211
Dennis Blair	Director of National Intelligence	January 9, 2009; confirmed January 28, 2009	P.L. 108-458, December 17, 2004, 50 U.S.C. §403
John Brennan	Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism	January 9, 2009	
Carol M. Browner	Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change	December 15, 2008	Position mentioned in E.O.s 13499 and 13500, February 5, 2009
Adolfo Carrion	White House Director of Urban Affairs	February 19, 2009	E.O. 13503, February 19, 2009
Aneesh Chopra	Assistant to the President and Chief Technology Officer (Assistant Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy)	April 18, 2009; nomination submitted to Senate May 14, 2009; confirmed May 21, 2009	Position mentioned in E.O.s 13499 and 13500, February 5, 2009
Jeff S. Crowley	Director, Office of National AIDS Policy	February 26, 2009	Position mentioned in E.O. 12859, August 16, 1993
Nancy-Ann DeParle	Director, White House Office of Health Reform	March 2, 2009	E.O. 13507, April 8, 2009
Earl E. Devaney	Chair of the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board	February 23, 2009	Sec. 1522 of P.L. 111-5, February 17, 2009
Joshua DuBois	Director, White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships	February 5, 2009	E.O. 13498, February 5, 2009
Melissa E. Hathaway	Acting Senior Director for Cyberspace for the National Security and Homeland Security Councils	February 9, 2009 Note: Ms. Hathaway announced her resignation effective August 24, 2009	

Name	Position	Date Appointment Announced	Authority
John P. Holdren	Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy	December 20, 2008; confirmed March 19, 2009	P.L. 94-282, May 11, 1976, 42 U.S.C. §6612
Gil Kerlikowske	Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy	March 11, 2009; confirmed May 7, 2009	P.L. 100-690, November 18, 1988, 21 U.S.C. §1702(b)(1)
Vivek Kundra	Federal Chief Information Officer and Administrator, Office of Electronic Government, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)	March 5, 2009	P.L. 107-347, December 17, 2002, 44 U.S.C. §3602
Gary S. Samore	Policy coordinator on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction	Not officially announced	
Lawrence H. Summers	Director of the National Economic Council	November 24, 2008	E.O. 12835, January 25, 1993
Cass Sunstein	Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OMB	April 20, 2009; confirmation hearing conducted May 12, 2009; Senate vote scheduled for Sept. 2009	P.L. 96-511, December 11, 1980, 44 U.S.C. §3503(b)
Paul A. Volcker, Jr.	Director, President's Economic Recovery Board	November 28, 2008	E.O. 13501, February 6, 2009
Jeffrey D. Zients	Chief Performance Officer and Deputy Director for Management, OMB	April 18, 2009; nomination submitted to Senate May 12, 2009; confirmed June 19, 2009	Deputy Director for Management, OMB, P.L. 101-576, November 15, 1990, as amended, 31 U.S.C. §§502(c) and 503.
Appointed by Others			
Alan D. Bersin	Assistant Secretary for International Affairs and Special Representative for Border Affairs, Department of Homeland Security	April 15, 2009, announced by Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano	Office of International Affairs, P.L. 107-296, November 25, 2002, 6 U.S.C. §459; DHS reorganization, P.L. 107-296, November 25, 2002; 6 U.S.C. 452
Van Jones	Special Advisor for Green Jobs, Enterprise, and Innovation, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)	March 10, 2009, announced by CEQ Chair Nancy Sutley	CEQ established by P.L. 91-190, January 1, 1970, 42 U.S.C. §4342

Sources: Websites at [<http://change.gov>] and [<http://www.whitehouse.gov>]. See *Foreign Policy*, *The Cable* blog, "Gary Samore, WMD czar," January 23, 2009. See U.S. Executive Office of the President, Council on Environmental Quality, "Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality Announces Special Advisor for Green Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation," press release of March 10, 2009, for a statement of the duties for Van Jones.

Notes: For an analysis of the Chief Technology Officer, see CRS Report R40150, *A Federal Chief Technology Officer in the Obama Administration: Options and Issues for Consideration*, by John F. Sargent, Jr.; the cybersecurity initiative, see CRS Report R40427, *Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative: Legal Authorities and Policy Considerations*, by John Rollins and Anna C. Henning; the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy see CRS Report RL34736, *The President's Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP): Issues for Congress*, by Deborah D. Stine; the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget, see CRS Report RL32397, *Federal Rulemaking: The Role of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs*, by Curtis W. Copeland; and the White House Council on Environmental Quality, see CRS Report RL33152, *The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): Background and Implementation*, by Linda Luther.

Not included in the table are several foreign policy related positions that have also been referred to in the news media as “czars,” whether that term is appropriate or not. Those positions include:

- Ambassador Stephen W. Bosworth, announced February 20, 2009, by Secretary of State Clinton, Special Representative for North Korea Policy;
- Ambassador Daniel Fried, announced March 12, 2009, by Secretary of State Clinton, leading the team addressing the closure of Guantanamo Bay prison;
- Major General J. Scott Gration, announced March 18, 2009, by President Obama, U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan;
- Richard Holbrooke, announced January 22, 2009, by Secretary of State Clinton, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan;
- George Mitchell, announced January 22, 2009, by Secretary of State Clinton, Special Envoy for the Middle East;
- Dennis Ross, announced February 23, 2009, by Secretary of State Clinton, Special Advisor for the Persian Gulf and Southwest Asia; and
- Todd Stern, announced January 26, 2009, by Secretary of State Clinton, Special Envoy for Climate Change.

We also did not include the appointment of Steve Rattner, the so-called “car czar,” in the table. On February 23, 2009, President Obama announced the appointment of Mr. Rattner as Counselor to the Secretary of the Treasury, “where he will serve as an adviser on a variety of economic and financial matters, and will lead the Treasury’s efforts with regard to the automobile sector.”¹ Tim Geithner, the Secretary of the Treasury, and Lawrence Summers, the Director of the National Economic Council, convened the Presidential Task Force on the Auto Industry on February 20, 2009.² Several days earlier, on February 16, 2009, White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs responded to the question, “has the President moved away from the idea of a car czar and in favor of the broad team approach?” this way:

Well, the approach that the administration has settled on I think provides a vast amount of expertise that crosses a number of governmental agencies and departments, and brings in the vast amount of experience that the administration has to deal with the auto restructuring – any auto restructuring issues Again, I think the President feels like the task force is an idea that combines a lot of smart people and a lot of different governmental jurisdictions with a senior advisor who has some real experience in doing

¹ The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, “President Obama Announces Key Administration Posts,” February 23, 2009.

² The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, “Geithner, Summers Convene Official Designees to Presidential Task Force on the Auto Industry,” February 20, 2009 (attached).

some of this restructuring and representing both the concerns of investors and bond holders, but also the livelihoods of tens of thousands of auto workers in the Midwest who need to have a seat at the table, as well.³

Section 105 of Title 3 of the *United States Code* authorizes the President to appoint and fix the pay of employees in the White House Office “who shall perform such official duties as the President may prescribe.” With regard to employees at the highest pay grades, the President may appoint 25 employees at salaries that may not exceed Executive Schedule Level II (\$177,000, as of January 2009) and 25 employees at salaries that may not exceed Executive Schedule Level III (\$162,900, as of January 2009).

³ The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, “Gaggle With Obama Press Secretary Robert Gibbs Aboard Air Force One,” February 16, 2009 (attached).