

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS BIOGRAPHIES

- **Howard Siegel**, Chairman, Treasurer and CFO of the County of Sullivan IDA. Appointed to the IDA Board March 20, 2014, by the Sullivan County Legislature. Mr. Siegel is President and CEO of Irwin Siegel Agency, Inc. In addition, he serves his local and professional communities as a board member for a newly formed federally qualified health center (FQHC) operating in the Bronx, and as a board member of Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress. He is also a board member and past President of the Monticello Rotary Club, and he has served as President of the Rock Hill Business and Community Association, Inc., and as a past trustee of NYSARC Trusts. He has also served as an Advisory Board member of Reaching Up, Inc., and as a board member of the Town of Thompson Planning Board, the Partnership for Economic Development, and the Holiday Mountain Ski Commission.
- **Kathleen Lara**, Vice Chairperson of the County of Sullivan IDA. Appointed to the IDA Board on March 30, 2023. Ms. Lara is Deputy County Treasurer for the County of Sullivan, and Chair of the Town of Thompson Planning Board.
- **Philip Vallone**, Assistant Secretary of the County of Sullivan IDA. Mr. Vallone was appointed to the IDA Board on April 21, 2022.
- **Scott Smith**, Assistant Treasurer of the County of Sullivan IDA. Mr. Smith was appointed to the IDA Board on October 15, 2015. He is the Council Representative for the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. Mr. Smith was appointed Assistant Treasurer of the IDA on January 11, 2016.
- **Paul Guenther**, IDA Member. Mr. Guenther was appointed to the IDA Board on December 18, 2014. Former chairman of the New York Philharmonic and Fordham University boards, Mr. Guenther retired in 1995 as president of PaineWebber Group, and is currently a board member of Bethel Woods and SUNY Sullivan.
- **Sean Brooks**, IDA Member. Appointed to the IDA Board on March 18, 2021. Mr. Brooks is owner of Prestige Towing & Recovery, Inc.
- **Ira Steingart**, IDA Member. Appointed to the IDA Board on January 25, 2024. Mr. Steingart served as Sullivan County Legislator for District 8 for twelve years from 2012 through 2023. As a lifelong resident and dedicated business owner in Sullivan County, Ira is unwaveringly committed to driving economic development in his local community. In his role as Chairman of the County of Sullivan IDA from January 11, 2012, to March 21, 2021, Ira played a pivotal role in spearheading projects that significantly contributed to community progress. His leadership extended to chairing the board of the Sullivan County Funding Corporation from April 17, 2012, to March 26, 2021, and The Sullivan County Infrastructure Local Development Corporation from January 28, 2016, to March 26, 2021.
- **Joseph Perrello**, IDA Member. Appointed to the IDA Board on August 15, 2024. Mr. Perrello is the Sullivan County Legislator for District 7, serving as Vice-Chair of the Legislature and Chair of the Public Works Committee. He works at and co-operates Brother's II Auto Body and is co-owner of Fallsburg Service Center, Fallsburg Car Rental, and J & G Home Developers. Previously, he worked for many years as co-owner of Perrello Limousines before selling the company. Mr. Perrello also served as an IDA Board member from April 21, 2016 to March 1, 2021.
- **Edward T. Sykes**, IDA Member. Appointed to the Board July 24, 2025. Mr. Sykes is the Vice Chairman of the Board at Jeff Bank and the Chairman of Callicoon Cooperative Insurance Co. Board. He owned Mike Preis Inc. for 25 years, and is the former Chairman of Southern Tier Title Agency and former Town of Delaware Supervisor. Mr. Sykes is also a member and past President of the Callicoon Kiwanis Club, a retired member of the Callicoon Vol. Fire Dept. and

a founding member of the Callicoon Business Association. Mr. Sykes served on the County of Sullivan Industrial Development Agency Board of Directors from 1996 to 2016, 2017 to 2023, and July 2025 to present. Current term expires December 31, 2026.

## STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

- **Ira Steingart**, Chief Executive Officer, was appointed by the Board on January 8, 2024.
- **Jennifer M. Flad**, Executive Director, has worked for the IDA since June of 2013, and was appointed Executive Director of the Agency on January 9, 2017. She oversees the IDA office and staff, monitors and analyzes budget and financial information, coordinates Board meetings, assists the Board in the developing and implementing IDA policies, maintains relations with the IDA's economic development partners, government agencies, and the public, administers IDA grant, loan, and lease programs, and helps to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Prior to coming to the IDA, Jennifer worked for the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management, focusing on agricultural land use planning and economic development. Jennifer holds a BA in Peace, War and Defense from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and an MA in Social Science from the Environment and Community Program at Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA.
- **Julio Garaicoechea**, Project Manager. Mr. Garaicoechea provides the necessary administrative, budgeting and financial reporting support to enable the IDA to make responsible and prudent policy and programmatic decisions, and maintains strong working relationships with private stakeholders, elected officials, public agencies, community partner organizations and the business community. Julio holds a MA in Economics from Hunter College in New York City, focusing on the effects of microfinance.
- **Bethanii Padu**, Economic Development Coordinator. Ms. Padu assists with the administration of the IDA's tax abatement programs, loan and lease programs, and maintains relationships with the agency's Board, project representatives, and other stakeholders. Prior to joining the IDA in 2023, Ms. Padu was in commercial banking for three years. Bethanii holds a BA in Finance from Georgia State University.