Martin O'Malley

Commissioner, Social Security Administration

Martin O'Malley was nominated by President Biden to be Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. Following confirmation by the U.S. Senate, he was sworn into office on December 20, 2023 by Senator Ben Cardin.

Commissioner O'Malley is a lifelong public servant. He served as Governor of Maryland from 2007 to 2015, following two terms as Mayor of the City of Baltimore. Prior to being elected Mayor, O'Malley served as a member of the Baltimore City Council from 1991 to1999 and Assistant State's Attorney for the City of Baltimore before that.

Mr. O'Malley is a pioneer of using performance-management and customer service technologies in government. He has written extensively about how to govern for better results in the Information Age by measuring the outputs of government on a real-time basis.

As commissioner, Mr. O'Malley is responsible for administering the Social Security retirement, disability, and survivors insurance programs that pay over 1.4 trillion dollars annually in benefits to more than 66 million beneficiaries. He also oversees the Supplemental Security Income program that provides cash assistance to approximately 7.5 million people with limited income and resources. The agency has a workforce of about 61,000 employees and 1,500 facilities across the country and around the world.

Commissioner O'Malley graduated from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., in 1985, and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1988. He and his wife of over 30 years, Judge Katie Curran O'Malley, have four children, Grace, Tara, William, and Jack.

Kilolo Kijakazi, PhD, M.S.W.

Principal Senior Advisor to the Commissioner, Social Security Administration

Dr. Kilolo Kijakazi served as acting commissioner of Social Security for two and half years (from July 2021 through December 2023). She is now serving as principal senior advisor to Commissioner Martin O'Malley.

During her tenure as acting commissioner, she focused on major operational challenges facing the agency. These included reaching agreement with Social Security's labor unions to prepare for reentry and reopen over 1,200 offices across the country. She was asked to take office at a time when the agency was on track to hit its lowest staffing level in 25 years, while needing to serve an increasing number of beneficiaries and customers. Kilolo focused on rebuilding the workforce, including using limited funding from Congress to conduct a hiring surge. She focused Social Security on reducing administrative burdens for the public and advancing equity across its programs and services. To set the agency on a path of continued improvement, she established Social Security's first Office of Native American Partnerships and first Office of Transformation.

Prior to her appointment as acting commissioner, she joined the Biden-Harris Administration in January 2021 as deputy commissioner for Retirement and Disability Policy at Social Security. During her time as deputy commissioner, she was responsible for planning and managing the development of program policy, policy research and evaluation, and statistical methods to inform programs administered by Social Security. These programs include Retirement and Survivors Insurance, Disability Insurance, and Supplemental Security Income.

From 2014 to 2021, Kilolo served as an Institute Fellow at the Urban Institute where she: developed collaborative partnerships to expand and strengthen Urban's rigorous research agenda; effectively communicated findings to diverse audiences; and recruited and retained a diverse research staff at all levels. She also conducted research in the areas of economic security, structural racism, and the racial wealth gap. Prior to

that, she was a program officer for the Ford Foundation and funded research on the racial wealth gap through her portfolio—Building Economic Security Over a Lifetime.

Kilolo holds a BA from SUNY Binghamton, an MSW from Howard University, and a PhD in public policy from the George Washington University.

Renee Ferguson

Director, Office of Native American Partnerships, Social Security Administration

Renee Ferguson is currently the director for the Office of Native American Partnerships (ONAP) and serves as the Agency Tribal Consultation Official.

Renee has more than two decades of Social Security experience with eight years in the Executive Service. In this capacity, she served as: the former executive in the Dallas Region as the assistant regional commissioner; the deputy associate commissioner for Office of Quality Review; and the deputy director for ONAP in the Office of the Commissioner.

For the last eight years, Renee has worked alongside the prior Agency's Tribal Consultation Official Nancy Berryhill, who is nationally responsible for American Indian Alaskan Native Affairs. Here, she has been striving to identify and reduce barriers to public service.

She engages in outreach in tribal communities, provides national benefit webinars, hosts Tribal Consultations, and continues the development of the Tribal Benefit Coordinator Guide. This guide is published to educate third party support roles on Social Security programs and services.

On the weekends, Renee spends time with her family at Tenkiller State Park, known to Oklahoma's "Heaven in the Hills." Here, she boats on Lake Tenkiller, which is named after the Tenkillers, a prominent Cherokee family. Renee's family members are enrolled citizens of Cherokee Nation and live in the Cherokee Nation's boundaries in the 14 counties in Oklahoma.