



Lisa Martilotta

Executive Director, Akilah Institute for Women

Originally from New York, Lisa spent 10 years in Washington D.C. working for the U.S. Government and getting her Master's degree in international economic policy from American University. From 2003-2005, Lisa served as the executive assistant to the U.S. Trade Representative and Deputy Secretary of State. From 2006-2009, she worked in policy and economic development of Latin America and the Caribbean at the U.S. Departments of State and Commerce. In 2009 and 2010, she worked with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to develop policy, governance and technology frameworks for emergency responders. As her interest and passion for microenterprise and the empowerment of people grew, Lisa decided to narrow her career focus on economic development with regard to women and children in developing countries.

As Akilah's first Executive Director, Lisa is charged with institutionalizing the core policies and values of this higher learning institute and ensuring a successful transition to the new campus in Bugesera. Before taking on this new role, Lisa built a new English language service at Akilah for professionals in Kigali, which is called English To-Go. She also developed a 6-month basic culinary arts training program for vulnerable women in partnership with Women for Women International. In her spare time, Lisa volunteers at a children's home in Gitarama called the Urukundo (Love) Foundation, runs and plays tennis.



CONNIE BWIZA SEKAMANA

Position: Member of Parliament
Organization: Government of Rwanda
Country: [Rwanda](#)

Biography

Connie Bwiza Sekamana sits in the Chamber of Deputies in Rwanda's parliament, where she is a member of the standing Foreign Affairs Committee. She has a history of government service: following the 1994 genocide, she directed the Ministry of Rehabilitation's program for unaccompanied children. Under the Transitional National Assembly, she belonged to the standing Economic and Trade Committee. As part of the democratization and decentralization process, Ms. Sekamana was elected as a grassroots leader in Kiyovu, a cell of Kigali. She has headed administration and finance efforts for the UNDP projects on post-conflict reintegration and rehabilitation through the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Lands, Human Resettlement, and Environmental Protection. Ms. Sekamana belongs to several women's organizations, including the Vienna-based Women Without Borders. She continues to attend conferences in post-conflict countries on conflict resolution, transitional justice, and peace negotiations. Ms. Sekamana holds a diploma in business administration. (06.2009)



Read more about this Network member:

[The Impact of Women on Policy Formulation](#)

By Eleneus Akanga, *New Times*

February 4, 2007

Related Themes

[Transitional Justice](#)



Christine E. Silverberg
Wolch de Wit Silverberg & Watts
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Christine Silverberg is an accomplished chief executive and lawyer whose career in policing and public safety spanned 30 years in both Eastern and Western Canada. She retired in the fall of 2000 after a five-year term as Chief of the Calgary Police Service, in the third largest city of Canada and has been pursuing a career as a lawyer ever since. Named in 2008 as a Partner at the Canadian national law firm, Gowlings, Ms. Silverberg now practices in association with independent legal practitioners at *Wolch, deWit,*

Silverberg and Watts.

Ms. Silverberg holds an M.A. (Criminology) from the University of Toronto, an LL.B. from the University of Calgary, Professional Accreditation in Public Relations (APR) and certifications from the Ontario and Canadian Police Colleges and the FBI's National Executive Institute. In addition, Ms. Silverberg is a graduate of the Queen's University School of Business Executive Program.

Ms. Silverberg has held numerous executive positions on Boards and Committees through her career and is a member of professional associations and organizations crossing both policing and legal practice. Currently, Christine is a member of the Canadian Bar Association, the Law Society of Alberta where she also serves on the Law Society's Audit Committee and Finance Committee, the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police and Major City Chiefs (U.S. and Canada alumnae). In 2010, Ms. Silverberg was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, Alberta, to hearing tribunals established under the *Health Professions Act* (Alberta) which oversees 30 self-governing health professions in Alberta.

Ms. Silverberg has received many awards for her community work and professional endeavors, including being named one of Alberta's most influential people, Police Chief of the Year, Canada's 100 Most Powerful Women and the YWCA's Woman of Distinction. Ms. Silverberg has been ceremoniously honored with an aboriginal name by the Peigan Nation, Alberta, named a Honourary Nigerian for her work in the Afro-Caribbean communities and counts among her distinctions an Ontario Medal for Police Bravery and the B'nai Brith Woman of Valour Award. Career highlights include invitation by the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil to advise and consult with Military Police regarding the implementation of community centered policing and the alignment of internal government systems, as part of the Canada-Brazil Project on institutional violence and subsequently invited by State of Rio Grande Do Sol and the National Forum of Ombudsman, Brazil, to advise and present on policing in democratic societies. Ms. Silverberg is widely recognized for accomplishments in diverse multi-cultural, multi-racial and aboriginal communities and has been a leader and advocate for women's rights throughout her career.

Brian Anderson is a reference librarian and assistant professor at the Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law's Taggart Law Library. He holds a J.D. and LL.M. in Democratic Governance and Rule of Law from Ohio Northern. From August 2010 to April 2011 Mr. Anderson served as a law clerk to the Hon. Aloysie Cyanzayire, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rwanda. Since his clerkship in Rwanda, and prior to his current position, Mr. Anderson has taught at the university and law school level, in courses related to governance and transition in Africa and the Middle East, and legal analysis.