#### Charles (Chuck) McDermott

Founding General Partner at RockPort Capital Partners



Chuck McDermott's professional life has encompassed careers in the arts, business, politics and finance. Since 1998 Chuck has served as a founding general partner at RockPort Capital Partners, one of the nation's earliest venture capital funds directed exclusively on the growth of emerging companies in clean energy, sustainability, efficiency and related "cleantech" industries. A partial list of RockPort's activities include investments in solar and wind energy, energy efficiency, LED lighting, green building design, agricultural efficiency,

smart grid design, energy storage and electric vehicle technologies.

Prior to RockPort, Chuck served for 8 years as the Vice President of Government Affairs for Waste Management Industries, the world's leading environmental services company, where Chuck directed the company's advocacy with the White House, the Congress and the relevant regulatory agencies. During that time, Chuck played a leadership role in the drafting of the Environmental Justice Act which was sponsored at its introduction in 1992 by Cong. John Lewis in the US House of Representatives and Sen. Al Gore in the Senate.

Chuck's road to Washington began with his role as Campaign Director for the 1986 congressional bid of Joseph P. Kennedy II. Upon the successful conclusion of that campaign, Chuck assumed the role of Cong. Kennedy's Chief of Staff, holding that position for the Congressman's first two terms.

Prior to that 1986 congressional campaign, Chuck served as Director of Business Development at Citizens Energy Corporation in Boston, an enterprise founded by Joe Kennedy to provide free or low-cost heating supplies to disadvantaged energy consumers.

Chuck also wears the hat as a professional musician. Chuck pursued a full-time career for 14 years as a performer and songwriter and was inducted into the Massachusetts Country Music Hall of Fame in 2015. As his RockPort duties have slowed down, Chuck has returned to music, releasing 2 albums of original music in the last 4 years.

Chuck's volunteer and philanthropic activities during this time period include his long-standing Board involvement in Flax Trust America, Chairman of the Climate Change Subcommittee of the CEO Coalition to Advance Sustainable Technologies, Member of the Federal Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice, Chairman Emeritus of the Gridwise Alliance and Member of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies.

#### **New York Honoree Co-Chairs**

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Music Performances by Megan Mooney and Bethany Simpson Flax Trust Bursary Recipients

#### COMMUNITY REGENERATION PROJECTS. North Belfast



New Life for Brookfield Mill – Town Houses and Apartments. The old mill building will contain 55 apartments and an additional 22 town houses are being built on the site.

#### New "shared" Community / Education, **Health & Leisure Centre**



Flax Trust is working in collaboration with ABC Trust and Sports NI to develop this Community Regeneration project, providing health, leisure, education, training and sports facilities and an arts

# The Flax Trust Music Bursary Awards 2020 Finalists/Vocal The Harty Room, Queen's University, Belfast







Ellen Mawhinnev Soprano

The Flax Trust as a registered, charity, formed in Belfast in 1977, has as its mission the reduction and, if possible, the elimination of community tensions and religious prejudices by creative engagement in economic and social development, education and training with inter-community activities including culture, the Arts, sport, health, social programmes and personal development.

Tenor

### Flax Trust Scholarships and Apprenticeships 2020

First cohort of young people (23) from North Belfast to win Flax Trust Scholarships and Apprenticeships for third level education













































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Flax Trust/America c/o of Mutual of America 4th Floor, 320 Park Ave New York, NY 10022 Tel: 212 224 1208 marie@flaxtrust.com Charitable Organisation

We are very grateful to Mutual of America for this invaluable facility on Park Avenue



#### Gerald C. Crotty

President, Weichert Enterprise LLC



Gerald C. Crotty has extensive experience in private and public capital markets, international business, government and civic affairs and the law. He currently serves as the President of Weichert Enterprise LLC, a private equity concern with investments in power projects, buyouts in business, health and industrial services; software as a service: opportunistic real estate; and late-stage venture capital. Under his leadership, the firm's investment performance has created thousands of jobs,

contributed to economic growth and achieved top quartile rates of return for over a decade. For his efforts in promoting business ties with Ireland, The Ireland US Council presented Crotty with its Outstanding Achievement Award in 2014, the same year it honored An Taioseach Enda Kenny with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Previously, he held various executive positions with ITT Corporation, including President and Chief Operating Officer of ITT Consumer Financial Corporation and Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of ITT Information Services, which joint ventured with telephone companies around the world including in Ireland with the former Telecon Eireann. Crotty also led ITT back into South Africa post-Apartheid and led ITT's efforts in a successful precedent-setting contest before the European Union that created over \$2 billion in value for ITT shareholders. He was also a founding member of the US Trade and Investment Center in Brussels, Belgium. During his tenure at ITT, he was given the Heritage Award by the Franciscan Sisters of the Poor for his corporate leadership in philanthropy to underserved populations.

Prior to joining ITT, he served as Assistant Counsel and First Assistant Counsel to New York Governor Hugh L. Carey; then as Counsel and later as Secretary (chief of staff) to New York Governor Mario M. Cuomo, one of only two individuals to have served a Governor in both offices. The New York Citizen's Budget Commission awarded Crotty its highest medal for public service. Crotty is the only Secretary to the Governor of New York to receive the award. While Secretary to the Governor, he was appointed a Visiting Fellow of the European Union on nomination by the Republic of Ireland.

Mr. Crotty was associated with the firm of Hawkins, Delafield & Wood upon his graduation from New York Law School where he served as Notes and Comments Editor of the Law Review. Crotty was honored by New York Law School with its Ground breaker Award for fostering professionalism and integrity. He earned his bachelor's degree from Fordham University.

Mr. Crotty is a Vice Chair of the New York Law School Board of Trustees, a Trustee Fellow of Fordham University and serves on The Board of the Ireland – US Council. He serves on Limited Partner Advisory Committees associated with every Weichert Enterprise investment partner and has served on the boards of Rockland Capital Energy Investments, AXA Premier VIP Trust, The Jones Group Inc., and of several Weichert portfolio companies.

Mr. Crotty and his wife Lucy reside in New Vernon, New Jersey. They are the parents of six children and have fourteen grandchildren. All of Crotty's grandparents, Crottys and McMahons, hail from County Clare, Ireland.

The School for Social Enterprises in Ireland (SSEI) is devoted exclusively to leadership, management, business development programmes and events for the social economy sector.



The twenty-four 2020 Transform Social Enterprise Development Programme Cohort represent organisations which are currently operating as a social enterprise or have a desire to establish a social enterprise to help deliver products and services that meet social needs and increased economic benefit for individuals and communities. In most cases the primary focus of the organisations represented on the programme is to provide products and services that reach out to those who are marginalised or disadvantaged.

# Lisa Kardell

Director of Government and Public Affairs for Waste Management



As Director of Government and Public Affairs for Waste Management, Lisa Kardell is responsible for state and local government affairs, community relations and media issues for Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania. She is also responsible for Waste Management's participation in national political organizations and activities. Prior to her current position she was a Federal lobbyist for Waste Management and Waste Management Nuclear

Services. Lisa has been with Waste Management for 28 years. She served in President George H.W. Bush's administration, initially as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Energy, and then as Special Assistant in the Office of Environment, Safety & Health at the Department of Energy.

Lisa serves on several boards including Flax Trust America, Virginia Forever, Virginia Waste Industries Association, National Waste & Recycling Association—Maryland Chapter, Maryland Recycling Network.

Lisa and her husband, Chris, live in Alexandria, VA

# Shawn M. Griffin

Partner, Harris Beach PLLC



Shawn Griffin focuses on municipal, commercial and corporate law. He represents clients in private and public financing transactions, with special emphasis on various types of commercial and real estate related transactions involving industrial development agencies, urban renewal agencies, local development corporations, land use, zoning and federal, state and local incentives. His structured financing experience includes straight-lease transactions and bond transactions involving industrial development agencies with an increasing use of increment financing and unique

incentive structures. He brings his experience to bear in working with these programs and the overlay of other local, state and federal benefits.

Shawn counsels IDAs throughout New York state acting as transaction counsel and often acting as general counsel on IDA operational issues such as compliance; corporate governance; employment issues; formation of affiliated entities; development of spec buildings; industrial parks and infrastructure; litigation and environmental compliance.

He has developed unique structures for increment financing, use of New Markets Tax Credits and related benefit programs. PILOT Increment financing has become a specialty with district concepts and unique funding and borrowing structures developed on a case-by-case basis.

Shawn has served as bond counsel to the U.S. Virgin Islands and as such drafted the authorizing legislation and closed on the first non-housing private activity bond in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

On representative matters: del Lago Resort & Casino, a \$425 million casino in Tyre, New York, lead company counsel; city of Yonkers IDA and economic development agencies: Yonkers Raceway, Ridge Hill and Stew Leonard Drive are all developments where Shawn was lead economic development counsel; was Bond counsel on the refinanced and new affordable housing projects throughout Yonkers, as well as on the waterfront projects. He has been involved in these projects since 1997 working with three mayors and their respective administrations in creating a Yonkers Renaissance; has worked on increment financing at Eastview Mall in Victor, New York and each of the Rochester regional malls owned by Wilmorite; has developed unique financing structures for New Rochelle urban renewal and the Garvies Point project in Glen Cove.

Shawn graduated JD 1989, cum laude, State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. MBA, 1989, State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. BBA, 1986, magna cum laude, St. Bonaventure University. Admissions - New York United States District Court, Western District of New York.

Shawn is a member of: National Association of Bond Lawyers; Friendly Sons & Daughters of St. Patrick of the Finger Lakes Region (founder); Flax Trust/America; New York State Bar Association; New York State Economic Development Council; Seneca Knit Development Corporation.

Recent publications include "Harris Beach PLLC Economic Development Handback: Transactions involving Industrial Development Agencies and Zones.

#### Sean McGarvey

President North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU)



Sean McGarvey is President North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU), an alliance of l 4 national and international unions in the building and construction industry that collectively represent over 3 million skilled craft professionals in the United States and Canada. Sean is a respected union construction expert among labor, government, corporate, and private sector leaders. His strategic focus gives the livelihoods and career opportunities of current and future rank and file members and their families

primacy and has strengthened NABTU's impact and value to owners, contractors and whole communities.

A graduate and proponent of construction registered apprenticeship, Sean has led the development of Apprenticeship Readiness Programs, which focus on recruiting communities of color, women and veterans into the building trades. Alongside his governing board of presidents, he established Capital Strategies, a program to advance high-road standards in procurement practices and grow partnerships with top Wall Street and Bay Street investment firms supporting job-creating enterprises in commercial, industrial, and residential construction and public-private infrastructure. His bipartisan approach to policy and politics has navigated the building trades through some of the toughest fights to protect and advance labor, training, and industry standards, lower barriers to entry for new energy infrastructure and promote investment in rebuilding public infrastructure.

Sean serves on several private and public sector boards, including the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), Diabetes Research Institute (DRI), the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB), and the President's National Workforce Policy Advisory Board. He is a member of the Gates Foundation Post-Secondary Value Commission and the U.S. Council on Competitiveness. Sean co-chairs labor management committees of American Petroleum Institute, American Chemical Council, Southern Company Power and Gas, and Nuclear Power LMCC. He chairs the boards of Helmets to Hardhats, CPWR - The Center for Construction Research and Training, and the National Coordinating Committee for Multi-Employer Plans (NCCMP). Sean has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and is a graduate of Harvard University's Trade Union Program. Married to his lovely wife, Shari, Sean has two daughters, two step-daughters, and three grandchildren named Lucas, Leah and Liam

### **Washington DC Honoree Co-Chairs**

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