

Meet Your Panelists



Richard Yep, CAE, FASAE, CEO **American Counseling Association**

Richard Yep, CAE, FASAE is the Chief Executive Officer of the American Counseling Association, the largest membership organization of professional counselors in the world. He currently oversees a staff of 63 and a \$14 million budget. ACA has more than 50,000 members. Rich has worked for ACA for 30 years, 21 of which as the Association's CEO. He is also the President of the American Counseling Association Foundation.

Rich has a lifelong commitment to social justice and finding ways to easing the burden of those who are oppressed and underrepresented. He has presented on various issues impacting not-for-profit organizations relative to public policy, leadership development, and association management.

Rich has served as ACA's representative to the United Nations Non-Governmental Organization and he served on the organization's Executive Committee.

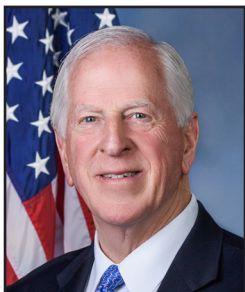
His professional affiliations include the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) where he is a past Chair of the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, completed a term on the ASAE Board of

Directors, and was named an ASAE Fellow in 2012. In 2017, he received ASAE's Key Award which honors an association CEO who demonstrates exceptional qualities of leadership in his or her own association and displays a deep commitment to voluntary membership organizations as a whole. Currently, Rich is on the CAE Commission and is a member of the Key Professional Associations Committee.

For ten years Rich served on the Board of Trustees of Excelsior College, an institution based in Albany, New York that is dedicated to adult learners. His support of Excelsior is rooted in his personal experience in working with individuals facing personal and professional challenges, but who are dedicated to improving their lives through education. Rich is a Chair Emeriti of the board. During the July 2018 Commencement, Rich was recognized with an honorary doctoral degree from the College.

Rich holds an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Southern California.

Rich and his wife Mona reside in Alexandria, Virginia with two yellow Labradors. He has a son, Dylan, who is a software developer in San Francisco.



Rep. Mike Thompson, US Congressman (D-5-CA)

Mike Thompson represents California's 5th Congressional District. The district includes all of Napa and parts of Contra Costa, Lake, Solano and Sonoma Counties. He was first elected in 1998. Prior to serving in Congress, Thompson represented California's 2nd District in the California State Senate, where he chaired the powerful Budget Committee.

Thompson is a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means and serves as Chairman of the Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee and as a senior member of the Health Subcommittee.

Thompson is the co-founder and co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Wine Caucus, which consists of over 215 U.S. Senators and Representatives. He is a member and was twice co-chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. He is also a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, which is composed of Democrats committed to bipartisan problem solving and fiscal responsibility.

In 1990, Thompson was the first Vietnam veteran elected to the California State Senate. He served in

combat with the U.S. Army as a staff sergeant/platoon leader with the 173rd Airborne Brigade where he was wounded and received a Purple Heart. He was also an instructor at the Army's Airborne School.

Thompson is recognized in Congress and throughout his district as a strong leader for Democratic principles who has built a solid reputation for bipartisan problem solving.

Thompson's number one priority in Congress is to create jobs and grow our economy. He has co-authored numerous pieces of legislation to improve our nation's infrastructure, boost our renewable energy economy, and better our education system.

As Co-Chair of the bipartisan Military Veterans Caucus, he led the effort to improve treatment options for servicemembers suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury. He has authored bills to help veterans find work as they make the transition back to civilian life. And, as someone who went to college on the GI Bill himself, he helped lead the effort in Congress to pass the 21st Century GI Bill.

With a national debt of more than \$17 trillion, Thompson is working on a balanced approach to get our fiscal house in order that includes creating jobs, cutting spending, asking everyone to pay their fair share, and requiring Congress to pay for the bills it passes.

In the wake of the school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, Thompson was named Chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. Thompson is a hunter, gun owner and strong supporter of the Second Amendment. He also believes that Congress should do more to reduce gun violence. In February of 2013, Thompson's task force released a comprehensive set of policy principles that will reduce gun violence and respect the Second Amendment, including expanding the criminal background check system to all commercial firearm sales.

Thompson is the husband of a family nurse practitioner. He knows firsthand of the challenges that exist in our health care system. That is why he voted to pass the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and is working to build on the reforms made in the ACA to further improve everyone's access to affordable, quality health care.

As an avid outdoorsman, Thompson is committed to preserving our district's beautiful lands. Thompson was awarded the Sierra Club's Edgar Wayburn Award for

passing legislation that permanently protects 273,000 acres of wilderness in Northern California. The award is given in recognition of service to the environment by a person in government. Thompson was joined by other Sierra Club award winners, including former Vice President Al Gore and author and New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman.

Thompson is the co-author of comprehensive immigration reform. He also has worked to ensure equal rights for same sex couples, and has co-authored legislation that gives state and local law enforcement the tools to prosecute hate crimes based on sexual orientation. As a combat veteran, Thompson worked to end the discriminatory policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Thompson is a small vineyard owner and was the maintenance supervisor for the Beringer Winery. He has taught Public Administration and State Government at San Francisco State University and California State University, Chico. He received his Master's of Public Administration from California State University, Chico.

He is married to Janet Thompson. They have two sons, a firefighter and a deputy sheriff, and three wonderful granddaughters.



Brian D. Banks, Director **Government Affairs and Public Policy** **American Counseling Association**

Brian D. Banks, is the Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy for the American Counseling Association. He has over twenty-years of Government Affairs Experience, where he has worked for NGO's, the United States Air Force, and For-Profit organizations. His resume boast a variety of experience where he has focused on issues ranging from health care, and tax to healthy food access and

the environment. Brian earned his Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies, where he focused on business communication, and he earned his Master of Arts Degree in Politics with a focus on Congressional Studies from The Catholic University of America. Brian is a native of Washington, D.C., and in his spare time he enjoys traveling, cooking, and spending time with his family.



Guila Todd, Government Affairs Manager **Government Affairs and Public Policy** **American Counseling Association**

Originally from North Carolina, Guila Todd has worked in the government affairs and public policy department of the American Counseling Association (ACA) for eight years. He currently serves as the government affairs manager and the lead on all federal issues for the association.

Guila attended Hampton University and graduated with a degree in political science. After graduation, he worked in a variety of settings, including the criminal division of U.S Justice Department, the District of Columbia government and ABC news.

While at the American Counseling Association, Guila served on the board of the Committee for Education Funding, which has a mission to provide a strong and unified voice in support of increasing the federal investment in education.

He is an active member of the Medicare access coalition, which fights for Medicare reimbursement for licensed mental health counselors. In addition, Guila is a member of the Title IV – Part A coalition, which advocates for increased funding for the establishment and retention of school counseling programs across the country.

A tireless advocate, Guila brings a wealth of knowledge to ACA and is committed to using his



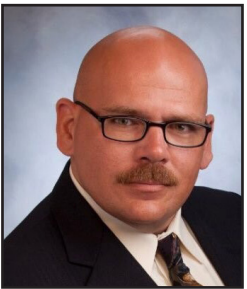
Matthew Fullen, PhD., MDiv, LPCC (OH)
Assistant Professor of Counselor Education
Virginia Tech

Dr. Matthew Fullen is an Assistant Professor at Virginia Tech. He holds a Ph.D. in Counselor Education with an interdisciplinary specialization in Aging. He is a licensed professional clinical counselor and most of his clinical work has focused on helping older adults maintain mental health and wellness as they age.

Dr. Fullen's research, teaching, scholarship, and advocacy focus on the counseling needs of older adults, including the importance of Medicare reimbursement for licensed counselors. As a scholar, Fullen's research on counseling older adults and Medicare reimbursement has been published in

prestigious journals such as the *Journal of Counseling & Development*, *Counselor Education and Supervision*, and *Aging & Mental Health*. He is currently a lead investigator on grants related to Medicare advocacy and suicide prevention in later life.

Fullen's work on Medicare has been central to his career for many years. His publication on Medicare was awarded 2016 publication of the year by *Adultspan Journal*, and in 2018 he was recognized by AADA with the division's Advocacy in Adult Development & Aging Award. In 2019, Fullen was invited by ACA to provide remarks on Medicare reimbursement for counselors during the Institute for Leadership Training Congressional briefing. Dr. Fullen is currently Chair of the AADA Older Adults Task Force and Co-Chair of the ACA Public Policy & Legislation Committee and Chair.



Duane K. L. France, MA, MBA, LPC
Director of Veteran Services
Family Care Center

Duane K. L. France, MA, MBA, LPC is the director of veteran services for the Family Care Center, a private mental health clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is also the executive director of the Colorado Veterans Health and Wellness Agency, a 501(c)3 nonprofit professionally affiliated with the Family Care Center. Upon retiring from the Army after a 22-year career, including five combat and operational deployments, France began serving as a clinical mental health counselor in 2014. He is a member of the inaugural class of the George W. Bush Institute Veteran Leadership Program, a program that supports individuals from diverse sectors across the country

who are motivated to increase their impact in helping our nation's veterans.

In addition to his clinical work, he also writes and speaks about veteran mental health in a wide variety of settings. He has presented at national conferences on mental health and wellness in the military population. He has authored three books, and is the founder and host of "Head Space and Timing," a blog and podcast that brings the information from the clinical community to service members, veterans, and their families. He is also the co-host of the Seeking the Military Suicide Solution Podcast, highlighting the need for practical solutions to address suicide in the military affiliated population. He has been published in numerous local and national media outlets, and writes an online column for Counseling Today.



Dominique N. Marsalek, Government Affairs Specialist
Government Affairs and Public Policy
American Counseling Association

Dominique Marsalek is a transplant from northern Maine currently serving as State and Federal Government Affairs Specialist for the American Counseling Association (ACA). Previously, Dominique served as Federal and State Policy Deputy for Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA). During this time, she focused on the intersections of public health and child welfare law, including landmark legislation such as the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). In this role, Dominique advised 50 state chapters on the implementation of evidence-based violence prevention policy including the federal Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV). Prior to these positions, Dominique had the honor of serving as the Legislative and Community Affairs Advisor for the Government of the District of Columbia's Commission on the Arts and Humanities

(CAH), and as Chief of Staff for The Honorable Senator Ronald Young (MD-3). During her time as Chief of Staff, Dominique helped write, testify on, and advocate for several public health bills that became law, including expanding the statute of limitations for child sex abuse survivors and student loan repayment for foster youth in Maryland. Dominique has a Bachelor's degree in History and Sociology from Hood College, where she graduated among the top of her class while running Students for Barack Obama on her campus and campaigning in SC, PA, VA, and MD. Following college, Dominique served in AmeriCorps VISTA in South Dakota among the Lakota and with a vocational training program serving youth and refugees. Dominique obtained her Masters in Literary Theory and Religion from Hood College and wrote her thesis while hiking the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage across France and Spain. As a second generation foster care alumni and a first generation college graduate with over 15 years of experience in public policy and leadership, Dominique aims to cultivate positive social policy that betters communities, empowers families, and strengthens social welfare systems.



Dania Y. Lofton, Esq., MPA
Government Affairs Specialist
Government Affairs and Public Policy
American Counseling Association

Dania Y. Lofton serves as the Government Affairs Specialist, where she is responsible for tracking state legislation on ACA public policy priorities and coordinating grassroots advocacy actions in the states. She also leads the coordination of national, regional, and branch advocacy efforts, including coordinating

branch leadership and membership in intensive direct outreach. She has worked previously as a field organizer during 2016 campaign cycle.

She earned a Juris Doctorate from the Ohio Northern University Pettit College of Law (Ada, OH); a Master of Public Administration from Columbus State University (Columbus, GA); and a dual Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish from Tennessee State University (Nashville, TN).

In her free time, Dania enjoys volunteering and exploring Washington, D.C.



Janelle Cox, EdD., LPCC
Assistant Professor of Counselor Education
Bowie State

Dr. Janelle Cox is an Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator in the Mental Health Counseling Program at Bowie State University. She is also a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC), Approved Clinical Supervisor (ACS), Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC), and Board Approved Clinical Supervisor in the State of Maryland. Dr. Cox has a Masters of Arts in Community Counseling and Doctorate of Education in Counselor Education and

Supervision. Dr. Cox has experience working with children, adolescents and adults with a myriad of diagnoses such as bipolar, depression, anxiety, ODD, ADHD in a variety of settings such as school, in-home, clinic and within the community. Research interests include home-based counseling, social justice/advocacy, HBCU students, public policy/legislation, African American women's issues, and qualitative research methods. Dr. Cox currently serves as Co-Chair of the Emerging Leaders Program and Webinar Committee for Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES), a Committee Member of the ACA Public Policy Committee, and Co-chair of the CSJ Social Justice Curriculum Taskforce.



Chun-Shin Taylor, PhD, LCPC, NCC, ACS
Counselor, Consultant, Creative Writer

Chun-Shin Taylor is a Korea-born female pastoral counselor, counselor educator, and qualitative researcher who services her community as a licensed professional clinical counselor (LCPC), approved clinical supervisor (ACS), and Maryland board-approved supervisor past 15 years. She has expertise in resilience, interpersonal trauma, and post-traumatic growth within the contexts of Asian-non-Asian mixed couples, their children and families, immigrants, and

refugees. The intersectionality of culture, spirituality, religion, and diversity factors are at the core of her interest to promote inclusion, diversity, and equity. She currently teaches at Lancaster Bible College and Liberty University as an adjunct faculty. She has a profit organization providing community-based counseling services targeting the affluent to serve the poor. She is also an ordinary mother who loves to stroll around her neighborhood with her dog, Mindy, and her three children while pondering about ways to help the oppressed and simultaneously what to cook for dinner.

