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Gov. Cuomo retools team for 2nd term

BY [KEN LOVETT](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Sunday, January 11, 2015, 12:18 PM

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Governor Andrew Cuomo (left) and Secretary to the Governor Lawrence Schwartz, who is leaving for the private sector. Schwartz will be replaced by William Mulrow.

As he begins his second term, Gov. Cuomo on Sunday announced a re-shuffling of his administration—starting at the very top.

Cuomo appointed Westchester County businessman and longtime Democratic insider William Mulrow as his new secretary to the governor. Mulrow most recently was senior managing director at the Blackstone Group, the world's largest alternative asset manager.

Mulrow, who had close ties to Cuomo and former Gov. Eliot Spitzer, will replace Larry Schwartz as Cuomo's most important aide. Schwartz is departing for the private sector.

"New ideas and talent are critical to innovation and success," Cuomo said. "This team will build on the extraordinary progress made over the last four years by bringing experience, energy and fresh perspectives to the table."

Cuomo also named Mary Beth Labate as his new budget director. Labate, who had been the top lieutenant to budget director Robert Megna, who is leaving the post to serve as the new state Thruway Authority acting executive director.

Cuomo also announced that Alphonso David, who served as his deputy secretary for civil rights, will replace Seth Agata as his chief counsel starting April 1.

David will be replaced as deputy secretary for Civil Rights by Patricia Gatling, who has served as the commissioner and chair of the New York City Commission on Human Rights since 2002.

The Daily News reported in November that Schwartz, Megna and Agata as well as other members of Cuomo's first-term team were set to depart.

One notable person who is staying--despite a recent report in another publication--is Cuomo Communications Director Melissa DeRosa, whose title will also now include strategic advisor to the governor. In addition to overseeing the press shop, DeRosa will "play an expanded role in the administration's strategic approach to enacting policy."

Here is the full list of appointments announced Sunday:

State of New York | Executive Chamber

Andrew M. Cuomo | Governor

For Immediate Release: January 11, 2015

GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES ADMINISTRATION APPOINTMENTS

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced a number of appointments to his administration. The individuals being announced today build on an already diverse and talented team committed to furthering the Governor's bold reform agenda, and they bring a wide variety of backgrounds and expertise to service in state government. Today's announcements represent the first phase of the Governor's term two recruitment effort, with more announcements to be made in the following days and weeks ahead.

"New ideas and talent are critical to innovation and success. This team will build on the extraordinary progress made over the last four years by bringing experience, energy and fresh perspectives to the table," Governor Cuomo said. "This is an incredibly accomplished and dedicated group of individuals, and I am proud to welcome them to their new roles. Together we will continue moving New York State forward."

Bill Mulrow has been appointed Secretary to the Governor. He succeeds Lawrence Schwartz, who departs the administration for the private sector.

Mr. Mulrow has more than 30 years of experience in business, government and politics. He has extensive experience in both the private and public sectors, having served in several positions in the financial sector as well as having served in a broad array of federal, state and local government and political positions. Most recently Mr. Mulrow was a Senior Managing Director at Blackstone, the world's largest alternative asset manager. In addition to his business career, Mr. Mulrow has served in numerous public positions throughout his career, including as Governor Cuomo's appointee as the Chairman of the New York State Housing Finance Agency and the State of New York Mortgage Agency. Previously, he served as a Commissioner of the Special Commission on Judicial Compensation, Director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, Director of the Municipal Assistance Corporation for the City of New York, Director of the United Nations Development Corporation, Chairman of the Westchester County Industrial Development Agency, and Chairman of the New York City Rent Guidelines Board. He was Vice Chair of the New York State Democratic Party, Senior Advisor to the Mario Cuomo reelection campaign (1990), and Deputy Campaign Manager for Barney Frank's initial run for Congress (1980). Mr. Mulrow has also served in a number of academic posts including the Board of Advisors for the Taubman Center for State and Local Government at the Harvard Kennedy School. He has been awarded several civic and community awards including the Humanitarian Award of the North American Boards of Rabbis and the Roy Wilkins Humanitarian Award of the New York State NAACP. He is a graduate of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and of Yale College where he graduated Cum Laude and was a Rhodes Scholar finalist.

Patricia Gatling has been appointed Deputy Secretary for Civil Rights. Ms. Gatling joins the administration from the New York City Commission on Human Rights where she served as Commissioner and Chair since 2002. While in that role, she was also an agency consultant at the Fulton County District Attorney's Office, Executive Producer of Fighting for Justice: New York Voices of the Civil Rights Movement, and a senior trainer at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Previously,

Ms. Gatling served as First Assistant District Attorney at the Kings County District Attorney's Office and as Special Assistant Attorney General at the Office to Investigate Corruption in the New York City Criminal Justice System. Ms. Gatling is a member of the Board of Trustees for the New York Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection. She has a B.A. from The Johns Hopkins University and a J.D. from the University of Maryland School of Law.

Linda Lacewell has been appointed Counselor to the Governor. She will design the first statewide system for ethics, risk and compliance in agencies and authorities. Ms. Lacewell was formerly Special Counsel to the Governor. She was the architect of OpenNY, a state-of-the-art open data initiative. Ms. Lacewell was formerly Special Counsel to Attorney General Cuomo, where she oversaw the public pension fund pay-to-play investigation and the out-of-network health insurance investigation, both of which led to nationwide systemic reform. She spent nine years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, including two years on the Enron Task Force, and received the Henry L. Stimson Medal and the Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from New College of the University of South Florida and her Juris Doctor with honors from the University of Miami School of Law. She clerked for a United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida. She is an Adjunct Professor of Law at New York University School of Law, teaching Ethics in Government, and was formerly an Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University School of Law, teaching International Criminal Law.

Alphonso B. David will be appointed Counsel on April 1 – he will succeed Seth Agata, who will serve as Counsel to the Governor until that time. Mr. David is an attorney, law professor and policy advisor with significant legal and management experience in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors. In January 2011, Mr. David was appointed by Governor Cuomo to serve as Deputy Secretary and Counsel for Civil Rights, the first position of its kind in New York State. In this role, he is responsible for a full range of legal, policy, legislative, and operational matters affecting civil rights and labor state-wide. Prior to joining the Governor's Office, Mr. David served as Special Deputy Attorney General for Civil Rights for the Office of the New York State Attorney General, where he managed strategic planning, case development and policy analysis and supervised Assistant Attorneys General on investigations and litigation ranging from employment discrimination to immigration fraud. He also served previously as Deputy Commissioner and Special Counselor at the New York State Division of Human Rights, a litigation associate at the law firm Blank Rome LLP, and a staff attorney at the Lambda Legal Defense and Educational Fund. At Lambda, Mr. David litigated precedent-setting civil rights cases across the country affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and those living with HIV including marriage, parenting rights, and access to health care. He also currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where he teaches a course on Constitutional Law. Mr. David is a graduate of the University of Maryland and Temple University School of Law and served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable Clifford Scott Green in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Mary Beth Labate has been appointed Budget Director for the New York State Division of the Budget (DOB). Since 2012, Ms. Labate has served as First Deputy Budget Director for DOB, where she plays a central role in developing a financial plan for the State that furthers the Governor's fiscally responsible vision and negotiating with the New York State legislature on a variety of budget and

policy-related issues. Ms. Labate has been directly involved in a number of the administration's key fiscal accomplishments, including maintaining State spending to two percent, reforming the Medicaid program to dramatically limit growth, and the developing and advocating for \$60 billion in federal aid in response to Superstorm Sandy. Prior to her role as First Deputy Budget Director, Ms. Labate also led a number of units and sections within DOB responsible for economic development, public authorities, welfare and labor. She has also held positions within the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and New York State Homes and Community Renewal. She received a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and an M.A. in Public Administration from the Rockefeller School of Public Affairs at SUNY Albany.

Melissa DeRosa has been appointed Director of Communications and Strategic Advisor to the Governor. Since April 2013, Ms. DeRosa has served as Communications Director, managing overall communications and press for the Executive Chamber and over 50 state agencies. She will continue to retain the Communications portfolio and play an expanded role in the administration's strategic approach to enacting policy. Before joining the Governor's office, Ms. DeRosa worked in the Attorney General's Office as Deputy Chief of Staff and as Acting Chief of Staff. Ms. DeRosa led the office's effort to negotiate and pass the country's most aggressive prescription drug reform package, I-STOP (Internet System for Tracking Over-Prescribing Act). Prior to working for the Attorney General, Ms. DeRosa served as New York State Director of Organizing for America, President Obama's national political action organization. Before joining OFA, Ms. DeRosa served as the Director of Communications and Legislation for Cordo and Company, an Albany based government affairs firm. She was also the Campaign Manager for Tracey Brooks for Congress, Deputy Press Secretary to Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, and Deputy Press Secretary for the successful NY State Transportation Bond Act Campaign Vote Yes in 2005. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial and Labor Relations and a Master's Degree in Public Administration, both from Cornell University. She has served on the executive board of the Women's Leadership Forum Network of the Democratic National Committee.

Rick Cotton has been appointed Special Counsel for Interagency Initiatives. Mr. Cotton joins the administration following 25 years at NBC Universal, where he held a number of positions beginning in 1989, including 20 years as EVP and General Counsel and four years in London as President and Managing Director of CNBC Europe. He also served as Executive Secretary to the Department at the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare under Secretary Joseph A. Califano, Jr. and Special Assistant for Renewable Energy to Deputy Secretary of Energy John Sawhill at the U.S. Department of Energy. Mr. Cotton received an A.B. from Harvard College and a J.D. from Yale Law School, and served as a law clerk to Justice William J. Brennan, Jr. on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Donald Carey will be nominated to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York (SUNY). This appointment requires Senate confirmation. Mr. Carey is Senior Vice President at Fidelity National Financial and an Associate Partner at A.E. Smith Associates. A leader in the public finance sector for 29 years, he was the founder of DCC Consulting LLC, a part of the Public Finance Leadership team at Goldman Sachs, and Managing Director at Credit Suisse First Boston.

Bob Megna has been appointed as Acting Executive Director of the New York State Thruway Authority. This appointment requires Senate confirmation. Mr. Megna has served as Budget Director for the New York State Division of the Budget since 2009, where he was responsible for the overall development and management of the State's fiscal policy, including the oversight of the State's \$145 million annual budget. Under Mr. Megna's tenure in that role, New York State has achieved its highest financial ratings in 40 years from the three major credit rating agencies. He has also led multiple governmental boards within the administration, including the Financial Restructuring Board – which focuses on increasing government efficiency and decreasing costs through consolidation and shared services – the New York Racing Association and the Public Authorities Control Board. Mr. Megna was formerly the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, he spent ten years as the Director of the Revenue and Economics Unit within the State's Division of the Budget. He received a B.A. in Economics and an M.P.A. from Fordham University, as well as a Diploma and M. Sc. In Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

John P.L. Kelly has been appointed Press Secretary. Mr. Kelly joins the administration from the consulting firm SKD Knickerbocker in New York City, where he has served as Senior Vice President since 2012. Previously, Mr. Kelly served for nearly a decade in various senior roles in government, including as the top communications official at the New York City Department of Health, as Associate Commissioner, and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, as Acting Chief of Public Affairs. Mr. Kelly spent more than six years as a spokesman for the New York City Police Department. In addition to his service in government, Mr. Kelly was a desk editor for the New York Daily News Express, a columnist for CourtTV.com and a copywriter for a global financial institution. He is a graduate of Iona College and resides in the Bronx.

Beth DeFalco has been appointed Deputy Director of Communications for Transportation. Most recently she served as Communications Director for U.S. Senator Cory Booker. Before that she spent 15 years in journalism, working for nearly a decade at The Associated Press before joining the New York Post to cover politics in 2012. She has also worked as a reporter for The Arizona Republic and The Denver Post, where she was a member of the Pulitzer-prize winning news team that covered the Columbine High School shootings. Ms. DeFalco has a B.S. in journalism and a minor in philosophy from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Frank Sobrino has been appointed Deputy Director of Communications for New York City. Mr. Sobrino is currently serving as Director of Communications in the office of State Senator Jose Peralta. A former reporter at El Diario-La Prensa, Mr. Sobrino previously served as State Comptroller H. Carl McCall's New York City Press Secretary. He has a B.A. from Saint Bonaventure University and an M.P.A. from New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

Andrew S. Kennedy has been appointed Deputy Director of State Operations for Policy. Previously, Mr. Kennedy served as the Governor's Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, coordinating the development and management of the State's economic development and housing efforts. Prior to joining the Governor's staff, Mr. Kennedy worked for more than a decade at the New York State Division of Budget and for the New York State Assembly, where he developed a detailed understanding of New York's fiscal and economic development policies and programs. Mr. Kennedy

holds a master's degree in Public Administration from the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy and a bachelor's degree from Siena College in Political Science.

Matthew J. Millea has been appointed Deputy Director of Operations for Administration. Mr. Millea joins the administration from the New York Department of State, where he most recently served as Deputy Secretary of State for Planning and Development. Prior to that, he was Deputy County Executive for Physical Services for Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney. He was Executive Vice President followed by Acting President at the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation from 2006 to 2010 and was Director of Environmental Programs in the Office of the Governor of New York from 2001 to 2006. Mr. Millea has a B.A. from Siena College and an M.P.A. from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

Joseph Rabito has been appointed Deputy Director of State Operations for Programs. In February 2011, Governor Cuomo appointed Mr. Rabito as Executive Deputy Commissioner at the New York State Office of General Services (OGS). Before joining OGS, Mr. Rabito held the titles of Deputy Commissioner at New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) and President of the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation. Prior to his appointment at HCR, Mr. Rabito served as Commissioner of Development & Planning for the City of Albany, and in the federal government for then Secretary Andrew Cuomo at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Tracie M. Gardner has been appointed Assistant Secretary of Health. Ms. Gardner previously served as Co-Director of Policy for the Legal Action Center where she conducted and coordinated the Center's New York State public policy advocacy in the areas of substance use disorders, criminal justice and HIV/AIDS. She has worked on a wide array of city, state and federal health and social service policy issues since 1989. Ms. Gardner received a B.A. from Mount Holyoke College.

Kamilah Smith has been appointed Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security. Ms. Smith previously served as an Attorney Advisor at the Federal Emergency Management Agency since 2011, and was an Associate at the law firm Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP in Los Angeles, CA from 2007 to 2011. She received a B.A. from Clark Atlanta University and a J.D. from Boalt Hall at the University of California, Berkeley.

Kisha Santiago-Martinez has been appointed Assistant Secretary for Housing. She previously served as Assistant Commissioner at New York State Homes and Community Renewal, managing the Budget Service Unit and establishing the Office of Budget and Operational Strategic Management. Prior to joining state government through the Empire Fellowship program, she served as Vice President and Senior Project Manager at Rosenberg Housing Group. She received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Regional and Urban Planning from University at Albany.

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