



2019 Sasakawa USA Emerging Experts Delegation (SEED) Program
Featuring U.S. experts from organizations promoting democratic institutions and values

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Sefakor Ashiagbor
Senior Advisor, Political Party Programs, National Democratic Institute

Sef Ashiagbor is a senior advisor for political party programs at the National Democratic Institute (NDI). She provides technical support on the design, implementation and evaluation of the Institute's political party programs worldwide, and conducts research on issues affecting the development of political parties in nascent democracies. Among others, Ashiagbor has contributed to the following publications for the Institute: [Coalitions: A Guide for Political Parties](#), [Minimum Standards for the Democratic Functioning of Political Parties](#) and [The Will, Space, Capacity Toolkit for Party Assistance](#).

Ashiagbor's career at NDI began in 1998 with a focus on Sub-Saharan Africa during which time she traveled extensively throughout the continent, contributing to programming in such countries as Benin, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. She managed a range of training and research programs, and conducted programmatic assessments in such areas as political party development, extractive industries management, women's political participation, election monitoring and legislative development. Ashiagbor also oversaw a [major study on party finance issues for the Institute](#), authoring a report on efforts to promote reform in four African countries. In addition, she served in field positions in Ghana and Malawi.

Prior to joining NDI, Ashiagbor worked in international humanitarian assistance, developing funding proposals, and overseeing the procurement and shipment of relief materials to a variety of countries in crisis. She also worked in the West Africa department of the World Bank. Ashiagbor earned her Master's in International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science and a Bachelor's in History, Selwyn College, Cambridge. She is fluent in French.



Annie Wilcox Boyajian
Director of Advocacy, Freedom House

Annie Boyajian is Director of Advocacy at Freedom House, and leads Freedom House's engagement with the U.S. government and collaboration with American human rights groups. She contributes to Freedom House publications including *Freedom in the World*, *Freedom on the Net*, *Freedom of the Press*, and *The Battle for China's Spirit*.

Boyajian has testified before the U.S. Congress and regularly advises Members of Congress and staff. She has served as a guest lecturer at George Mason University, Georgetown University and the Harvard Kennedy School, and has provided interviews and commentary for outlets including BBC World, Deutsche Welle, Al Jazeera, Radio Free Asia, *The Diplomat*, and *The Hill*. Prior to



joining Freedom House, she spent seven years on Capitol Hill, working in both the Senate and the House, serving most recently as a Legislative Director and focusing on foreign policy, human rights and appropriations issues.

Boyajian holds a Master's in International Affairs: U.S. Foreign Policy, School of International Service, American University. Her Master's research project focused on China's influence on African media. She is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations and former congressional fellow at the Partnership for a Secure America.



Chris Doten

Chief Innovation Officer, National Democratic Institute

Chris Doten is the Chief Innovation Officer at NDI and leads the NDI Tech Innovation team. Doten has designed and implemented programs in dozens of countries, which apply integrated, context-appropriate technology to reach more citizens, track political processes, improve organizing capabilities and open data. Doten specializes in the challenges of internet freedom and cybersecurity in closed societies, and has worked with at-risk digital activists and parties from Azerbaijan to Zimbabwe. Having previously worked for the campaigns of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, Doten is skilled at the pragmatic application of digital communications, big data and organizing tools in political campaigns. Doten earned a Bachelors' in Computer Science and History, Carleton College and a Master's in Law and Diplomacy, Fletcher School, Tufts University.



Eunice Ha

Senior Program Manager, Asia, National Democratic Institute

Eunice Ha is a Senior Program Manager of Asia Team at NDI in Washington, D.C. Ha's portfolio includes North Korea, Pacific Islands, and a regional initiative focused on democratic unity in Asia. Prior to the current position, Ha served as the Institute's country representative in Seoul, South Korea, from January 2018 to August 2019. Before joining NDI, she worked for World Vision North Korea for three years. Traveling frequently to North Korea, she managed multi-sectoral projects addressing livelihood and nutrition issues within the country. Ha also worked at the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul supporting the embassy's diplomacy and public outreach programs. In this role, she engaged with prominent Korean and American media, academics, civil society organizations and youth. She has a Bachelor's in Communications and Political Science, University of Washington, and a Master's in International Communications and Human Rights, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.



Bridget Millman
Program Officer, Global Programs, National Endowment for Democracy

Bridget Millman is a program officer with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), where she oversees the Global portfolio. She has over a decade of experience in transitional and post-conflict environments, including through overseeing support and developing flexible and adaptive approaches to further anti-corruption and transparency efforts, institutional reform, private sector development, independent media, transitional justice, human rights protection, and exchange of best practices.

Prior to joining NED, Millman held positions at the German Marshall Fund of the United States and consulted for the World Bank. Her research has examined the unintended consequences of development aid, local ownership in transitioning democracies and public participation in policymaking. Millman holds graduate degrees in political science from Central European University and in international development and social change from Clark University.



Bakhtiyor Nishanov
Regional Deputy Director, Eurasia, International Republican Institute

Bakhtiyor, “Bakhti,” Nishanov joined the International Republican Institute (IRI) in June of 2010 as a program officer for the Institute’s Russia portfolio. He currently serves as deputy director for Eurasia, helping oversee programs in Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine.

Prior to IRI, Nishanov served as a program officer for Central Asia at Freedom House, a U.S.-based international human rights advocacy group. At Freedom House he helped expand innovative programs that saw the establishment of the first independent printing press in Kyrgyzstan and launch of a regional anti-torture initiative. Nishanov also served as a peer reviewer for Freedom House’s *Freedom in the World* annual publication.

Before joining Freedom House, Nishanov worked as a development consultant with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank and a number of international organizations, including Internews, Pragma Corporation, Transitions Online, and Winrock International.

As part of a joint EBRD-U.S. Agency for International Development initiative, Nishanov worked with a coalition of civic organizations on reforming Uzbekistan’s penitentiary system. Also in Uzbekistan, he worked at Freedom House’s country representative office, where he helped implement human rights projects.



Paul Rothman

Project Manager, Center for International Media Assistance, National Endowment for Democracy

Paul Rothman is the project manager with the Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA) at NED. At CIMA, Rothman manages CIMA's regional consultations initiative and supports CIMA's strategic partnership development. He also writes on issues of media reform, most recently co-writing an essay on coalition-building as an approach to media development in a report on global media philanthropy. He also authored a CIMA report entitled *The Politics of Media Development: The Importance of Engaging Government and Civil Society* and contributes regularly to CIMA's blog. Rothman earned his Bachelor's in International Relations, Drake University, and a Master's in Asia Studies, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University.



Jonathan Temin

Director, Africa Program, Freedom House

Jon Temin has worked on Africa, governance, and conflict issues for more than 15 years. From 2014 to 2017, he was a member of the Department of State's Policy Planning Staff, providing strategic guidance and long-term thinking to the secretary on Africa issues. Temin previously served as director of the U.S. Institute of Peace's Africa Program, overseeing the Institute's efforts to help end conflicts and prevent new violence across the continent. His commentary on Africa issues has been featured by, among other outlets, *BBC*, *Al Jazeera*, *The New York Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Voice of America*, and *National Public Radio*, and he has testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Temin holds a Bachelor's from Swarthmore College and an Master's in International Relations, The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. He is a former Fulbright Fellow in Ghana, where he worked with the Ghana Center for Democratic Development on monitoring media coverage of the 2000 elections. He is also a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a non-resident Senior Associate with the Center for Strategic and International Studies.