

Show Me a Hero: A Conversation with HUD Secretary Julián Castro and David Simon

Speaker Biographies

Julián Castro was sworn in as the 16th secretary of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development on July 28, 2014. In this role, he oversees 8,000 employees and a budget of \$46 billion, and uses a performance-driven approach to achieve the department's mission of expanding opportunity for all Americans. Castro ensures that the department is a transparent, efficient, and effective champion for the people it serves. Utilizing an evidence-based management style, he has charged the department to give every person, regardless of his or her station in life, new opportunities to thrive. Castro is a former mayor of San Antonio, Texas. During his tenure, he became a national leader in urban development. In 2010, the city launched the "Decade of Downtown," an initiative to spark investment in San Antonio's city center and older neighborhoods. In addition, San Antonio's East Side is the only neighborhood in America that has received funding to implement major projects under three key Obama administration revitalization initiatives: Choice Neighborhoods, Promise Neighborhoods, and the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation program. Previously, Castro served on the San Antonio city council. Castro received a BA from Stanford University and a JD from Harvard Law School.

Clayton LeBouef is best known for his role as Colonel George Barnfather in *Homicide: Life on the Street*. He appeared in several episodes during the show's seven seasons on television from 1993 to 1999 and reprised his role in *Homicide: The Movie*, the epilogue movie, in 2000. LeBouef was born in Yonkers, New York, and was a theater actor before his role as Captain Barnfather. He performs spoken-word pieces and has written several plays. In 2008, his play *Shero: The Livication of Henrietta Vinton Davis* won an honorable mention at the 25th Annual Larry Neal Writers' Competition in Washington, DC. In 2000, he appeared in the award-winning miniseries *The Corner*. In 2002, he played Wendell "Orlando" Blocker in seven episodes of *The Wire*. LeBouef appeared as Harold Thomas in the 2004 HBO movie *Something the Lord Made*, which starred Mos Def. From 2003 to 2005, he appeared in three episodes of *Law and Order: Criminal Intent*. His portrayal of barbershop owner Tom Taylor in the short film *The Doll* won "Best Actor" honors at the San Diego Black Film Festival.

James Perry is a community advocate and housing expert. He was the chief executive officer of the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center for 10 years and led the center through Hurricane Katrina. Under his leadership, the center won more than \$500 million for victims of discrimination across Louisiana. Before working in New Orleans, Perry founded the Mississippi Gulf Coast Fair Housing Center, the first organization of its kind in Mississippi. Perry was a candidate in the 2010 New Orleans mayor's race and has testified before Congress eight times. He serves on the board of directors for the National Fair Housing Alliance. Perry is a political science graduate of the University of New Orleans and a graduate of the Loyola University School of Law.



David Simon is an author, screenwriter, and producer, who draws from his background as a crime beat reporter to craft richly textured narratives that probe urban America's most complex and poorly understood realities. He is best known for his contributions to drama; he has written and produced several critically acclaimed television series, including *Homicide: Life on the Street* (1993–1999), *The Wire* (2002–2008), *Treme* (2010–2013), and *Show Me a Hero* (2015). Simon's recent projects explore poverty, corruption, and broken social systems. His portrayals are at once critical and sympathetic, hard-edged and cautiously optimistic. His engaging stories confront some of the most daunting challenges facing America's urban centers. Simon received a BA from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1983. From 1983 to 1995, he was a crime reporter with the *Baltimore Sun*. He is the author of *Homicide: A Year on the Killing Streets* (1991) and coauthor of *The Corner: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Neighborhood* (1997); his additional television projects include the miniseries *The Corner* (2000) and *Generation Kill* (2008).

Margery Austin Turner is senior vice president for program planning and management at the Urban Institute, where she leads efforts to frame and conduct a forward-looking agenda of policy research. A nationally recognized expert on urban policy and neighborhood issues, Turner has analyzed residential location, racial and ethnic discrimination and its role in neighborhood segregation and inequality, and the role of housing policies in promoting residential mobility and location choice. Among her recent publications is the book *Public Housing and the Legacy of Segregation*. Before joining Urban, Turner served as deputy assistant secretary for research at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from 1993 to 1996, focusing HUD's research agenda on the problems of racial discrimination, concentrated poverty, and economic opportunity in America's metropolitan areas. During her tenure, HUD's research office launched three major social science demonstration projects to test different strategies for helping families from distressed inner-city neighborhoods gain access to opportunities through employment and education. Turner has a BA in political science from Cornell University and an MA in urban and regional planning from the George Washington University.

Sarah Rosen Wartell became the third president of the Urban Institute in February 2012. A public policy executive and housing markets expert, she was deputy assistant to the president for economic policy and deputy director of the National Economic Council. At the US Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1993 to 1998, she advised the federal housing commissioner on housing finance, mortgage markets, and consumer protection. In 2012 she was named a "Woman of Influence" by HousingWire. Wartell cofounded the Center for American Progress, serving as its first chief operating officer and general counsel. Later, as executive vice president, she oversaw its policy teams and fellows. Her work focused on the economy and housing markets, and she directed the Mortgage Finance Working Group and "Doing What Works" government performance program. She previously practiced law with the Washington, DC, firm Arnold & Porter and was a consultant to the bipartisan Millennial Housing Commission. Wartell currently serves on the boards of the Low Income Investment Fund, Center for Law and Social Policy, and Center for Urban Science and Progress at New York University. She is also a Penn Institute for Urban Research Scholar. Her areas of expertise include community development, consumer finance, asset building, and housing finance. Wartell has an AB degree with honors in urban affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a JD degree from Yale Law School.