

GRACIA M. HILLMAN

Throughout her career, Gracia Hillman has effectively handled both domestic and international issues. Her areas of expertise include nonprofit management, public policy and program development, political services, and the interests and rights of women and minorities. Specific areas of expertise include organizational and staff development; workplace diversity; women's health, including violence against women, family planning and reproductive health; strategic charitable giving; citizen participation in the development of public policy and community affairs; and elections related issues, including voting rights.

Ms. Hillman has traveled extensively throughout the United States meeting with national and local groups and businesses; speaking at conferences, conventions and other public forums; and conducting a variety of training and development seminars. Her international work includes having traveled in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Europe. She conducted nonpartisan political training in Haiti and Kenya, and participated in UN sponsored conferences in Vienna, Beijing and at the United Nations in New York. Her public speaking engagements include lectures at Harvard, Howard and Princeton universities and the World Affairs Council in San Francisco.

From 1998 to 2003, Ms. Hillman served as President and CEO of WorldSpace Foundation, a nonprofit organization that uses new, cutting edge digital satellite technology to deliver audio and multimedia education programs to Africa and Asia. Programs developed under Ms. Hillman's leadership include the *Africa Learning Channel*, a first voice, multi-topic audio broadcast channel and a web-formatted multimedia service that provide education and information service programs on a variety of social development topics, including HIV/AIDS, malaria and other health issues, gender equity, economic development, environmental protection, food security, and a variety of issues affecting children and young people. The foundation's services are developed through strategic partnerships with indigenous groups and provide direct access to the technology for rural and remote communities. As of 2003, WorldSpace Foundation programs were reaching over 55 million people throughout Africa.

From 1994 to 1996, Ms. Hillman served the U.S. Department of State, as its first Senior Coordinator for International Women's Issues. Reporting to the UnderSecretary for Global Affairs, she was responsible for developing agency-wide strategies to ensure that U.S. foreign policy promoted and protected women's rights.

Ms. Hillman was the State Department's principal liaison with domestic nongovernmental organizations concerned with international women's rights and the important role of women in development. Ms. Hillman also coordinated the department's efforts to promote ratification of the international Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women; advised on U.S. government participation in the United Nation's Fourth World Conference on Women that was held in Beijing, China in 1995 and was a member of official U.S. delegations to that conference and its preparatory meetings. She also served on The President's InterAgency Council on Women and the U.S. Department of Justice InterAgency Task Force on Violence Against Women.

Before joining the State Department, Ms. Hillman was Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of the U.S and its Education Fund. During her tenure, the League was instrumental in final passage of the national "Motor Voter" law;

sponsored the 1992 New Hampshire Democratic Presidential Primary debate; and reactivated its international programs providing nonpartisan political training to women leaders in the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe.

Ms. Hillman's extensive nonprofit and public policy experiences include a tenure at the Council on Foundations as Executive Consultant to the Council's President, where she was responsible for strategic planning, development and external affairs. The Council served a national membership organization of 1200 private, community and corporate foundations and other grantmakers. Her responsibilities included oversight of the Pluralism in Philanthropy program, the first of its kind in the United States.

Throughout the 1980's, Ms. Hillman championed many nonpartisan and bi-partisan efforts to ensure open access to the voting process for all citizens and the continued voting rights of minority Americans, including fair apportionment of legislative districts. She was Executive Director of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the National Coalition on Black Voter Participation, which sponsored the popular grassroots program, Operation Big Vote. She also served as Coordinator of the Voter Law Policy Project for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, working on the historic 25 year extension of the national Voting Rights Act.

Her political experiences include paid and volunteer work on numerous local, state-wide and national campaigns, including serving as a Senior Advisor with responsibility for Congressional and constituent relations for the 1988 Dukakis for President Campaign.

Ms. Hillman began her long time commitment to public service and the nonprofit sector in 1970, when she worked for a community action program in her home state of Massachusetts and served in management positions in Massachusetts state government. She has served on the boards and advisory committees of numerous local and national organizations concerned with public service, citizen participation and the development of public policy. Ms. Hillman has one son and currently resides in Washington, DC.

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