

ARENA STAGE MEDIA RELEASE

Molly Smith Artistic Director Edgar Dobie Executive Director Zelda Fichandler Founding Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARENA STAGE ELECTS FOUR NEW MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(Washington, D.C.) Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater announces that **Joseph DiGangi**, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Hobart and William Smith Colleges; **Maggie FitzPatrick**, Exelon Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Philanthropy and Customer Engagement; **Ilene Rosenthal**, CEO of Footsteps2Brilliance; and **Nneka Ukpai**, Associate at Allen & Overy, Investigations and Litigation, have been elected to the Arena Stage Board of Trustees, effective June 20, 2017.

Arena Stage's 41-member governing Board of Trustees is led by Board Chair **Judith N. Batty**. Officers of the Board include Vice Chairs **Sandy Bieber**, **Eric Braverman**, **Edgar Dobie**, **Richard Feinstein**, **Vicki J. Hicks**, **Richard Newman**, **Lucia Riddle**, **Hubert M. Schlosberg**, **Raymond Sczudlo**, **David E. Shiffrin** and **Shawna Watley**, with **Beth Newburger Schwartz** as Immediate Past Chair. Officers of the Corporation include President **Edgar Dobie**, Treasurer **Joe Berardelli** and Secretary **Alison Irvin**. For a full list of the 2017/18 Board of Trustees, visit arenastage.org/about/board-of-trustees/.

"As a pioneering arts organization, it is important to us that our Board of Trustees offers a breadth of perspective, bringing diversity of thought, experience and background to the table," shares **Batty**. "Our new class of members represents the broad shoulders of the Greater Washington area, with experience in the corporate, legal, political and academic worlds. I know they will offer valuable perspective and dive into their new roles with enthusiasm and vigor."

Joseph DiGangi was born in 1941 in New Jersey and attended public schools there. He graduated from Lehigh University with a B.A. with Distinction in Government and from Columbia University with a Ph.D. in Public Law and Government. He taught in the Political Science Department at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York from 1967-1997 as Instructor, Assistant, Associate and Full Professor, and retired as Professor Emeritus of Political Science in 1997. While at HWS, he served on virtually every important Standing and Ad Hoc committee, including Department Chair, Dean Selection Committee Chair and Presidential Selection Committee member. In addition, he was the Pre-Law Advisor, and in 1985 co-founded HWS's Public Policy Semester in Washington D.C., continuing to co-direct and teach in the program well into his retirement years. Apart from his work at HWS, DiGangi was a long-time member of the Geneva Historical Society Board of Trustees and chaired its Collections Committee and was a board member of the Savings Bank of the Finger Lakes, serving as the Chair of its Governance Committee. Upon retirement from HWS in 1997, DiGangi moved to Arlington, Virginia, where he currently resides. He is a member of the Supreme Court Historical Society and a Circles and Tower Project member at the National Gallery of Art. He is also a Circles member of the Phillips Collection, Kennedy Center and Washington National Opera. He was a member of the (now defunct) Summer Opera Theater Guild Board and served on the Avant Bard Theater Board. DiGangi currently serves on the Federal Reserve Board's Fine Arts Advisory Panel.

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Page 2— Four new members elected to Arena Stage Board of Trustees

Maggie FitzPatrick joined Exelon, a Fortune 100 company, as senior vice president, Corporate Affairs, Philanthropy and Customer Engagement, in 2016. She serves on the company's executive committee and leads communications, marketing, customer engagement and Exelon's corporate giving programs. In her role, she oversees the distribution of nearly \$50 million in annual funding for community and non-profit organizations. FitzPatrick previously was global chief communications officer and vice president of public affairs for Johnson & Johnson, the world's largest healthcare company. Prior to Johnson & Johnson, FitzPatrick served as global chief communication officer and president of the Foundation at Cigna. FitzPatrick is a member of the Board of Directors at the National Partnership for Women and Families and Achilles International. She is a life-long supporter of the arts and is passionate about the essential role cultural institutions play in society. She has been named one of the most powerful people in public relations by *PR Week Magazine*. FitzPatrick holds a bachelor's degree in English and Policy Studies from Syracuse University and an M.A. in Public Policy from The George Washington University.

Ilene Rosenthal is a seasoned educator and executive who brings over 25 years experience designing, developing and implementing innovative technology to accelerate learning. She was a co-founder of Lightspan, the first educational software company to connect school and home through videogame technology. She also served as President of Strategic Initiatives for Achieve3000, a company that developed groundbreaking technology to differentiate content based on each student's individual Lexile reading level. Rosenthal currently serves as CEO of Footsteps2Brilliance®, a company designed to scale early learning by connecting school and home through mobile technology and expanding strategies for parental involvement in order to help all children realize their full potential. Rosenthal began her career as a teacher, during which time she designed curriculum and authored textbooks. In her capacity as a lawyer, she has served as General Counsel to the Government Operations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia. She also served as General Counsel to the Software Publishers Association (now SIIA) and Special Assistant to the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). Rosenthal received her J.D. from Georgetown University and her B.A. from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut.

Nneka Ukpai is an associate in Allen & Overy's Investigations and Litigation Group. She advises multinational clients on a wide array of economic competition issues in connection with United States federal compliance matters, potential joint ventures, merger reviews and clients under threat of litigation. Ukpai also has a broad range of experience effectively representing clients' interests in commercial disputes before federal agencies and in both federal and state courts. Additionally, she maintains a robust Pro Bono Practice. She was a central member of the team recently honored with the National Center for Law and Economic Justice's 2016 Pro Bono Leadership Award for her defense of two non-profit organizations sued in commercial civil litigation. Ukpai is also the recipient of the National Bar Association's 2017 Advocacy and Leadership Award. She received her J.D. from Harvard Law School, where she received two Dean's Scholar Awards, an Unsung Hero Award and was also honored as Harvard Law School's 2011 Outstanding Clinical Student in recognition of her trial practice successes and invaluable contributions to the clinical community. Ukpai will return to Harvard Law School this September as a guest lecturer for the Trial Advocacy Workshop.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater, under the leadership of Artistic Director Molly Smith and Executive Director Edgar Dobie, is a national center dedicated to American voices and artists. Arena Stage produces plays of all that is passionate, profound, deep and dangerous in the American spirit, and presents diverse and ground-breaking work from some of the best artists around the country. Arena Stage is committed to commissioning and developing new plays and impacts the lives of over 10,000 students annually through its work in community engagement. Now in its seventh decade, Arena Stage serves a diverse annual audience of more than 300,000.

arenastage.org

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