

LETITIA CHAMBERS



Letitia Chambers has held senior management positions in the private sector and in government. She has worked extensively in the field of education, both in the pre-collegiate arena and at the college and university level. She has advised prestigious clients on organizational and management issues. She is widely known for her extensive contributions to the formulation of public policy over the past three decades. And she has testified on numerous occasions as an expert witness, both before Congress and in the nation's courts.

In 1981, Dr. Chambers founded Chambers Associates Inc., a public policy consulting firm based in Washington, D.C., which she served as CEO. She sold the firm in 2001 to Navigant Consulting, a Chicago-based firm with global outreach. As a Managing Director at Navigant, she oversaw initiatives of the firm related to both public policy and management consulting, leading highly respected teams of economists, lawyers, political scientists, business management and other specialists in an interdisciplinary approach that proved eminently successful. Since her retirement from Navigant in 2008, Dr. Chambers has developed an independent consulting practice, assisting corporate and non-profit leaders in their efforts to find creative solutions to complex problems.

Contact:
Lchambers@heard.org

In 2004-05, Dr. Chambers took a leave of absence from Navigant to head up the system of higher education for the state of New Mexico where she worked to revamp and reform key aspects of the system. She led the agency responsible for oversight of all public colleges, universities, and community colleges in the state. Responsibilities included allocating state funds to public institutions; recommending capital projects to the legislature; approving new institutions; administering student financial aid, adult education programs, and outreach programs to secondary schools; design and maintenance of the statewide student data base; and policy analysis and research for an operation that became considerably more responsive to emerging priorities under her supervision.

Dr. Chambers also chaired the New Mexico Educational Trust Board, served as a Board Member of the New Mexico Student Loan and Guarantee Corp, and became an active member of the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education.

Dr. Chambers was nominated in 1996 by the President and confirmed by the Senate to be U.S. Representative to the United Nations General Assembly, a position of ambassadorial rank. In that capacity she made significant contributions as a member of the Management and Budget Committee of the General Assembly. In 1992, she served on the Clinton/Gore transition team as Chief Budget Advisor, leading the Budget Policy Group and developing drafts of the President's Economic Plan.

Prior to founding Chambers Associates in 1981, Dr. Chambers served as Staff Director of the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, which had jurisdiction over education, labor law, and social service programs. She was the first woman to head the staff of a major standing committee of the U.S. Senate. Prior to that she served as a senior staff member on the Senate Budget Committee and as Minority Staff Director of the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

Before she moved to Washington DC in the mid- 1970s, Dr. Chambers held senior management position in state and local education agencies, including the New Mexico State Department of Education (the agency that oversaw grades K-12) and the Oklahoma City Public Schools.

Dr. Chambers has served on corporate boards, particularly in the financial sector. She has also served on numerous educational and philanthropic boards, many of which have focused on the arts and American Indian arts and cultures. She spent a productive decade on the board of the Institute of American Indian Arts and Culture (IAIA), which includes both a college and a contemporary Indian art museum in Santa Fe. She Chaired the Trustees Development and Facilities Committee that raised funds for and oversaw the building of the new campus.

Dr. Chambers currently serves as a founding director on the board of the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, an institution that enjoys significant support from the Ford Foundation. In these and in a variety of related endeavors she has sought to preserve and enhance Indian arts and cultures, improve educational opportunities for Indian students, and broaden public appreciation for Native contributions not only to American society but to the world at large. She is of American Indian descent (Cherokee).

Dr. Chambers has addressed a broad array of professional groups, legislative conferences, trade associations, seminars, and colloquia, appearing in over twenty states, several foreign countries and at the United Nations. She is an accomplished speaker/orator both before large audiences as well as interacting with smaller groups. She has testified on numerous occasions before Congress; she has appeared on "Larry King Live"; and several of her speaking engagements have been covered by C-SPAN. She also has published or presented over fifty papers, primarily related to public policy issues.

A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, she holds a doctorate in educational research and curriculum development from Oklahoma State University.