

Lifetime Achievement in Thought Leadership



Mary Hashem

Founder and President | Adaapta

Mary B. Hashem, CRE, Co-Founder of RE | Solutions, LLC and founder of Adaapta, is a nationally recognized leader in brownfield redevelopment whose career spans more than 35 years of transformative impact. Her expertise in environmental real estate, regulatory compliance, and risk management has shaped some of the most complex and influential brownfields projects in the United States. From leading negotiations that established the \$641 million RACER Trust during the GM bankruptcy, to facilitating the cleanup and redevelopment of the Asarco Globe Smelter and the Schlage Lock facility, Mary has consistently blended strategic vision with technical precision to turn distressed sites into community assets.

Mary's influence goes far beyond project execution. Her thought leadership has guided best practices through roles at CCLR, ICMA, and EPA advisory panels. She has redefined what's possible in brownfield redevelopment—merging finance, remediation, social equity, and sustainability into cohesive, community-centered strategies. Known affectionately as the “Godmother of Brownfields,” Mary's mentorship, humility, and deep empathy have inspired and empowered a generation of practitioners, especially women entering the field.



Lifetime Achievement in Public Service



Judy Sheahan

Assistant Executive Director for the Environment |
Conference of Mayors

Judy Sheahan, representing the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), has been a tireless advocate for brownfield redevelopment for decades. Since the early 1990s, USCM has led the way in identifying the scope of the brownfields challenge by launching the first national survey on brownfields and publishing the results to galvanize communities across the country. Thanks in large part to Judy's leadership, USCM has consistently elevated the voices of mayors, provided crucial data to inform local action, and helped secure essential federal tools and funding through persistent advocacy and Congressional testimony.

As the staff face of USCM's brownfields efforts, Judy has played an instrumental role in shaping national brownfields policy, building strong coalitions, and supporting legislative victories that laid the foundation for EPA's successful brownfields program. Her work has left a lasting mark on the national brownfields movement and helped ensure that America's cities have the tools they need to revitalize contaminated properties and build healthier communities.



Lifetime Achievement in Public Service



Christian Bollwage

Mayor | Elizabeth NJ

Mayor J. Christian Bollwage of Elizabeth, New Jersey, has been one of the nation's most dedicated and influential champions of brownfield redevelopment for more than three decades. As the original Co-Chair—and now long-serving Chair—of the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Brownfields Task Force since 1996, Mayor Bollwage has been instrumental in shaping national brownfields policy. His tireless advocacy, including more than a dozen Congressional testimonies and countless Hill visits, directly contributed to the creation of the EPA's Brownfields Program and the passage of both the original Brownfields Law and its reauthorization.

Beyond his national leadership, Mayor Bollwage has transformed his own community through bold and strategic brownfield redevelopment. Under his leadership, Elizabeth has revitalized dozens of contaminated sites, including turning a former landfill into the nation's largest IKEA and an outlet shopping center, building hundreds of units of affordable housing, restoring the midtown train station, and developing the Harbor Front Villas.

A steadfast advocate who has consistently answered the call to champion brownfields on behalf of cities nationwide, Mayor Bollwage embodies the impact of visionary, hands-on leadership. His work has laid the foundation for transformative brownfield redevelopment across the country and continues to inspire new generations of urban leaders.



Lifetime Achievement in Redevelopment



Randall Jostes

Chief Executive Officer | Environmental Liability Transfer

Randall Jostes is the founder and driving force behind Environmental Liability Transfer (ELT), the nation's largest brownfield redevelopment firm. Under his visionary leadership, ELT pioneered the model of assuming and remediating complex environmental liabilities, successfully acquiring over \$2 billion in obligations from major corporations including Shell Oil, General Motors, and Caterpillar.

Randall transformed ELT into North America's leading firm specializing in the transfer and resolution of corporate environmental liabilities, setting a new standard for the brownfield redevelopment industry. A respected thought leader, Randall has championed innovative strategies such as indemnification, fixed-cost remediation, and integrated insurance solutions—unlocking new potential for brownfield reuse and revitalizing communities across the country.



EPA Excellence in Service Distinction



Helena Wooden-Aguilar

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Workforce Solutions
& Chief Human Capital Officer at the U.S. EPA.

This certificate recognizes Ms. Wooden-Aguilar's decades of exemplary public service and her unwavering leadership in advancing the mission of EPA. It is also a tribute of deep appreciation to all EPA employees who work tirelessly to protect our environment and safeguard public health.

Helena Wooden-Aguilar exemplifies the highest ideals of public service. As the EPA's Chief Human Capital Officer and its highest-ranking non-political employee, she oversees and leads and manages all aspects of an organization's human resources functions, including talent acquisition, employee relations, compensation and benefits, and organizational development for the agency's staff. In her more than two decades at EPA,

Helena has served in senior leadership roles across the agency, including as Acting Deputy Regional Administrator for Region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and 66 Tribal Nations) and Deputy Associate Administrator in the Office of Policy. She has built lasting partnerships with communities and businesses alike, always with a deep commitment to the agency's mission. Helena has earned the trust and respect of Administrations because of her integrity, pragmatism, and unwavering dedication to environmental protection and sustainability. A steadfast supporter of brownfield redevelopment, she continues to be a powerful voice for the EPA's core values.

