

Biography for William E. Spriggs



Bill became Chair of the Department, and a professor, of Economics at Howard University in Washington, DC in December 2005. Before that, Bill was at the Economic Policy Institute as senior fellow, having returned there in 2004. Starting in July 2006, he also serves as Chair of the Independent Health Care Trust for UAW Retirees of Ford Motor Company, and is on the board of the Retiree Health Administration Corporation which administers the health care trusts for UAW retirees of Ford and General Motors. Beginning in January 2007 he is also a Senior Fellow with the Community Service Society of New York, where he helps with *Working for Change*, a public policy forum on the problems of young low-income workers and their families. From 1988 to 2004, he was Executive Director of the National Urban League's Institute for Opportunity and Equality, where among other duties he was editor of the *State of Black America 1999*, and led research on pay equity that won the NUL the 2001 Winn Newman Award from the National Committee on Pay Equity.

As a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance, Bill was the co-chair of the 2003 NASI conference that produced the volume, *Strengthening Community: Social Insurance in a Diverse America*. In 2004, with several of his Washington-based civil rights advocate colleagues, Bill was awarded the Congressional Black Caucus Chairman's Award by then CBC Chair Elijah Cummings. On behalf of the NUL, Bill gave congressional testimony on how various policies would affect Black and low-income communities, and participated in the UN World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia and Related Forms of Intolerance, where he contributed language adopted in the Programme of Action relating to documenting racial disparities and incorporating closing racial disparities within efforts to achieve the Copenhagen goals for World Social Development.

Before working at the National Urban League, Bill held various positions in government service during the Clinton Administration: in 1993 and 1994 he led the staff of the National Commission for Employment Policy, and in 1997 and 1998 he worked at the Department of Commerce, where he worked on the federal response to the *Adarand v. Peña* decision, crafting the guidelines for the federal Small Disadvantage Business program that successfully addressed the Courts' concerns in the *Adarand* case, and at the Small Business Administration. He served as a senior economist for the Democratic staff of the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress from 1994 to 1997, where, among other things, he worked on the passage of the increase in the minimum wage and to prevent legislative efforts to roll back affirmative action in federal procurement. He is a past-board member and President of the National Economic Association—the professional organization of Black economists, currently serves on the policy board of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, and is a Board member of the National Academy of Social Insurance.

In 2006 he was elected to the National Academy of Public Administration. He serves as Vice Chair of the Board of the Congressional Black Caucus Political Education and Leadership Institute, and on the boards of the National Employment Law Project and the National Advisory Council of Corporate Voices for Working Families. Bill is a member of the *Black Enterprise Magazine* Board of Economists, and served on the 2002 *Time Magazine* Board of Economists. He taught six years at Norfolk State University (in Virginia) where he also headed the Honors Program for non-science students, and two years at North Carolina A & T State University (in Greensboro), and has published in both academic and popular journals, and appeared on various television and radio news programs.

Education:

Ph.D. Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison 1984 [*National Science Foundation Minority Graduate Fellow*]

BA, Williams College 1977 *cum laude*