Department of Veterans Affairs

Senior Executive Biography

Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D.
Under Secretary for Benefits
Veterans Benefits Administration

Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D. was nominated by President Donald J. Trump to serve as the 7th Under Secretary for Benefits and was confirmed by the United States Senate on April 26, 2018.

As Under Secretary, he leads more than 24,000 employees in the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) in the delivery of benefits programs for Veterans, including disability compensation, pension and fiduciary, education, home loan guaranty, veterans readiness and employment, life insurance, and the Transition Assistance Program. Through a nationwide network of 56 regional offices, special processing centers, and VBA headquarters, he oversees the execution of over $118B in direct benefits to Veterans and their dependents.

Prior to his confirmation, Dr. Lawrence served as Vice President at Kaiser Associates. He has 30 years of experience working closely with federal leaders as a senior management consultant, serving in leadership positions at such organizations as Ernst & Young, Accenture, the MITRE Corporation, IBM Business Consulting Services, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

He has researched and written extensively on management and government. He is the co-author of *Succeeding as a Political Executive: 50 Insights from Experience; What Government Does: How Political Executives Manage;* and *Paths to Making a Difference: Leading in Government*. He is the co-editor of *Transforming Organizations and Learning the Ropes: Insights for Political Appointees*. He served on the Board of Advisors to the Economic Program at the University of Massachusetts and has served on the Board of Advisors of the Thomas Jefferson Public Policy Program at The College of William and Mary. He was twice selected by Federal Computer Week as one of the top 100 public service business leaders.

Dr. Lawrence served in the U.S. Army attaining the rank of Captain. He graduated from the Army's Airborne School and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He earned a Master of Arts and Ph.D. in Economics from Virginia Tech and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.