



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION®

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Hon. Janet L. Yellen's distinguished career reflects the highest ideals of the Elliot L. Richardson Prize, honoring individuals whose public service demonstrates integrity, courage, thoughtfulness, and a sustained commitment to advancing the public good. Across five decades, Yellen has shaped national and global economic policy through service in some of the most consequential roles in American government, including Secretary of the Treasury, Chair and Vice Chair of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, and Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers.

As the 78th Secretary of the Treasury, she guided the nation through economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, strengthened global financial stability, and advanced policies designed to support workers, families, and long-term economic resilience. Her leadership at the Federal Reserve was marked by a data-driven, transparent approach focused on strengthening the labor market, safeguarding financial institutions, and promoting sustained, inclusive economic growth.

What makes Yellen's contributions especially aligned with the spirit of the Richardson Prize is the integrity, steadiness, and public-centered focus she brought to every position. Like Elliot L. Richardson, she repeatedly accepted roles demanding impartial judgment, calm under pressure, and the courage to pursue sound policy even in politically charged or uncertain environments. Her tenure reflects a deep commitment to public service rooted in analytical rigor, humility, and a profound sense of responsibility for the well-being of the nation. Beyond her government service, Yellen has contributed to the public good through decades of scholarship and teaching at leading universities, shaping generations of economists who continue to inform public policy. Her career stands as a model of thoughtful, principled, and enduring public leadership—precisely the qualities the Richardson Prize seeks to honor.

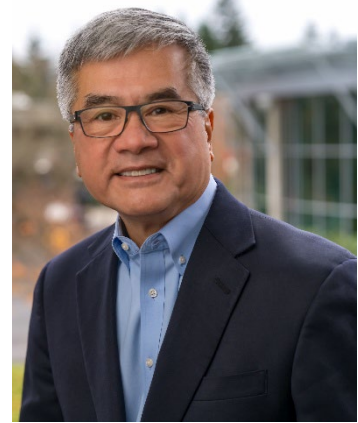


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Hon. Gary F. Locke exemplifies the extraordinary public service values honored by the Elliot L. Richardson Prize. Over more than four decades, he has advanced the public good through state, federal, and diplomatic leadership, beginning in the Washington State Legislature and continuing as King County Executive, Governor of Washington, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and U.S. Ambassador to China.



As Governor, he strengthened Washington's economy by more than doubling exports to China, guiding the state through two recessions, creating 280,000 private-sector jobs, and assembling the most diverse cabinet and judiciary in state history. As Secretary of Commerce, he led the National Export Initiative, managed the most accurate and efficient Census in U.S. history—completed on time and 25 percent under budget—and delivered the most significant reduction in patent-processing times the agency had ever achieved, improving innovation and competitiveness. His tenure as Ambassador to China further demonstrated courage, integrity, and commitment to the public interest, from opening markets for American goods to reducing visa wait times from 100 days to three days and sparking national environmental awareness through transparent air-quality reporting.

What makes Locke's service especially reflective of the Richardson Prize is not only the breadth of his leadership but the spirit with which he carried it out. Like Elliot L. Richardson, he consistently took on difficult, high-stakes assignments—such as rescuing a troubled Census, modernizing export controls, and navigating complex U.S.-China relations—and approached them with moral clarity, integrity, and a steadfast focus on the public good. His record of under-budget management, bipartisan problem-solving, and commitment to transparency underscores a thoughtful pursuit of excellence in government. Equally important, his inclusive leadership style, innovations in government efficiency, and willingness to confront systemic problems—whether economic, administrative, or environmental—demonstrate a generosity of spirit and courage that align squarely with the values this prize seeks to honor. Gary Locke's career stands as a model of principled, effective, and inspirational public service in the finest tradition of Elliot L. Richardson.