Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

Bonnie Reiss

Secretary of Education, State of California

Bonnie Reiss was sworn in by Governor Schwarzenegger on February 23, 2010 as the California Secretary of Education. The Office of the Secretary of Education is the primary education advisor to the Governor and is committed to creating, promoting and supporting the Governor's policies that ensure access to quality education for all Californians.

Since 2007, Secretary Reiss served as operating advisor to Pegasus Capital Advisors, a private equity firm committed to investing in and developing scarce resources, commodities and sustainable companies. Previously, she served as senior advisor to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger from 2003 to 2007, where she advised the Governor on all major policy initiatives, including education, the environment and children's issues. From 1994 to 2003, Secretary Reiss served as founding president of the Inner-City Games Foundation, later renamed After School All-Stars. In 1988, she founded the Earth Communications Office where she led the effort to use media for public awareness campaigns of environmental issues until 1993. Secretary Reiss experience includes careers as an entertainment lawyer, accountant, producer and writer from 1981 to 1988.

Secretary Reiss was appointed to serve on the University of California Board Of Regents in 2007 for a twelve year term. She serves on the board of directors for After School All-Stars and the Governor and First Lady's Conference on Women. In 2007, Secretary Reiss received the William S. White Lifetime Achievement Award from the U.S. Department of Education for her advocacy in the area of public education and, in 2006; she received the Advocate of the Year Award from the University of California Student Association. From 2004 to 2006, Secretary Reiss served on the California State Board of Education.