Association for Computing Machinery

Advancing Computing as a Science & Profession

July 22, 2008
BY FAX AND BY MAIL

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
House Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam Speaker, Representative Boehner, Senator Reid and Senator McConnell:

I am writing on behalf of the U.S. Public Policy Committee of the Association for Computing Machinery (USACM) about the vacancies on the Board of Advisors for the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). According to Section 214(a)(15) of the Help America Vote Act you have the authority to appoint "Four members representing professionals in the field of science and technology." We understand that there is currently one vacancy on the Board and possibly others as the terms of the members expired on June 30. We respectfully forward the names of some of our members (below) for your consideration in appointing open positions on the Board of Advisors.

With the increasing use of technology in voting process, voting issues and computing technologies are deeply intertwined. As the largest non-partisan, scientific and educational society for computing professionals in the world, we represent a broad array of views and expertise from the field of computing. Our experts can bring valuable technical expertise to the Board of Advisors to help inform the Commission's work. HAVA rightly calls for technical input into the board by reserving these four positions for members to represent professionals in the field of science and technology. Our members are experts in a number of computing and computing-related fields, including voting systems, election technology, and election processes. The members listed below would be excellent candidates to represent the computing field and meet the statutory requirement:

- Barbara Simons, Ph.D. <simons@acm.org>
- Cem Kaner, J.D., Ph.D. <kaner@kaner.com>
- Douglas W. Jones, Ph.D. <jones@cs.uiowa.edu>
- Jeremy Epstein <Jeremy.Epstein@softwareag.com>

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Abbreviated biographical information on each of these candidates is attached; each would be pleased to provide a more complete C.V. if needed.

We respectfully request you give these individuals all due consideration for the vacancies on the Board of Advisors for the Election Assistance Commission. USACM stands ready to provide any assistance you may need in facilitating the appointment process. If you have any questions, or need additional information on any of these candidates, please contact our Public Policy Office at 202-659-9711, or our Public Policy Director, Cameron Wilson, at cameron.wilson@acm.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
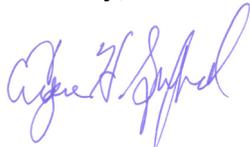
Eugene H. Spafford, Ph.D.
Chair
U.S. Public Policy Committee of the
        Association for Computing Machinery

cc: The Honorable Robert Brady
The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
The Honorable Vernon Ehlers
Senator Diane Feinstein
Senator Robert Bennett

About ACM and USACM:

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), with over 88,000 members, is the world's largest non-partisan educational and scientific computing society, uniting educators, researchers and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources and address the field's challenges. ACM strengthens the computing profession's collective voice through strong leadership, promotion of the highest standards, and recognition of technical excellence.

The Committee on U.S. Public Policy acts as the focal point for ACM's interaction with the U.S. Congress and government organizations. It seeks to educate and assist policy-makers on legislative and regulatory matters of concern to the computing community. (See http://www.acm.org and http://usacm.acm.org/.)

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Biographical Information

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An expert on electronic voting, Barbara Simons received her Ph.D. in computer science from U.C. Berkeley. She was a member of the National Workshop on Internet Voting that was convened at the request of President Clinton and produced a report on Internet Voting in 2001. She participated on the Security Peer Review Group for the US Department of Defense's Internet voting project (SERVE) and co-authored the report that led to the cancellation of SERVE because of security concerns. Simons also co-chaired the ACM study of statewide databases of registered voters. She is co-authoring a book on voting machines with Doug Jones.

Simons was President of ACM from July 1998 until June 2000. She founded ACM's US Public Policy Committee (USACM) in 1993 and served for many years as the Chair or co-Chair of USACM.

In 2005 Simons became the first woman to receive the Distinguished Engineering Alumni Award from the College of Engineering of U.C. Berkeley. She is also a Fellow of ACM and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She received the Alumnus of the Year Award from the Berkeley Computer Science Department, the Distinguished Service Award from Computing Research Association, the Norbert Wiener Award from Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, the Outstanding Contribution Award from ACM, and the Pioneer Award from EFF. She was selected by C|NET as one of its 26 Internet "Visionaries" and by Open Computing as one of the "Top 100 Women in Computing." Science Magazine featured her in a special edition on women in science.

Simons served on the President's Export Council's Subcommittee on Encryption and on the Information Technology-Sector of the President's Council on the Year 2000 Conversion. She is retired from IBM Research.

Douglas Jones

Douglas W. Jones served as a member of the Iowa Board of Examiners for Voting Machines and Electronic Voting Systems between 1994 and 2004, and he chaired

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the board from 1999 to 2002. He has testified about voting technology before the United States Commission of Civil Rights, the House Science Committee, the Federal Election Commission, and the Technical Guidelines Development Committee of the Election Assistance Commission. He has consulted on voting system management and evaluation for Miami-Dade County, the Arizona Senate Government Accountability and Reform Committee, and others. He has testified about voting machines before the District Court of the City and County of Denver and before the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

Jones is one of 10 principal investigators in the NSF Funded ACCURATE project, a multi-institutional Center for Correct, Usable, Reliable, Auditable and Transparent Elections. His published papers include Auditing Elections, Evaluating Voting Technologies, and Perspectives on Electronic Voting. A paper On Optical Mark-Sense Scanning is forthcoming, as is a book on the history of voting technology.

Jones has been on the computer science faculty at the University of Iowa since 1980; he received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in computer science from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in 1976 and 1980, respectively. He has been an ACM member since 1978.

Cem Kaner

Cem Kaner is a member of the Election Assistance Commission's Technical Guidelines Development Committee (the representative of the Institute for Electrical & Electronics Engineers, Inc./IEEE). He is the senior author of three books on software quality control, including Testing Computer Software, which has been the bestselling book in the history of that field. Dr. Kaner is a Professor of Software Engineering at the Florida Institute of Technology and Director of its Center for Software Testing Education & Research (CSTER). CSTER is currently developing courseware on software testing and on graduate study of software-related law and ethics under grants from the National Science Foundation. Before joining Florida Tech, Dr. Kaner worked in the Silicon Valley software industry for 17 years, as a human factors analyst, programmer, technical writer, software tester, manager, director, consultant, and independent counsel with a practice focused on the law of software quality. Dr. Kaner holds a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from McMaster University (Canada) and a J.D. (law degree) from Golden Gate University (San Francisco).

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Jeremy Epstein

Jeremy Epstein is a widely recognized computer security expert. Having spent over twenty years in industry performing research, product development, and consulting, he has a wide-ranging set of technical skills. Beyond his technical skills, Jeremy's real-world experience has led him to be a security pragmatist, recognizing the tradeoffs that necessarily occur between security and other system requirements.

Jeremy's technical experience includes leading teams that developed one of the first multi-level secure UNIX systems, the first high assurance multi-level secure windowing system, and the first government security certification of a network operating system (Novell NetWare). Jeremy has been involved in standards committees that have developed SAML, XKMS, and POSIX Security. He's published over 20 articles in peer-refereed conferences and journals, and was program chair of the Annual Computer Security Applications Conference for two years. He's served on National Science Foundation (NSF) proposal review panels and advised the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) on research directions. Jeremy leads the product security department at Software AG, a leading provider of business integration software, where's he's responsible for meeting security requirements around Service Oriented Architectures for many of the world's largest corporations and government agencies. He led the team that earned the first Common Criteria evaluation for a business integration product. He's also a consultant to Cyber Defense Agency, LLC, a leader in the area of cyber security.

In the area of electronic voting, Jeremy is an independent consultant who has served on two Virginia legislative panels investigating what the Commonwealth should be doing, co-founded Virginia Verified Voting (a lobbying group for safer electronic voting), been an expert reviewer for the nationally recognized "Brennan Report", a technology advisor to the Kentucky Attorney General, and served as the expert witness for a lawsuit on voting technology against the State of Maryland. He's given speeches on electronic voting at a half dozen universities, and participates in several voting working groups. He recently published an article in IEEE Computer on how electronic voting machines work.

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Jeremy holds a B.S. in Computer Science from New Mexico Tech, an M.S. in Computer Sciences from Purdue University, and completed coursework for a Ph.D. in Information Security at George Mason University.