

BIO – Christopher Godfrey

Christopher Godfrey is a legal expert, policy innovator, and organizational leader who has over two decades of experience in law, government service, and public policy.

An Accomplished Legal and Public Policy Leader

Mr. Godfrey has built a distinguished career at the intersection of labor and employment law, civil rights, and public administration. His experience includes serving in top leadership roles at both the state and federal levels, where he spearheaded transformative legal, regulatory, and policy initiatives. He most recently served as the Director of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs at the U.S. Department of Labor, overseeing a \$4 billion benefits program and leading large-scale modernization and policy reform efforts. Previously, Godfrey held key administrative law and organizational leadership roles, including:

- Chief Judge & Chair, U.S. Department of Labor's Employees' Compensation Appeals Board
- Iowa Workers' Compensation Commissioner
- Litigation and Advocacy Roles in private practice, specializing in employment law, workers' compensation, civil rights, labor policy, and mediation practice

Mr. Godfrey's is an elected member of the National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI). He has extensive federal and state-level leadership experience that has earned him a reputation as a problem solver, consensus builder, and organizational change agent, with a track record of modernizing legal frameworks, improving service delivery, and strengthening workforce engagement.

Global Perspective & Policy Expertise

In addition to his distinguished legal and public service career, Mr. Godfrey holds a Master of Arts in Global Policy from Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). His studies focused on international law, cybersecurity, labor rights, and energy policy, equipping him with a global perspective on governance and economic development. His research on Just Transition Theory and energy transformation highlights his expertise in balancing labor policy with economic and environmental sustainability for both communities and workers.

Honors & Recognitions

Mr. Godfrey's dedication to justice and public service has been recognized with numerous prestigious awards, including:

Judicial Achievement Award and the Roxanne Conlin Public Justice Award – Iowa Association for Justice

Onelowa Courageous Six Award – Leadership in LGBTQ+ civil rights

International Association of Industrial Accident Boards & Commissions Samuel Gompers Award
– Excellence in labor law reform

A Commitment to Public Service

Mr. Godfrey is driven by a passion for justice, fairness, and effective governance. He has been a trusted advisor, policymaker, and advocate on critical issues, from workplace protections and labor rights to regulatory modernization and government transparency.