Zoë Baird

Zoë Baird formerly served as senior counselor for technology and economic growth to Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. In this role, Baird focused on advancing U.S. competitiveness in key technologies and ensuring the economic benefits are broadly shared by innovative businesses and a well-trained workforce. Baird has led international engagement on artificial intelligence for the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. government. Prior to Commerce, Baird was CEO and president of the Markle Foundation. During her leadership at Markle, Baird worked at the intersection of technology and public challenges. She formed the Rework America Alliance, a nationwide partnership of civil rights groups, nonprofits, private sector employers, labor unions, educators, and others, ensuring individuals who had not completed college found robust employment in a labor market transformed by technology. Also under Baird’s leadership, Markle established a nonpartisan Rework America State Network, comprised of thirty governors and the mayor of DC, to modernize the labor market. Previously, Baird led Markle's collaborative efforts to reform our nation’s approach to intelligence and law enforcement after 9/11 to protect the country against terrorism while protecting civil liberties. In 2000, she originated and led U.S. participation in the G-8 Digital Opportunity Task Force, bringing the internet to the developing world. Baird also established Markle’s Connecting for Health initiative. Prior to joining the Commerce Department, Baird served on President Joe Biden and Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo’s National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee and chaired its working group on International Cooperation in 2022. From 2016 to 2017, she was co-chair of the Department of Commerce Digital Economy board of advisors to the Secretary of Commerce appointed by former Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker. Baird also served as a member of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (1994–2000), the Congressional Commission on Roles and Capabilities of the U.S. Intelligence Community (1995), the Department of Defense Science Board Summer Study on Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction (1997), the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships (1997), the International Competition Policy Advisory Committee to the Attorney General (2000), U.S. Representative to the G-8 Digital Opportunity Task Force (2000–2002), the Department of Defense Technology and Privacy Advisory Committee (2003-2004), and the National Security Cyber Awareness and Response Panel (2010–2011). Baird graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California, Berkeley (UC-Berkeley), receiving her BA with highest honors in political science, and communications and public policy. Baird earned her JD from UC-Berkeley’s Boalt Hall School of Law.