POSITION DESCRIPTION

**special trustee for american indians, Department of the interior**

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| **OVERVIEW** | |
| Senate Committee | Indian Affairs |
| Agency Mission | The Department of the Interior protects and manages the nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives and affiliated island communities.[[1]](#endnote-1) |
| Position Overview | The special trustee for American Indians provides oversight, reform and coordination of the policies, procedures, systems and practices agencies use to manage Indian trust assets.[[2]](#endnote-2) |
| Compensation | Level II $179,700 (5 U.S.C. § 5313)[[3]](#endnote-3) |
| Position Reports to | Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the Interior[[4]](#endnote-4) |
| **RESPONSIBILITIES** | |
| Management Scope | In fiscal 2015, the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians had a budget of $139 million and 576 employees.[[5]](#endnote-5) |
| Primary Responsibilities | * Provides effective management of, and is accountable for, the proper discharge of the secretary's trust fund responsibilities to Indian tribes and individual Indians as delineated under the American Indian Trust Reform Act of 1994 * Oversees reforms of all practices related to managing and discharging Indian fiduciary trust fund responsibilities, which consist of trust fund management operations nationwide and the major Department of the Interior fiduciary trust reform effort[[6]](#endnote-6) |
| Strategic Goals and Priorities | [Depends on the policy priorities of the administration] |
| **REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETENCIES** | |
| Requirements | * Demonstrated ability in general management of large governmental or business entities, and particular knowledge of trust fund management, management of financial institutions and the investment of large sums of money (25 U.S.C. § 4042) * Strong relationships with relevant stakeholders or ability to form them * Knowledge of tribal issues and relationship to Native American country * Prior government experience, either from Capitol Hill or a similar state function (helpful) |
| Competencies | * Strong communication skills to communicate well within the department, across different agencies and with external stakeholders * Political savvy and sensitivity * Willingness to travel |
| **PAST APPOINTEES** | |
| Vincent G. Logan (2014 to 2017): Owner and President , The Nations Group, LLC; Merrill Lynch Private Banking and Investment Group; Schulte Roth & Zabel, New[[7]](#endnote-7) | |
| Ross Owen Swimmer (2003 to 2009): Director of the Office of Indian Trust Transition in the Bureau of Indian Affairs; Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Indian Affairs[[8]](#endnote-8) | |
| Thomas N. Slonaker (2000 to 2003): Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, Wells Fargo[[9]](#endnote-9) | |

1. Partnership for Public Service position description [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.doi.gov/ost/about\_us/history [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31, May 5, 2017), contains a provision that continues the freeze on the payable pay rates for certain senior political officials at 2013 levels during calendar year 2017. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Leadership Directories: https://lo.bvdep.com/OrgChart.asp?curp=1&LDIBookId=19&LDISectionId=180&LDIOrgId=157395 [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Leadership Directories: https://lo.bvdep.com/OrgDocument.asp?OrgId=-1&LDIBookId=19&LDIOrgId=157395&LDISecId=180&FromRecent=0&Save=1&Position=-1#O157395 [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. OPM [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/2014%2007%2010%20NEWS%20RELEASE%20-%20Vincent%20Logan%20Assumes%20Office%20as%20Special%20Trustee.pdf [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. Leadership Directories: https://lo.bvdep.com/PeopleDocument.asp?PersonId=-1&LDIPeopleId=471265&Save=1 [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. https://indiancountrymedianetwork.com/news/thomas-slonaker-nominee-as-special-trustee/ [↑](#endnote-ref-9)