

Mercedes (Mercy) Viana Schlapp

Mercedes Viana Schlapp is a political commentator, blogger and former Director of Specialty Media for President George W. Bush in the White House. She frequently appears on FOX News, FOX Business, MSNBC, PBS and CNN as a Republican strategist. A first generation Cuban-American and raised in Miami, Florida, she is fluent in Spanish and also provides political commentary for Univision, Telemundo, CNN en Español and national Spanish radio.

Mercedes is currently a contributor to U.S. News and World Report http://www.usnews.com/topics/author/mercedes_schlapp. She also has written for FOXNews.com, The Daily Caller and The Hill on a variety of topics including immigration, Hispanic and women issues as well as on foreign and domestic policies.

Inspired by her father, who was held as a political prisoner in Fidel Castro's Cuba in the 1960s, Mercedes discovered her passion for politics at a young age. Her father's experience in Cuba gave her a clear understanding of the need to protect freedom and democracy in the United States and around the world.

Mercedes worked on both local and national political campaigns including the 2000 and 2004 presidential campaign for President George W. Bush. She also worked at the Republican National Committee where she hosted an on-line show in both English and Spanish and interviewed national surrogates on current events.

Today, her greatest joy is being a mother of 5 daughters. She offers unique and helpful parenting perspectives on juggling motherhood and a career as well as raising a big family in today's society.

Mercedes is married to Matt Schlapp, chairman of The American Conservative Union and former political director for President George W. Bush. They are co-founders of Cove Strategies, a governmental and public relations firm in Alexandria, Virginia where she develops and implements media strategy for non-profit organizations.