Congressional - Executive Branch Relations for the American Association for the Advancement of Science Taught by the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

Agenda

Wednesday, October 28, 2015: Rock Creek Ballroom

8:00 - 8:30 am  Check-In and Introduction (light breakfast provided)

8:30 - 9:45 am  The Nature of Congress
Worth H. Hester, Jr.
Assistant Director and Senior Fellow
Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

9:45 - 10:00 am  Break

10:00 - 11:00 am  Leadership and Organization in the 114th Congress
Mark Harkins
Senior Fellow
Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

11:00 - 11:15 am  Break

11:15 - 12:15 pm  The Office of Management and Budget: A Director's Perspective
James C. Capretta
Fellow
Ethics and Public Policy Center

12:15 - 1:15 pm  Lunch (provided)

1:15 - 2:30 pm  The Budget Dilemma
Kenneth A. Gold, Ph.D.
Director
Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

2:30 - 2:45 pm  Break

2:45 - 4:00 pm  Workshop in Preparing Testimony
Mark Harkins
Thursday, October 29, 2015: Rock Creek Ballroom

8:00 - 8:30 am  Check-In (light breakfast provided)

8:30 - 9:30 am  Executive-Legislative Relations: The Role of the Legislative Liaison Office
David Stonner
Former Director of Congressional Affairs
National Science Foundation

9:30 - 9:45 am  Break

9:45 - 10:45 am  Congressional Oversight and Investigations
Doug Pasternak
Professional Staff
Committee on Space, Science, and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives

10:45 - 11:00 am  Break

11:00 - 12:30 pm  Briefing Appropriators – How to Get the Money
Ben Nicholson
Vice President, Government Relations
L-3 Communications
and
Former Staff Director
Subcommittee on Homeland Security, Committee on Appropriations
U. S. House of Representatives

12:30 - 1:15 pm  Lunch

1:15 - 2:15 pm  The Obama Administration and Congress
Alexis Simendinger
White House Correspondent
RealClearPolitics.com

2:15 - 2:30 pm  Break

2:30 - 3:45 pm  A Former Member's Perspective on the Congress
The Honorable William V. Hilleary (R)
Former Representative
State of Tennessee--4th District, U.S. House of Representatives

3:45 - 4:00 pm  Break

4:00 - 4:30 pm  Understanding Congress: Some "Takeaways"
Mark Harkins
Government Affairs Institute

Staff Roster

Kenneth A. Gold, Ph.D.

Charles B. Cushman, Jr., Ph.D.

Mark Harkins

Valerie Heitshusen, Ph.D.

Phyllis O'Callaghan, Ph.D.

Anne Marie Cammisa, Ph.D.

Mark V. Nadel, Ph.D.

Josh Huder, Ph.D.

Katina E. Slavkova

Marian L. Currinder, Ph.D.

James H. Hershman, Ph.D.

Howard B. Stevens

Worth H. Hester, Jr.

Susan Sullivan Lagon, Ph.D.

John Haskell, Ph.D.

Joan Milan

LaJuan M. Alexander

Meg C. Tice

Meeghan G. Bey

Amy Bozick

Frank Phillippi
Course Director

Mark B. Harkins joined the Government Affairs Institute as a Senior Fellow in 2013. Prior to joining GAI, Mark was a senior public policy advisor at a number of law firms where he focused on the representation of corporate, nonprofit and government clients before Congress and the Executive Branch. He has extensive experience with the federal appropriations and budgeting process, as well as issues handled by the Financial Services, Science, Ways and Means, and Homeland Security Committees.

Mark came to the Hill in 1989 and worked for two Members of Congress and one Committee before taking the position of Senior Legislative Assistant to Representative David Price (D-NC), where his portfolio included appropriations. His next assignment was as Legislative Director for the Democrats to the House Science Committee. Ultimately he served as Chief of Staff for Brad Miller (D-NC).

Prior to working on Capitol Hill, he worked as Sports Information Director at Swarthmore College where he also received his BA Degree in Economics. He was once a co-owner of one of the largest fantasy sports statistics service in the United States.

Speaker Bios

Worth H. Hester, Jr. is a Senior Fellow and Assistant Director of the Government Affairs Institute. He joined the faculty of GAI in 1988 as a Presidential Management Fellow and took the job of Assistant Director in 1999. During seven years of government service, he served as an Employee Development Specialist, Program Analyst, and Legislative Analyst for a Member of Congress. Worth also spent two years as Senior Staff with the Center for Public Policy Education at the Brookings Institution.

Mr. Hester has been teaching about Congress and the legislative process for more than 20 years. He has served as Director of the Institute’s Capitol Hill Fellowship Program since 1997 and is President of the Institute’s Board of Directors. He received his B.A. degree magna cum laude in Government from Campbell University. His M.P.A. in Coastal Studies/Natural Resource Management is from the University of West Florida.
James C. Capretta, a Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center (EPPC), was an Associate Director at the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) from 2001 to 2004, where he was the top budget official for health-care, Social Security, education, and welfare programs.

At EPPC, Mr. Capretta studies and provides commentary on a wide range of public policy and economic issues, with a focus on health-care and entitlement reform, U.S. fiscal policy, and global population aging. His essays and articles have appeared in numerous print and online publications, including USA Today, Politico, Health Affairs, National Affairs, Kaiser Health News, The Weekly Standard, and Tax Notes, among others. He is the author of the blog Diagnosis and is a frequent contributor to National Review Online. Mr. Capretta has also testified before Congress and appeared as a commentator on PBS NewsHour, Fox News, Fox Business News, CNBC, MSNBC, EWTN and numerous national and local radio programs.

In addition to his work as a researcher and commentator on public policy issues, Mr. Capretta is also a health policy and research consultant with Civic Enterprises, LLC, a Senior Advisor to Leavitt Partners, and an Adjunct Fellow with the Global Aging Initiative of the Center for Strategic and International Studies and with Hudson Institute. Earlier in his career, Mr. Capretta served for a decade in Congress as a senior analyst for health-care issues and for three years as a budget examiner at OMB. He has an MA in Public Policy Studies from Duke University, and he graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1985 with a BA in Government.

Kenneth A. Gold, Ph.D. has been the Director of the Government Affairs Institute for twenty years. He originally came to GAI as a member of the faculty when it was still part of OPM. Dr. Gold is one of the leading authorities on the role of Inspectors General. In addition, he has conducted dozens of seminars for agency officials interested in improving their ability to work effectively with Congress.

Before coming to GAI, Dr. Gold was Academic Director of the Washington Semester Program at the American University, and Assistant Professor with the University's School of Public Affairs and School of International Service. Dr. Gold also directed the University's programs in London and Rome. Dr. Gold received a B.A. from City College of New York, and M.A. and Ph.D in Political Science from the Pennsylvania State University. He is the author of United States Foreign Economic Policy Making: An Analysis of the Use of Food Resources (New York: Garland, 1987.)
Prior to his retirement from federal service, David Stonner served in a variety of positions at the National Science Foundation, including Executive Officer for the Office of International Science and Engineering, where he played a key role in developing the Global Research Council, an international organization comprised of the heads of NSF counterpart agencies from around the globe. From 2007 to 2011 he was Head of the NSF Europe Office in Paris. Before being selected to that position, Dr. Stonner served as Head of the Congressional Affairs Section at NSF for 7 years and in various capacities in the NSF Office of Legislative and Public Affairs since 1991.

In 2001 he was selected by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to participate in the Swiss Forum on the Interface of Science and Government in the U.S. In 2007 he was awarded the Antarctic Service Medal in connection with his responsibilities as an escort for numerous Congressional delegations reviewing NSF research operations in the Antarctic and at the South Pole. Prior to coming to NSF he served for 8 years on the staff of Congresswoman Claudine Schneider where he held various posts culminating in his being named as her Legislative Director. His employment with Rep. Schneider grew out of his selection as an AAAS Congressional Science Fellow in 1982.

From 1979 to 1982 Dr. Stonner was a program officer in the Psychological Sciences Division at the Office of Naval Research (ONR) and he was an assistant professor of psychology at Oakland University in Michigan from 1974 to 1978. He has taught courses at The George Washington University and at American University in Washington, D.C. He earned his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Missouri—Columbia.

Doug Pasternak joined the staff of the Committee in September 2006. His investigations have focused on scientific integrity issues at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), mismanagement of R&D programs at the Department of Homeland Security, technical problems with IT-systems at the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), the abuse of federal funds by a NASA contractor, and many other issues. Prior to joining the Committee Doug was an award-winning investigative reporter who spent nearly two decades uncovering waste, fraud and mismanagement at various federal agencies, primarily within the national security community.

He came to the committee from NBC Nightly News where he was a producer on the Investigative Unit. While there he conducted hidden-camera investigations and broke several major stories, including FEMA’s mishandling of ice shipments to victims of Hurricane Katrina and the Pentagon’s post 9.11 domestic intelligence collection efforts. Prior to NBC News, he
worked as an investigative reporter at U.S. News & World Report magazine for 14 years. His cover stories at U.S. News included the exposure of multi-billion dollar cost overruns, mismanagement and bungled technical assessments of the U.S. government’s spy satellite programs and the Defense Department’s classified development of exotic electromagnetic weapons that stun and disable without killing. Doug has a B.A. degree in Political Science from The American University in Washington, D.C.

**Ben Nicholson** took the position of Vice President of Government Relations with L-3 Communications in 2014. Prior to that, he spent 12 years on the staff of the House Appropriations Committee. He originally came to the committee as a Coast Guard Fellow. He served a total of 13 years in the Coast Guard. Ben became lead staffer for the minority on the Homeland Security subcommittee in 2008, and was serving as Majority Staff Director of the subcommittee when he left the committee in late 2014. Ben is a graduate of U.S. Coast Guard Academy and has two masters degrees from the University of Michigan.

A native of Washington, D.C., **Alexis Simendinger** has been a reporter in the capital since 1986. She joined RealClearPolitics.com as its White House Correspondent in May 2011, shortly after completing a six-month investigative project with the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission to help write the best-selling official account of the 2008 financial meltdown, published early in 2011. Previously, she was National Journal’s Senate correspondent and also covered national affairs during the 2008 election cycle. Prior to that, she spent 15 years writing about the administrations of George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, as White House correspondent for National Journal.

In 2008, Alexis won the White House Correspondents’ Association’s Aldo Beckman journalism award for sustained excellence in White House coverage, for articles she wrote in 2007, including revelations about White House use of RNC e-mails in violation of the law. Congress and the White House eventually engaged in a constitutional face-off over that issue. (President Bush, with a smile and a handshake, handed Alexis her award.)

Alexis joined National Journal—a nonpartisan magazine known for its in-depth coverage of U.S. politics and government in 1997, moving to the respected weekly from news and information publisher BNA (the Bureau of National Affairs Inc.), where she covered the White House, Congress, various executive branch departments, and the Supreme Court. She also spent three years of her early reporting career at The Tampa Tribune in Tampa, Fla.
She earned a master’s degree in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and her B.A. from New College in Sarasota, Fla. She has discussed national politics, the Bush, Clinton and Obama presidencies, and the White House as a guest on a variety of television and radio outlets, including PBS’ Washington Week program.

The Honorable William Van Hilleary is the former Representative from the 4th District of Tennessee. A native of Tennessee, he helped start and run the family textile company. He graduated from the University of Tennessee, served in the Air Force, went to law school, and then volunteered for duty in the Persian Gulf War. He flew 24 missions in a C-130. He ran for Congress on the Republican ticket in 1994 and was elected with 57% of the vote. He was re-elected 3 more times, each time with a greater percentage of the vote. He served on the Armed Services Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

He left the Congress in 2002 to run for Governor, but lost in a close race, 51-48%. He is currently a Senior Advisor with the law firm of SNR Denton, and works both in Washington, DC and in Tennessee. A longtime favorite speaker on our programs, Congressman Hilleary was elected to serve on GAI’s Board of Directors in 2013.