

2025 National Policy Conference & 40th Anniversary Celebration

**Republican National Lawyers Association
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Washington, D.C.**

Speaker Biographies

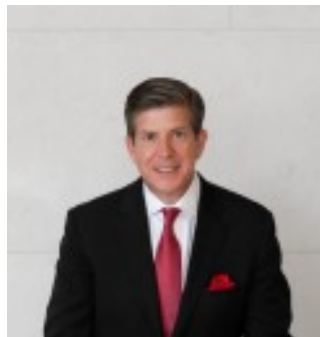


Attorney General Andrew Bailey

Andrew Bailey was sworn in as the 44th Attorney General of the State of Missouri on January 3, 2023. As Attorney General, Andrew is focused on protecting the Constitution, enforcing the laws as written, defending the state, supporting the counties, and training a new generation of service-minded attorneys.

Andrew went to college at the University of Missouri on an Army scholarship. Following the September 11th terrorist attacks on the United States, Andrew was commissioned as an officer in the Army and took an Oath to defend our Constitution. He volunteered for combat duty to take the fight to the enemies of freedom, volunteered to go to Iraq, and did two tours as an Armored Cavalry Officer. For his service, Andrew was awarded two Army Achievement Medals, an Army Commendation Medal, a Combat Action Badge, and two Bronze Star Medals.

Following the honor of wearing the uniform to serve our nation, Andrew returned to his alma mater to attend law school, and became a prosecutor to fight violent crime and protect Missouri communities. He began his legal career at the Missouri Attorney General's Office as an Assistant Attorney General and later served as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the Warren County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and as General Counsel for the Missouri Department of Corrections. In 2019, Andrew joined the Missouri Governor's Office, serving first as Deputy Counsel and then General Counsel. Andrew has handled countless cases in both state and federal courts throughout his career, defending our constitutional freedoms and the most vulnerable while delivering justice for victims.



Elliot S. Berke

Elliot S. Berke serves as Managing Partner of Berke Farah LLP. His unique experience as both in house and outside corporate counsel, as in house and outside counsel to congressional leadership, and as a federal prosecutor brings a holistic approach to political law — from administrative compliance to criminal defense. Over his career, Elliot has represented presidential candidates, cabinet officials, a Supreme Court Justice, and nearly 70 current and former Members of Congress. He has represented the top four leadership positions in the U.S. House of Representatives – Speaker, Majority Leader, Majority Whip, and Conference Chair. He runs election day war rooms for presidential and gubernatorial candidates.

He is a frequent speaker on political law, and regularly conducts the ethics training for the Members of Congress and Chief of Staff retreats sponsored by the Congressional Institute (where he also serves as its outside counsel). He was the Republican National Lawyers Association's Lawyer of the Year in 2021 and was the International Advisory Expert Election Law Lawyer of the Year in 2022. He is a member of the RNLA Board of Governors. Elliot is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Emory University School of Law.



David Bowsher

David Bowsher is a Mergers & Acquisitions Partner at Balch & Bingham and the Vice President for Programming at the RNLA. David previously served as RNLA's President. David advises on mergers and acquisitions, oil and gas acquisitions and financing, and bankruptcy matters throughout the Southeast and beyond. The focus of his M&A practice is middle market deals, in which he has represented both buyers and sellers. His oil and gas practice centers on exploration and production companies with operations in Texas and elsewhere. David also has a deep background in all aspects of corporate restructuring, with

particular experience in § 363 asset sales in bankruptcy cases.

David is a graduate of the Duke University School of Law. After law school, David served as a judicial clerk for Judge William H. Yohn, Jr. of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.



Jennifer Bukowsky

Jennifer Bukowsky is a criminal defense attorney and a conservative talk radio host in Columbia, Missouri. She is the Vice Chair of the Missouri Republican Party. Jennifer currently serves on the RNLA Board of Governors and is immediate past president of the Federalist Society- Jefferson City Lawyers Chapter. She holds a J.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law, where she was a member of the Order of the Coif, and a Masters in Accounting from the University of Missouri Trulaske College of Business.



GianCarlo Canaparo

GianCarlo Canaparo is a senior legal fellow in The Heritage Foundation's Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies. Canaparo's research focuses primarily on constitutional and administrative law. Although he writes on several constitutional topics, he focuses especially on equal protection, civil rights, and the rule of law. In addition to researching and writing, Canaparo co-hosts The Heritage Foundation's *SCOTUS 101* podcast, which follows the Supreme Court's arguments and opinions and features interviews with judges, advocates, and scholars.

Canaparo joined Heritage in 2019 after serving for two years as a law clerk to a federal district court judge. Before his clerkship, he spent three years as an associate at the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. He earned his law degree from Georgetown University and his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of California at Davis.



Chairman Brendan Carr

Brendan Carr is the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission. He previously served as the senior Republican Commissioner and as the FCC's General Counsel. Nominated by both President Trump and President Biden, Carr has been confirmed unanimously by the Senate three times. Described by Axios as "the FCC's 5G crusader," Carr has led the FCC's work to modernize its infrastructure rules and accelerate the buildout of high-speed networks. Chairman Carr is also focused on expanding America's skilled workforce and leads a groundbreaking telehealth initiative at the FCC.

Chairman Carr brings nearly 20 years of private and public sector experience in communications and tech policy to his position. Before joining the FCC as a staffer back in 2012, he worked as an attorney at Wiley Rein LLP in the firm's appellate, litigation, and telecom practices. Previously, Chairman Carr clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit for Judge Dennis Shedd. After attending Georgetown University for his undergrad, Chairman Carr earned his J.D. magna cum laude from the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law.



Erin Clark

As a counsel on the BakerHostetler Federal Policy team, Erin Clark focuses her practice on election law, advising entities and nonprofit organizations on how to spend their money in the political space. Erin's experience and knowhow is gleaned from her eight years as general counsel for the National Republican Congressional Committee. There, she provided legal and strategic business advice to the chairman, executive director and eight-member executive team, while also serving as a legal advisor to members of the House Republican Conference and their chiefs of staff.

Erin was previously an associate at a Washington, D.C.-based boutique law firm, where she provided counsel to high-profile federal and state candidates, political committees, corporations and high-net-worth individuals on a variety of political activities, including federal and state campaign finance and election law, House and Senate ethics and lobbying compliance. She is a member of the RNLA Board of Governors. Erin is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and the University of Kentucky College of Law.



Will Chamberlain

Will Chamberlain serves as Senior Counsel to the Article III Project and the Internet Accountability Project. In 2019, he revived Human Events, the nation's oldest conservative magazine, where he served as both publisher and editor-in-chief. Prior to relaunching Human Events, Will worked as an attorney at the Competitive Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC, focusing on class action litigation. Before that, he was an associate at Quinn, Emanuel, Urquhart & Sullivan LLP in Los Angeles, where he practiced complex

commercial litigation. Will graduated from University of the Pacific in 2010 with a B.A. in Economics, and received his J.D., magna cum laude, from Georgetown University Law Center in 2015.



Chairman James Comer

James Comer was elected to Congress in 2016 to represent Kentucky's First Congressional District, which covers 35 counties from the Mississippi River to Central Kentucky. He currently serves as the Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability, where he aggressively advocates for reducing waste, fraud and abuse in government.

Comer grew up in Monroe County and attended Western Kentucky University to study agriculture. Shortly thereafter, Comer entered the business world, taking out a loan and purchasing his farm. In 2000, Comer was elected to serve the first of six terms in the Kentucky House of Representatives. With a reputation for a solid work ethic and conservative values, he was named National Republican Freshman Legislator of the Year during his first term. Comer was elected to serve as Kentucky's Commissioner of Agriculture in 2011, and inherited growing problems at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. He immediately set out to work in a bipartisan way to clean up scandal, restore confidence, and crack down on waste, fraud, and abuse at the agency. Comer spearheaded initiatives to grow Kentucky's rural economy and increase opportunities for Kentucky farmers, while also standing up for taxpayers by selling unneeded equipment and returning money to the state treasury.

After his election to Congress in 2016, Comer immediately set out to replicate his record of conservative accomplishment in Washington. This includes serving as a member of the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Committee that negotiated an agreement to pass a farm bill making vital improvements to America's agricultural economy. He serves as the only formerly-elected Commissioner of Agriculture in Congress and remains active on policy matters facing the farm community. In addition to serving as Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, he is also a member of the House Committee on Education and Workforce.



Cristina Del Rosso

Cristina Del Rosso serves as a Senior Counsel in the Office of General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Previously, she was an Associate Counsel at the Republican National Committee, serving in that role during the 2024 presidential election. She holds a B.S. in Legal Studies with concentrations in Public Law and Law & Society from the University of Central Florida and a J.D. from the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University. During law school, she was a Semi-finalist in the 2021 Intramural Alternative Dispute

Resolution Mediation Competition, a Student Advisor to the Free Speech Clinic, and Submissions Editor of the Journal of Law, Economics, and Policy.



John-Paul S. Deol

John-Paul S. Deol is a partner and the head of the Dhillon Law Group's nationwide Employment Law Practice Group. He handles high-profile, high-stakes matters for some of the world's best-known C-level executives, directors, EVPs, VPs, investment and law firm partners, founders, entrepreneurs, healthcare professionals, and other prominent leaders in their respective fields. His clients have been employed by many of the largest and most notable public and private companies in the technology, finance, private equity, venture capital, life sciences, legal, and healthcare sectors, among others. He has significant experience dealing with highly sensitive, high-pressure employment situations, including disputes that have garnered or could garner media attention in the future. His cases routinely involve

issues relating to discrimination, retaliation, harassment, trade secrets, employee mobility, and compensation/ownership disputes. John-Paul also provides advice, counseling, and agreement drafting services to both employees and employers. He is a graduate of University of California Berkeley (B.A.), Santa Clara University School of Law (J.D.), Yale University (M.P.H.).



Allen Dickerson

Allen Dickerson is Partner at BakerHostetler and a past Chairman of the Federal Election Commission. At the FEC, he worked across party lines to restore a key regulatory player to functioning order after years of neglect and partisan gridlock. Those efforts led to the first adoption of a new regulation in over a decade, reform of the commission's investigations and interagency practices, and more than 150 Statements of Reasons interpreting the Federal Election Campaign Act (FECA). Substantively, Allen prioritized developments at the edges of the FEC's jurisdiction, particularly those cases where federal election rules conflict with broader

principles of corporate, administrative and constitutional law.

Previously, Dickerson was the legal director of the Institute for Free Speech, where his practice emphasized motions and appeals, including a dozen arguments before federal appellate and state supreme courts. He also testified regularly before Congress, state legislatures and regulatory agencies, and was a frequent speaker on campaign finance and political regulation topics. Earlier in his career, Dickerson was an associate with two international law firms in New York and an attorney for the Republican Governors Association.

Dickerson received his Juris Doctor degree from New York University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University.



Lee Goodman

Lee Goodman serves as RNLA Chair and is Partner with Dhillon Law Group. A nationally recognized authority on election law, government ethics, and First Amendment rights, Lee served as Chairman and Commissioner of the Federal Election Commission (FEC), where he led regulatory reforms in response to landmark Supreme Court decisions. With a distinguished career spanning legal counsel roles for the Governor and Attorney General of Virginia, as well as serving as General Counsel to numerous political organizations, Lee advises clients on campaign finance, election law, lobbying regulations, and constitutional litigation. Lee is a graduate of the University of Virginia

and the University of Virginia School of Law.



U.S. Border Czar Tom Homan

Thomas D. Homan was appointed by President Trump on January 20, 2025, to serve as the first U.S. Border Czar at the White House. Before that, he was CEO of the non-profit corporations, BORDER911, Inc. and BORDER911 Foundation, Inc.

Mr. Homan was appointed by President Trump On January 30, 2017, as the Acting Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) until his retirement in June 2018. ICE is the largest investigative arm within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the second largest investigative agency in the federal government with more than 20,000 Special Agents, Officers, and other employees and an annual budget of more than \$8 billion. ICE is charged with protecting the homeland through criminal and civil enforcement of federal laws governing border control, customs trade, and immigration. ICE Agents are located in more than 400 offices in the United States and 46 foreign countries.

Prior to that, Mr. Homan served as the Executive Associate Director of ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) since 2013. In this capacity, he led ICE's efforts to identify, arrest, detain, and remove illegal aliens, including those who present a danger to national security, a risk to public safety, or who enter the country illegally. During this time, Mr. Homan oversaw the removal of more than one million illegal aliens from the United States.



Chairman Jim Jordan – 2025 Hon. Edwin Meese III Award Winner
House Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan is the 2025 recipient of the Hon. Edwin Meese III Award which is bestowed upon an individual who has upheld the rule of law in the face of adverse political challenges.

Jim Jordan was raised in Champaign County, Ohio, graduating from Graham High School in 1982, where he was a four-time state champion in wrestling with a career record of 150-1. He went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Wisconsin, where he was a two-time NCAA wrestling champion. He later earned a Master's degree in Education from the Ohio State University and a Law

Degree from Capital University in Columbus, Ohio.

Jordan is a fiscal conservative who believes that families and taxpayers, rather than the government, know best how to make decisions with their money. Throughout his career, Jim Jordan has led the fight against tax hikes, including those proposed by his own political party. He believes that cutting taxes and letting families keep more of what they earn helps build strong communities and a vibrant economy.

In Congress, Jordan has also emerged as a prominent defender of the taxpayer's pocketbook through his work on spending issues. In 2009, he introduced the only balanced budget alternative to President Obama's budget. In the 112th Congress, Jordan served as Chairman of the House Republican Study Committee, the largest caucus of conservatives, advancing conservative ideas and solutions on Capitol Hill. In the 114th Congress, Jordan helped found the House Freedom Caucus and served as its first Chairman.

Jordan has been an advocate of the taxpayer, looking for waste, fraud and abuse in the federal government. He serves as the Chairman on the House Judiciary Committee and serves on the House Oversight Committee.



Jesse Panuccio

Jesse Panuccio is a Partner with Boies Schiller Flexner LLP. He has experience across a range of substantive and regulatory areas.

Before joining the firm, Jesse was the Acting Associate Attorney General at the United States Department of Justice. In that role, he oversaw the civil and criminal work of the Antitrust, Civil, Civil Rights, Environment and Natural Resources, and Tax Divisions. In addition, Jesse served as Chair of DOJ's Regulatory Reform Task Force and Vice Chair of DOJ's Task Force on Market Integrity and Consumer Fraud.

Jesse served for three years as the secretary of Florida's labor, economic-development, and land-use agency, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. Before that, he served as Governor (now Senator) Rick Scott's general counsel.

Outside of the firm, Jesse continues his public service. He is a public member of the Administrative Conference of the United States; vice chair of the Florida Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission; and a trustee of the Florida Polytechnic University.

Jesse is a graduate of Duke University and Harvard Law School.



Lowell Pearson

Lowell Pearson is General Counsel to Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe and a member of the RNLA Board of Governors. Previously, Lowell was Managing Partner of the Jefferson City office of Husch Blackwell and the RNLA General Counsel. His experience involves litigation and administrative law in the areas of election law, procurement matters, campaign finance, constitutional issues, and other regulatory issues. Lowell has made multiple appearances before the Missouri Supreme Court in employment and constitutional cases. Lowell has worked as a policy advisor to the

Judicial Conference of the United States and as counsel to Bob Dole's 1988 presidential campaign. He also served as both Missouri's Deputy Director of Revenue and general counsel to Missouri Governor Matt Blunt.

Lowell received his J.D. from Stanford Law School, an LL.M. from the University of Missouri School of Law, and a B.S. from the University of Utah.



Kimberly Reed

Kimberly A. Reed is a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council's Freedom and Prosperity Center. She also currently serves on the board of directors of various public companies and non-profit organizations. Ms. Reed previously served as the chairman of the board of directors, president, and chief executive officer of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EXIM) from 2019 to 2021, the first woman to hold that position.

Earlier in her career, Reed was president of the International Food Information Council Foundation, where she worked with multinational food and agribusiness companies on agriculture, nutrition, health, and sustainability issues. In addition, she served as a senior advisor to US Treasury Secretaries Henry Paulson and John Snow; chief executive officer of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund; and counsel to three committees of the US Congress, where she conducted oversight and investigations.

Recognized as one of the "100 Women Leaders in STEM" and as one of the Washingtonian's "Most Powerful Women in Washington," Reed received the US Department of Defense's highest civilian award for furthering economic and national security and is a life member at the Council on Foreign Relations. She earned her JD from West Virginia University College of Law and her BS in biology and BA in government from West Virginia Wesleyan College. She also served as RNLA's first woman chair in 2016-17.



Steve Roberts

Steve Roberts is a Partner and Co-Chair of the Political Law Group at Lex Politica, focusing his practice on lobbying compliance, campaign finance, and political committees. He is passionate about maximizing the ability of the corporate and PAC community to engage in the political and policy space. His legal advice isn't intended to "get to yes" - it starts with "yes" and then figures out how to achieve his clients' policy and political goals, including Fortune 500 companies, trade associations, corporate PACs, non-profits, elected officials, star

political candidates and campaigns, national party committees, and others engaged in policy fights at the federal, state, and local level. He is recognized as a top national political law attorney in "Best Lawyers in America" for Government Relations.

Prior to joining Lex Politica, Steve spent several years at a boutique political law firm and a global AmLaw 100 firm where he also practiced political law. Before law school, he worked as a political consultant focusing on email fundraising and online advertising, and as a fundraiser at the Republican National Committee. He is a graduate of University of Virginia School of Law, J.D. and The George Washington University, B.A.



James Rosen

James Rosen is a leading reporter, historian, and bestselling author of *Scalia: Rise to Greatness*. His work has appeared in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Politico, The Atlantic, Harper's, National Review, and the American Bar Association Journal, among other periodicals. He is the chief White House correspondent for Newsmax, following two decades of acclaimed reporting at Fox News. During the Obama administration, Rosen's exclusive reporting on national security subjects led to his

being placed under surveillance by the FBI and censored by the State Department, episodes that triggered headlines, investigations, and reforms. His previous books include *The Strong Man: John Mitchell and the Secrets of Watergate*, hailed by the New York Times Magazine as "Pulitzer-quality biography," and *Cheney One on One*, a collection of transcripts from the ten-hour oral history Rosen conducted with former vice president Dick Cheney in 2014. *A Torch Kept Lit: Great Lives of the Twentieth Century*, an anthology of essays by the late William F. Buckley Jr., spent five weeks on the New York Times bestseller list.



Ambassador Nathan Sales

Ambassador Nathan A. Sales is a distinguished fellow with the Atlantic Council's Middle East Programs, focusing on counterterrorism, security, democracy and the rule of law, and human rights. He is also the founder and principal of Fillmore Global Strategies LLC, a consultancy that provides legal and strategic advisory services on matters at the intersection of law, policy, and diplomacy.

From 2017 to 2021, Sales served at the US Department of State as under secretary for civilian security, democracy, and human rights

(acting). Concurrently, he served as ambassador-at-large and coordinator for counterterrorism. Before joining the State Department, Sales was of counsel at the law firm Kirkland & Ellis LLP. He was also a tenured law professor, teaching and writing in the fields of administrative law, constitutional law, and national security law. His scholarship has been cited by the US Supreme Court multiple times. Sales previously was deputy assistant secretary for policy at the US Department of Homeland Security. He also served at the Office of Legal Policy at the US Department of Justice, where he worked on regulatory initiatives, counterterrorism, and judicial confirmations.

An Ohio native, Sales received his BA, *summa cum laude*, from Miami University. He earned his JD, *magna cum laude*, from Duke Law School. After law school, he clerked for the Honorable David B. Sentelle of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit.



Abby Salter

Abby Salter is Deputy General Counsel to the Committee on House Administration. Prior to being with House Administration, Abby served as Counsel on the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. As part of the investigations team, she worked on a long-term, government-wide investigation that scrutinized the federal government's response to threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party. Other projects included investigations into the Foreign Agents Registration Act and foreign funding in higher education. Before working on Capitol Hill, Abby was an Associate Counsel at the National Republican Senatorial Committee, focusing on nationwide Senate races and relevant state election laws. Abby

grew up in Orlando, Florida, went to the University of Central Florida, and to Florida State University College of Law.



Dan Sennott

Dan Sennott is Partner at Holland & Knight's Washington, D.C., office, where he co-leads the firm's National Security & Defense Industry Group. In addition, he is a co-leader of the Public Policy & Regulation Group's National Security and Defense Team. Mr. Sennott has substantial experience with defense issues, having held senior leadership positions in both the U.S. military and the federal government.

Prior to joining Holland & Knight, Mr. Sennott served as the minority staff director and minority general counsel for the U.S.

House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services (HASC). He began his time with the committee as a counsel and staff lead for the Military Personnel subcommittee.

Previously, Mr. Sennott served in the U.S. Army for more than two decades as an armor officer and a judge advocate. His combat deployments included 14 months in Baghdad, Iraq, with the 1st Armored Division and 12 months in southern Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division.

His military decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star and the Meritorious Service Medal.

He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, MMAS, Homeland Security; The Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, LL.M.; University of Illinois College of Law, J.D.; and Marquette University, B.S., Industrial Engineering.



Carrie Severino

Carrie Campbell Severino is the president of the Judicial Crisis Network, and co-author with Mollie Hemingway of the bestselling book *Justice on Trial: The Kavanaugh Confirmation and the Future of the Court*. As a go-to expert on the confirmation process, Mrs. Severino has been extensively quoted in the media. She regularly appears on television, including FOX, CNN, MSNBC, C-SPAN, and ABC's This Week.

Severino writes and speaks on a wide range of judicial issues, including the constitutional limits on government, the federal nomination process, and state judicial selection. She has testified before Congress on constitutional questions and briefed Senators on judicial nominations, and regularly files briefs in high-profile Supreme Court cases. She was a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and to Judge David B. Sentelle of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and is a graduate of Harvard Law School (J.D.), Duke University (B.A., Biology), and Michigan State University (M.A., Linguistics).



Ilya Shapiro

Ilya Shapiro is director of constitutional studies at the Manhattan Institute. Previously he was executive director and senior lecturer at the Georgetown Center for the Constitution, and before that a vice president of the Cato Institute. Shapiro is the author of *Lawless: The Miseducation of America's Elites* (2025) and *Supreme Disorder* (2020), coauthor of *Religious Liberties for Corporations?* (2014), and editor of 11 volumes of the *Cato Supreme Court Review* (2008-18). He has contributed to a variety

of academic, popular, and professional publications, including the Wall Street Journal, Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, National Review, and Newsweek.

Shapiro has testified many times before Congress and state legislatures and has filed more than 500 *amicus curiae* "friend of the court" briefs in the Supreme Court. He lectures regularly on behalf of the Federalist Society, is a member of the board of fellows of the Jewish Policy Center, was an inaugural Washington Fellow at the National Review Institute, and has been an adjunct law professor at the George Washington University and University of Mississippi.

Earlier in his career, Shapiro was a special assistant/adviser to the Multi-National Force in Iraq on rule-of-law issues and practiced at Patton Boggs and Cleary Gottlieb. Before entering private practice, he clerked for Judge E. Grady Jolly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

He holds an AB from Princeton University, an MSc from the London School of Economics, and a JD from the University of Chicago Law School.



Lindsey Melody Specht

Lindsey Melody Specht serves as senior counsel at Stand Together, counseling a variety of tax exempt organizations on political law and nonprofit advocacy/tax law and compliance, and working on related policy and litigation matters nationwide focusing on political speech and donor privacy. Before Stand Together, Specht served as counsel to the Republican Commissioners at the Federal Election Commission, advising on enforcement matters, advisory opinions, and agency operations. Immediately upon graduating law school, she

clerked in state trial court in Maryland. Lindsey serves on the Board of the Republican National Lawyers Association as Secretary, and on the Alumni Council of CUA Law, and is an active member of the political law bar.

Specht is a 2010 Monmouth University Honors School and magna cum laude grad, holding a B.A. in Political Science with a minor in English. She has a J.D. from Catholic (CUA) Law (2013).



Trevor Stanley

Trevor Stanley is a Partner in the Washington, D.C. office of BakerHostetler and the RNLA First Vice President. Trevor's practice focuses on litigation and political law. He has provided legal guidance to political action committees, presidential candidates, members of Congress, and other individuals and organizations in the political arena on campaign finance, "pay-to-play," ethics, and lobbying regulations. Trevor previously worked as a Law Clerk for the Bureau Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau at the Federal

Communications Commission and as Director of Operations for a U.S. Senator.

Trevor received his J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center and A.B. from Davidson College.



Jeremy Tedesco

Jeremy Tedesco serves as senior counsel and senior vice president of corporate engagement for Alliance Defending Freedom. In this role, Tedesco leads ADF's efforts to combat corporate cancel culture and build a business ethic that respects free speech, religious freedom, and human dignity. Immediately preceding his current role, Tedesco served as senior vice president for communications, during which time he was a lead convener of the Philadelphia Statement, a movement dedicated to restoring free speech and civil discourse.

Previously, Tedesco litigated First Amendment cases at the highest levels. He was part of the legal team that represented cake artist Jack Phillips in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil*

Rights Commission before the U.S. Supreme Court and argued Phillips' case at the Colorado Court of Appeals. He was also the lead brief writer in two other U.S. Supreme Court wins, *Reed v. Town of Gilbert* and *Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization v. Winn*. Tedesco has also argued six times before five different federal appellate courts and founded and directed the ADF Center for Conscience Initiatives, where he led efforts to protect individuals from government-coerced speech.

Tedesco earned his Juris Doctor in 2004 from the Regent University School of Law.



Michael Thielen

Michael Thielen is the President and Executive Director of the Republican National Lawyers Association. During his time at the RNLA, he has overseen an exponential growth of the RNLA and its mission to become the home for Republican lawyers in the GOP. Michael is a speaker and organizer on the issues of election administration and judicial confirmation, and is a recognized expert on Election Integrity Operations. He has previously worked at the RNC and for candidates for elected offices in Virginia, including candidates

for Congress, Attorney General, and the Virginia House of Delegates. Michael has served as an Alternate Delegate to the Republican National Convention, a member of the Presidential Rank review board, and the National Board of Lawyers for Trump in 2020.

Michael is a graduate of the University of California Los Angeles and Pepperdine School of Law.



Craig Trainor

Craig W. Trainor is Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education. Previously, he was Senior Special Counsel with the United States House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary, and the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, under Chairman Jim Jordan (R-OH). He has also served as Senior Litigation Counsel with the America First Policy Institute's Constitutional Litigation Partnership and Of Counsel with The Fairness Center.

For over ten years, Craig was a criminal defense and civil rights lawyer in New York City, litigating cases in New York state and federal courts. He has tried numerous cases to verdict and secured substantial financial compensation for his clients whose civil rights and liberties had been violated by state actors. Before starting his law practice, Craig served as a New York City prosecutor, an associate attorney at a white collar criminal defense firm, and a law clerk to Chief Judge Frederick J. Scullin, Jr., United States District Court for the Northern District of New York. Craig was also a member of the New York Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Craig is a graduate of Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law and John Jay College of Criminal Justice.



Mike Wakefield, 2025 Betty Murphy Award-Winner

Mike Wakefield is the 2025 recipient of the Betty Murphy Award which is given each year to an unsung hero, member, trailblazer, with entrepreneurial spirit, a community service leader, an organization builder who inspires others' efforts. He is a Partner and a member of Holland & Knight's Public Policy & Regulation Group. Mr. Wakefield has a significant background on Capitol Hill, including most recently serving as senior counsel and a professional staff member on the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Defense. He focuses his practice on assisting defense-related clients in legal and lobbying matters, particularly involving appropriations.

Previously, Mr. Wakefield served as senior counsel in the office of Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and advised on national defense, foreign policy, homeland security, veterans policy and election law. He also served as legislative counsel to Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colo.), directing legislative strategy on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services and Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

A veteran of the U.S. Army, Mr. Wakefield was a captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG) and completed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Military Honors Program, where he served as senior military attorney for legislation and appropriations, administrative and international law. As senior counsel for interagency and international agreements, Mr. Wakefield drafted legislation and provided technical assistance for Congress, successfully concluded agreements between numerous federal agencies and provided legal guidance for foreign military sales agreements. While in the Army, he also served as a White House military social aide, representing the president and first lady at White House functions and events.

Mr. Wakefield is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and the University of Virginia (B.S., Commerce, Finance and Management).



Hans von Spakovsky

As a Senior Legal Fellow and Manager of the Election Law Reform Initiative in the Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at The Heritage Foundation, Hans von Spakovsky concentrates on voting, elections, campaign finance, civil rights, immigration enforcement, the First Amendment, and government reform. He served on Pres. Donald Trump's Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity and served on county election boards in two different states.

Mr. von Spakovsky was a Federal Election Commissioner in 2006 and 2007 at the agency responsible for enforcing federal campaign finance laws for all congressional and presidential elections, including the presidential public funding program. He served in the U.S. Department of Justice as Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights from 2002 to 2005, where he provided expertise and advice on voting and election issues, including enforcement of the Voting Rights Act and the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Hans von Spakovsky has published articles in many publications and appeared on numerous

television and radio news shows. Along with John Fund, he is the coauthor of “Our Broken Elections: How the Left Changed the Way You Vote” and “Obama’s Enforcer: Eric Holder’s Justice Department.” He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Law and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Linley Wilson

Linley is RNLA’s Vice President for Membership and currently serves as the General Counsel and Deputy Chief of Staff for the Arizona House of Representatives. She previously worked in the Arizona Attorney General’s Office as an Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Appeals Section. She also served as Deputy Solicitor General and the Government Accountability Unit Chief Counsel in the Constitutional Litigation Division of the Office.

Linley graduated summa cum laude from Arizona State University with Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science and Italian. She obtained her J.D. with pro bono distinction from the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law in 2008, where she served on the Arizona State Law Journal as an articles editor and staff writer. Linley completed a judicial clerkship at the Arizona Court of Appeals for the Honorable Jon W. Thompson from 2010 to 2011.



Joanne Young

Joanne Young is Managing Partner of Kirstein & Young, PLLC, where she is engaged in commercial and federal regulatory law practice, with a focus on aviation. She represents both international and domestic aviation companies, airports and investors before U.S. Government agencies, Congress, and the courts.

Ms. Young is a former Co-Chair of the Republican National Lawyers Association and current Board member. RNLA named her Republican Lawyer of the Year in 2020. She is currently a member of the RNC’s Election Integrity Committee as part of her role as the RNC National Committeewoman for the District of Columbia.

Ms. Young is a graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center and Wesleyan University. Prior to entering private practice, Ms. Young completed a judicial clerkship and worked as a trial attorney for the Civil Aeronautics Board. She spent several decades as a partner, including with the New York firm Lord Day Lord, Barrett Smith, and with BakerHostetler, before founding her present firm in 2006.



EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin

Lee Zeldin was sworn in as the 17th Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency on January 29, 2025.

Administrator Zeldin has dedicated his life to public service. He is currently in his 22nd year in the United States military, having deployed to Iraq in 2006 with the Army's Elite 82nd Airborne Division and continues to serve as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. He served in the New York State Senate from 2011-2014 and later represented New York's 1st Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 2015-2023.

Administrator Zeldin earned a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Albany and a juris doctor from Albany Law School. When he was sworn into the bar, he became the youngest attorney in New York State at the time.