



2019 Budget and Policy Briefing Speaker Bios

Thursday, February 21, 2019

WELCOME



Bob Shull, Public Welfare Foundation, RShull@publicwelfare.org

Since 2008, Bob has been the Public Welfare Foundation's Program Director for Workers' Rights, running a grant-making portfolio aimed at improving working conditions for low-wage workers. An experienced advocate for systemic reform, consumer protection and good government at the national, state, and local levels, Bob served previously as deputy director for Auto Safety and Regulatory Policy at Public Citizen, the consumer advocacy organization. His portfolio there included auto and truck safety, and fuel economy. Prior to his work at Public Citizen, Bob served as director of regulatory policy at OMB Watch, where he coordinated a coalition of labor, green, consumer, faith-based, and human needs groups in major legislative advocacy campaigns. While at Public Citizen and OMB Watch, Bob testified on regulatory process and science policy issues before Congressional committees, state and local government hearings, and the National Academies of Sciences. He has also commented on good government and consumer issues in a variety of media outlets, including National Public Radio, CNBC, Congressional Quarterly and Rolling Stone. Currently, Bob is on the steering committees of Funders for a Just Economy, a grant maker network housed at the Neighborhood Funders Group, and the Economic Opportunity Funders. Bob received his J.D. from Stanford Law School and his B.A. from the University of Virginia. *Follow on Twitter: @bobhasathought.*

FEDERAL POLICY, BUDGET, AND REVENUE OUTLOOK



Noah Berger, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, NBerger@aecf.org

As director of policy reform and advocacy, Noah Berger advances Casey's efforts to inform, guide and influence public policy at the state and federal levels. He is responsible for the Foundation's KIDS COUNT network and State Priorities Partnership, as well as grant-making portfolios in poverty reduction and in budget and fiscal issues. Before joining the Foundation in November 2018, Berger was president of the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center (MassBudget), a nonpartisan policy

organization that is part of the KIDS COUNT network and the State Priorities Partnership. Under Berger's leadership, MassBudget's research and analysis was widely relied on in debates that led to numerous state policy improvements for children and families, including paid family and medical leave, earned paid sick days, a \$15 an hour minimum wage and tax reforms that generated revenue for public services families rely on. Earlier in his career, Berger served as policy director for the Massachusetts Senate Ways and Means Committee and as counsel and policy director for the Massachusetts Senate President. During that time, he worked on successful efforts to substantially expand access to high-quality early education and to create universal access to health care for children. He also helped to draft the landmark Education Reform Act of 1993 that dramatically increased education funding, particularly in lower-income communities. That law also introduced a number of reforms to improve the quality of public education. Berger is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.



Robert Greenstein, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, greenstein@cbpp.org

The founder and President of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Bob Greenstein is considered an expert on the federal budget and a range of domestic policy issues, including anti-poverty programs, and has written widely on those matters. In 1996, he was awarded a MacArthur Fellowship for making "the Center a model for a non-partisan research and policy organization." In 2008, he received both the Heinz Award for Public Policy for his work to "improve the economic outlook of many of America's poorer citizens" and the 2008 John W. Gardner Leadership Award, given annually by Independent Sector, which said "Mr. Greenstein has played a defining role in how people think about critical budget and tax policies.... [and] help[ed] the nation address fiscal responsibility, reduce poverty, and expand opportunity." Two years later, he received the 2010 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Prize from the American Academy of Political and Social Science, which cited him as "a champion of evidence-based policy whose work at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is respected on both sides of the aisle." In 2011, the New Republic listed him as one of Washington's 25 "Most Powerful, Least Famous People." Prior to founding the Center, Greenstein was Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture under President Carter, where he directed the agency that operates the federal food assistance programs and helped design the landmark Food Stamp Act of 1977, generally regarded as the Carter Administration's principal anti-poverty achievement. He was appointed by President Clinton in 1994 to serve on the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform and headed the federal budget policy component of President Obama's transition team. He is a graduate of Harvard College and has received honorary doctorates from Tufts University, Occidental College, and Haverford College. *Follow on Twitter:* [@CenterOnBudget](#), [@GreensteinCBPP](#).

STATE POLICY OUTLOOK FOR WORKERS AND FAMILIES



José García, Ford Foundation, j.garcia@fordfoundation.org

José García is a program officer on the Future of Work team. Prior to joining Ford, he served as program officer for Strong Local Economies at the Surdna Foundation, where he led the design and implementation of a \$4 million grant-making portfolio to spur business development and acceleration while focusing on quality job and wealth creation. His portfolio focused on double and triple bottom line local businesses and organizations assisting the growth of people of color, women, and immigrant-owned businesses. Additionally, he sourced and monitored program-related investment (PRI) deals that fit the foundation's program strategy. Before his time at Surdna, he was a policy fellow at the National Council of La Raza's Wealth Building Policy Project. During his tenure, he coauthored the book *Foreclosure to Fair Lending: Advocacy, Organizing, Occupy, and the Pursuit of Equitable Credit* and the policy report *Making the Mortgage Market Work for America's Families*. Shortly before that, he deviated from his career path to assist his family's small business during a period of transition—and was able to see firsthand how economic policies affect mom and pop shops. Earlier in his career, José served as associate director for the Economic Opportunity Program at Demos, where he authored dozens of reports on household debt and coauthored the book *Up to Our Eyeballs: How Shady Lenders and Failed Economic Policies are Drowning Americans in Debt*. *Follow on Twitter: @jag_msw.*



Michael Leachman, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, leachman@cbpp.org

Michael Leachman is the research director for the state policy division of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan research institute that designs and supports public policies that help families and communities thrive. Leachman's team at the Center has developed a state fiscal policy agenda for building stronger state economies, shown how state fiscal policies can be used to advance racial equity, produced a set of recommendations for making state budgeting processes more transparent and useful to policymakers and the public, documented trends in state spending for schools, and analyzed how state economies grow. Prior to joining the Center in 2009, Leachman was a policy analyst for nine years at the Oregon Center for Public Policy (OCP). Earlier in his career, Leachman worked as a community organizer in Chicago and, during graduate school, conducted a range of research projects in collaboration with community organizations. Leachman holds a Ph.D. in sociology from Loyola University Chicago. *Follow on Twitter: @leachma2, @CenterOnBudget.*



Thea Lee, Economic Policy Institute, tlee@epi.org

Thea Mei Lee is the president of the Economic Policy Institute. Previously, she served as deputy chief of staff, policy director and chief international economist at the AFL-CIO. She had earlier worked as an international trade economist at EPI, and as an editor at Dollars & Sense magazine in Boston. She received a Bachelor's degree from Smith College and a Master's degree in economics from the University of Michigan. Ms. Lee is co-author of *A Field Guide to the Global Economy*, published by the New Press. Her research projects include reports on the North American Free Trade Agreement, on the impact of international trade on U.S. wage inequality, and on the domestic steel and textile industries. She has appeared on numerous television and radio shows, including the PBS News Hour; CNN; Good Morning America; NPR's All Things Considered and Marketplace; and the PBS documentary Commanding Heights. She has testified before several committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate on various economic policy topics. She was appointed to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission by Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, and she currently serves on the boards of the Congressional Progressive Caucus Center, the Center for International Policy, the Coalition for Human Needs, and the Progressive Talent Pipeline advisory council. *Follow on Twitter: @TheaLeeEPI, @EconomicPolicy.*

MAKING THE CASE FOR GOVERNMENT AND TAXES



Meg Bostrom, Topos Partnership, meg@topospartnership.com

Meg Bostrom, co-founder of the Topos Partnership, is a veteran communications strategist with a unique perspective resulting from her rich and varied experiences as communicator, public opinion analyst, advertising agency executive, and political consultant. With degrees in both communications and public opinion research, Bostrom's work is grounded in a cross-disciplinary focus. She started her career as a political pollster: Senior Analyst at Greenberg Lake, Vice President at Mellman Lazarus Lake. Desiring a better understanding of how communications is developed and implemented, Bostrom joined TBC, an advertising agency headquartered in Maryland. As Executive Vice President of Strategic Planning, she was responsible for determining communications strategy, and was at the center of developing well-targeted campaigns for a variety of national and international companies. Bostrom, along with anthropologist Axel Aubrun and linguist Joe Grady, founded the Topos Partnership to transform the landscape of public understanding. Recognizing that political discourse frequently gets "stuck" in recurring patterns with seemingly little lasting policy progress, Topos maps cultural models of social issues and develops transformative strategies designed to create a new cultural common sense that will lead to enduring public understanding and support for progressive solutions to the nation's toughest problems. Topos has researched and developed communications strategies on a variety of social issues, including art and culture, the economy, environment, health, food systems, foreign policy, global warming, government, taxes, children's issues, race/ethnicity, and the working poor, among others. She is a sought-after speaker and communicator, including high profile venues such as an editorial in the Washington Post. *Follow on Twitter: @TeamTopos.*

MONEY MATTERS: BUILDING PUBLIC WILL TO INCREASE STATE REVENUES



Caitlin Hamood, Stoneman Family Foundations, chamood@mottphilanthropic.com

Caitlin is a program officer with Mott Philanthropic, where she is a member of a grant-making team focused on progressive fiscal policy, civic engagement, and just transition. In her position at Mott Philanthropic, she serves as the lead program officer supporting the Stoneman Family Foundations, which make grants that foster equitable and fair public policies across the United States. Caitlin worked with Mott Philanthropic in Boston from 2011 to 2016, and returned to the organization remotely in 2017; she is now based in the Bay Area. In addition to her work with Mott Philanthropic, Caitlin has held a variety of roles in California, Massachusetts, and Minnesota, including serving as a project manager for the XPRIZE Foundation in Los Angeles, a community organizing intern with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization, and a volunteer and outreach coordinator for a refugee resettlement agency in Minneapolis. Caitlin holds a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School, where she studied a variety of religious traditions, interfaith dialogue, and social justice movements. She also received a BA in History and French from Amherst College. Born and raised in Minneapolis, she spent eight years in Cambridge, Massachusetts, before moving to California in 2016.



Mary Ignatius, Parent Voices, mignatius@rrnetwork.org

Mary Ignatius is the Statewide Organizer of Parent Voices, a parent-led grassroots organizing effort fighting to make quality child care accessible and affordable for all families. As the Statewide Organizer since August 2005, she coordinates the work of its 13 chapters and implements the leadership development model Parent Voices has crafted for over 20 years. Under her tenure, Parent Voices has won the most progressive child care eligibility policies in the nation, restored a child care program that was eliminated, and protected child care subsidies for thousands of families. Most recently she has led efforts to bring a race, class, and gender justice lens to improving the child care and safety net systems. Born and raised in the Bay Area by Indian immigrants and as a mother of 2 budding feminist sons, Mary's commitment to social and economic justice is both personal and political. She holds a Master of Social Work in Administration and Social Planning from Temple University and a Bachelor of Social Work from Rutgers University. She was a fellow of the Ms. Foundation for Women's OpEd Project-Public Voices program and received the Foundation's prestigious Woman of Vision Award in April 2016. Her previous experience includes work with the Kensington Welfare Rights Union, Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, Instructor-City College of San Francisco, and Project SURVIVE. Mary loves to travel and is inspired by the curiosity and wonder that her sons bring to this world. *Follow on Twitter: @ParentVoicesCA, @MamaMarySF.*



Garrett Martin, Maine Center for Economic Policy, gmartin@mecep.org

Garrett Martin has dedicated his career to connecting the dots between the daily struggles of working people and policies that can alleviate those struggles. Born and raised in the South, and a generation removed from poverty, Garrett made his way to Maine after working in community economic development in the Mississippi Delta, southern India, and Latin America. Garrett combines his commitment to providing credible and rigorous economic analysis with his passion for advancing economic justice as Executive Director of the Maine Center for Economic Policy (MECEP). In recent years, MECEP has been at the forefront of successful efforts to secure better pay and access to health care for tens of thousands of Mainers. Prior to joining MECEP's staff in 2009, Garrett worked as director of program strategy at the Maine Community Foundation and associate director at the Genesis Community Loan Fund. Garrett also served on the Community Development Advisory Committee of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and as chair of the State Priorities Partnership steering committee. Garrett was selected as a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina and a Truman Scholar for graduate studies by the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation. He has chaired the New England Truman Scholar selection committee since 2012. He holds a master's degree in public affairs from Princeton University. When not fulfilling his role as resident policy wonk at MECEP, Garrett can be found coaching his local high school cross country team which won its first state championship in 72 years in 2017 and resulted in Garrett being named the Maine State Cross Country Coach of the Year. Last November, Garrett and his teenage son canvassed for Stacey Abrams, a fellow Truman Scholar, in Georgia and volunteered as election day monitors outside Atlanta helping re-open a prematurely closed polling location. *Follow on Twitter: @MECEP1.*

CLOSING



Terri D. Wright, Meyer Foundation, twright@meyerfdn.org

Terri D. Wright, PhD, MPH, has employed her extensive leadership skills and expertise advancing equity and public health through policy, practice, and management in local and national government, philanthropic and non-profit organizations throughout her career. Most recently, she was the first executive director of The Steve Fund, charged with advancing the mental health and emotional well-being of college and university students of color. Prior to taking the helm at The Steve Fund, Terri served as the director of both the Center for Public Health Policy and the Center for School, Health and Education at the American Public Health Association (APHA). She provided leadership to the public health policy agenda as it pertained to health equity, environmental health, and the built environment and strategic advancement and integration of public health and primary care to advance on-time graduation among youth in disadvantaged communities. Before she joined APHA in 2010, Terri served as a program director for health policy for the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan for 12 years. In that capacity, she developed and reviewed the Foundation's health programming priorities and initiatives, evaluated and recommended proposals for funding, and administered projects and initiatives. She assisted in public policy funding and related policy program development, as well as provided leadership to the Foundation's policy programming for systemic change. Previously, Terri was maternal and child health director and bureau chief for Child and Family Services at the Michigan Department of

Community Health in Lansing, Michigan. In that role, she managed policy, programs, and resources with the goal of reducing preventable maternal, infant, and child morbidity and mortality through policy and programming in Michigan. Terri holds a master's and a doctorate degree from the University of Michigan, and a bachelor's degree in community and school health from the City University of New York. She is an active member of APHA and a former member of the Institute of Medicine's Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity and the Elimination of Health Disparities. She lives in Washington, DC with her husband.

Friday, February 22, 2019

WELCOME



Anna Wadia, Ford Foundation, a.wadia@fordfoundation.org

Anna Shireen Wadia is a senior program officer in the foundation's Future of Work program, which seeks to ensure that there is a meaningful future of work that places workers and their well-being at the center. Anna has been with Ford since 2009. Her grant making has focused on improving economic security and the quality of jobs for low-wage workers and their families by supporting efforts to raise the minimum wage, guarantee paid sick days, and develop new paid family and medical leave programs.

Anna was previously a consultant for the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Ms.

Foundation for Women, the National Council for Research on Women, and MDRC. Prior to launching her consulting business, she was co-director of programs for the Ms. Foundation for Women, where she managed a funder collaborative focused on women's economic development. Earlier in her career, she carried out community and economic development programming for the Ford Foundation and Catholic Relief Services in Africa. Anna co-authored *Kitchen Table Entrepreneurs: How Eleven Women Escaped Poverty and Became Their Own Bosses* (Westview, 2002), as well as several reports on best practices in grant making and women's economic empowerment. Anna holds a master's degree in public affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University, and a bachelor's degree from Yale University. *Follow on Twitter: @AnnaWadia.*

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY: THE FUTURE OF WORK AND WORKERS



Erica Smiley, Jobs With Justice, smiley@jwj.org

Erica Smiley is co-executive director of Jobs With Justice. Prior to becoming co-director, she held many roles at Jobs With Justice, including organizing director, campaigns director and senior field organizer for the southern region. Smiley is known for developing innovative strategies to expand collective bargaining power, including strategies that position working people to negotiate directly with the corporate actors that impact all aspects of their lives. She has authored several articles highlighting some

of the organization's most exciting developments in the New Labor Forum, Dissent Magazine, the Journal on Class, Race and Corporate Power, and other publications. She serves on the board of the Highlander Research and Education Center based in Tennessee and is on the leadership council of the Workers Defense Project in Texas. In the past she has organized with community groups and unions such as the Tenants and Workers Support Committee (now Tenants and Workers United) in Virginia and SEIU Local 500 in Baltimore. She was national field director of Choice USA (now United for Reproductive and Gender Equity—URGE) where she received the Young Women of Achievement Award in 2004, before joining the staff of Jobs With Justice in 2005. She is originally from Greensboro, N.C. where she is a proud product of public schools. *Follow on Twitter: @jwjnational, @SmileyJWJ.*



Lauren Jacobs, Partnership for Working Families, lauren@forworkingfamilies.org

Lauren Jacobs is the new Executive Director at the Partnership for Working Families. The Partnership for Working Families is a national federation of regional power building organizations. With its 19 affiliates and one emerging coalition, we are driving a broad progressive agenda. Core to the network's strategy is the belief that power building is a team sport. The Partnership brings together unionized workers, unorganized workers, renters, residents who struggle for toxin-free neighborhoods, immigrants, people of color, and the faith community in strategic long-term coalitions. These tables are invaluable and unique spaces where the environmental, labor, housing, racial justice, and faith communities convene to advance a common agenda and find points of intersection in their work. An organizer for over 20 years, Lauren began organizing factories with UNITE in the south and later joined the staff at SEIU. During her 17 years at SEIU she served in a number of roles, from organizer to Vice President. Over the course of those years, Lauren led campaigns with thousands of previously non-union janitors and security officers in three major metropolitan areas. Before joining the Partnership, Lauren worked with the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC) as the organization's National Organizing Director. Lauren is a proud native New Yorker and a daughter of Harlem.

Follow on Twitter: @LaurenLJacobs, @P4WF.



Emily Martin, National Women's Law Center, emartin@nwlc.org

Emily Martin, Vice President for Education & Workplace Justice, oversees NWLC's advocacy, policy, and education efforts to ensure fair treatment and equal opportunity for women and girls at work and at school and to forward policy frameworks that allow them to achieve and succeed, with a particular focus on the obstacles that confront women and girls of color and women in low-wage jobs. Prior to joining NWLC, Ms. Martin served as Deputy Director of the Women's Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, where she spearheaded litigation, policy, and public education initiatives to advance the rights of women and girls, with a particular emphasis on the needs of low-income women and women of color. She also served as a law clerk for Senior Judge Wilfred Feinberg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and Judge T.S. Ellis, III, of the Eastern District of Virginia; as Vice President and President of the Fair Housing Justice Center in New York City; and previously worked for NWLC as a recipient of

the Georgetown Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship. Ms. Martin is a graduate of the University of Virginia and Yale Law School. *Follow on Twitter: @nwlc.*



Laura Padin, National Employment Law Project, lpadin@nelp.org

Laura Padin is a senior staff attorney at the National Employment Law Project. Her work focuses on policies that improve workplace standards and economic security for the contingent workforce, including temporary workers, independent contractors, and workers in the “gig” economy. Prior to joining NELP, Laura was an attorney at the labor union coalition Change to Win, where she provided legal support to organizing and corporate accountability campaigns in many industries, including retail, telecommunications, fast food, and logistics. Prior to her work at Change to Win, Laura clerked for the Honorable Peter C. Dorsey in the District of Connecticut. Laura graduated from NYU Law School and Cornell University’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations. *Follow on Twitter: @padin_laura, @NelpNews.*

BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY: THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL PROTECTIONS



Ryan Canney, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, rcanney@wpfund.org

Ryan joined Wellspring after 15 years of traditional organizing and digital campaigning on a range of progressive policies at the national and state level. Most recently, he worked at Ultra Violet where he oversaw a program to develop culturally competent messages and campaigns on abortion access. Ryan has also helped to lead national campaigns for US Action (now a part of People's Action) from 2007-2010 and MoveOn.org's online to offline mobilization from 2010-2013. Ryan got his start in organizing with Midwest Academy and Citizen Action/Illinois building coalitions and training leaders on health care, education, and environmental issues. He received his M.S. and B.S. in Politics and Government from Illinois State University.



Indivar Dutta-Gupta, Center on Poverty and Inequality, Georgetown Law, Indi.Dutta-Gupta@law.georgetown.edu

Indivar Dutta-Gupta is Co-Executive Director at the Georgetown Center on Poverty & Inequality (GCPI) where he leads work to develop and advance ideas for reducing domestic poverty and economic inequality, with particular attention to gender and racial equity. Indi leads GCPI's Economic Security and Opportunity Initiative, a 12-person team that works on issues ranging from tax and benefits, and jobs and education, to health and human services, to democracy. Indi serves on the National Academy of Social Insurance's (NASI) board of directors, Indivisible's c(3) board of directors, and is a member of the Institute for Research Poverty's Employment and Self-

Sufficiency Network. He also advises political candidates on economic justice issues. Previously, Indi was Project Director at Freedman Consulting, LLC, leading strategic initiatives for major philanthropies, children's groups, and workers' organizations. Indivar served as Senior Policy Advisor at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, focusing on budget and tax policies and cross-cutting low-income issues. Earlier, he served as Ways and Means Committee Professional Staff in the U.S. House of Representatives. Indi was an Emerson National Hunger Fellow at DC Hunger Solutions and the Center for American Progress. Indivar was named a First Focus Campaign for Children Champion for Children and received the Congressional Hunger Center Alumni Leadership Award (2016). He was named one of Washington Life magazine's most Influential 40-And-Under Leaders (2013) and Rising Stars 40 And Under (2016). Indivar is an honors graduate of the University of Chicago and a Harry S. Truman Scholar. *Follow on Twitter: @IndivarD, @GCPIEconSec.*



Natalie Foster, Aspen Institute, natalie.foster@gmail.com

Natalie is the co-chair of the Economic Security Project, a network of policy makers, academics, advocates and communicators working to end poverty and rebuild a strong middle class through cash policies, and an advisor to The Aspen Institute Future of Work Initiative. In 2013, Natalie co-founded and launched Peers.org to support people who work in the sharing economy. Prior to that, she was the CEO and co-founder of Rebuild the Dream, a platform for people-driven economic change, with Van Jones. Previously, Natalie served as digital director for President Obama's Organizing for America (OFA) and the Democratic National Committee. Natalie built the first digital department at the Sierra Club and served as the deputy organizing director for MoveOn.org. She's been awarded fellowships at Institute for the Future, Rockwood Leadership Institute and New America California and is a regular commentator on "The Bottom Line" podcast with journalist Rick Wartzman. *Follow on Twitter: @nataliefoster, @EconomicSecProj.*



K. Sabeel Rahman, Demos

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K. Sabeel Rahman is the President of Demos, a public policy organization working for an America where we all have an equal say in our democracy and an equal chance in our economy. He is also an Associate Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School and the author most recently of Democracy Against Domination (Oxford University Press, 2017). His academic research focuses on issues of democracy, economic power, law, and inequality. He has worked extensively with a range of think tanks, advocacy organizations, and foundations to develop novel approaches to addressing these issues in practice. His popular writings have appeared in venues like The Atlantic, The New Republic, The Boston Review, Dissent, and The Washington Post. He earned his law degree and doctorate at Harvard University, and his Masters degrees at the University of Oxford where he was a Rhodes Scholar. *Follow on Twitter: @ksabeelrahman, @Demos_Org.*