

THE TEXAS
PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION'S



7TH ANNUAL



POLICY ORIENTATION

FOR THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Celebrating 20 Years as the Voice of Liberty



7TH ANNUAL
POLICY ORIENTATION FOR THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

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AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Registration	8:00am	Four Seasons Hotel
• Kickoff Event: Dreams of a Little Pink House—A Fight for Private Property Rights	9:00am	Ballroom ABC
Panel Session I	10:30am-11:45am	
• Lifting the Veil on Government Spending		San Jacinto West
• New Directions for Texas Corrections		San Jacinto East
Book Signing: <i>Little Pink House</i> with author Jeff Benedict	11:30am-12:00pm	Ballroom Foyer
Opening Lunch: Immigration Debate	12:00pm	Ballroom ABCD
Panel Session II	2:15pm-3:45pm	
• Finishing the Job: The Move to a File-and-Use Regulatory System		San Jacinto West
• Taking Texas Higher Education to the Next Level		San Jacinto East
Panel Session III	4:00pm-5:30pm	
• Innovation, Educational Excellence, & the Role of Charter Schools		San Jacinto West
• What's the Prescription for Patient-Driven Health Care?		San Jacinto East
Dinner and Keynote Address from Texas Lt. Governor David Dewhurst	6:00pm	Ballroom ABCD

Friday, January 23, 2009

Registration	8:00am	Four Seasons Hotel
VIP Breakfast: exclusive to legislators, sponsors and their guests, with featured speaker The Honorable Barry Goldwater Jr.	8:00am	Ballroom A
Panel Session IV	9:00am-10:15am	
• Franchise Tax: Fee or Flee?		San Jacinto West
• Texas Electricity: Consumer Choice or Regulation?		San Jacinto East
Panel Session V	10:30am-11:45am	
• Texas Water Markets: Opportunities and Obstacles		San Jacinto West
• Doing More with Less: The Role of Competition and Privatization in Transportation		San Jacinto East
Closing Lunch and Keynote Address from Texas Governor Rick Perry	12:15pm	Ballroom ABCD

JANUARY 22, 2009—FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

9:00am Kickoff Event *Ballroom ABC*

Welcome..... Brooke Rollins, TPPF President
Dreams of a Little Pink House—A Fight for Private Property Rights with Susette Kelo; Dana Berliner, Institute for Justice;
 and Jeff Benedict, author *Little Pink House* 6

10:30am-11:45am Panel Session I

Lifting the Veil on Government Spending *San Jacinto West (CLE accredited)* 7

- The Honorable Mark Strama, Vice Chairman, Texas House Civil Practices Committee (80th Texas Legislature)
- The Honorable Keith Self, Collin County Judge
- Kristina Rasmussen, National Taxpayers Union
- David Simmons, Ph.D., Superintendent, Richardson ISD

Moderated by The Honorable Talmadge Heflin, Director, Center for Fiscal Policy

New Directions for Texas Corrections *San Jacinto East (CLE accredited)* 8

- The Honorable John Whitmire, Chairman, Texas Senate Criminal Justice Committee (80th Texas Legislature)
- The Honorable Jerry Madden, Chairman, Texas House Corrections Committee (80th Texas Legislature)
- Adam Gelb, Director, Public Safety Performance Project, Pew Charitable Trusts
- Mike Griffiths, Chief Probation Officer, Dallas County

Moderated by Marc Levin, Esq., Director, Center for Effective Justice

11:30am Book Signing: Little Pink House with author Jeff Benedict *Ballroom Foyer*

12:00pm Opening Lunch: Immigration Debate *Ballroom ABCD*

Nationally-acclaimed economist Dr. Arthur Laffer and Mark Krikorian, Center for Immigration Studies 9

2:15pm-3:45pm Panel Session II

Finishing the Job: Completing the Move to a File-and-Use Regulatory System *San Jacinto West (CLE accredited)* 10

- The Honorable Carl Isett, Chairman, Texas Sunset Advisory Commission (80th Texas Legislature)
- The Honorable Ruth Jones McClendon, Chairman, Texas House Rules & Resolutions Committee (80th Texas Legislature)
- Jim Oliver, Director, Texas Windstorm Insurance Association
- Steve Pociask, American Consumer Institute

Moderated by Bill Peacock, Director, Center for Economic Freedom

Taking Texas Higher Education to the Next Level *San Jacinto East (CLE accredited)* 11

- The Honorable Dan Branch, Chairman, Texas House Select Committee on Higher & Public Education Finance (80th Texas Legislature)
- Scott Caven, Chairman, UT Board of Regents
- Dr. Richard Vedder, Professor of Economics, Ohio University

Moderated by Rick O'Donnell, Research Fellow, Texas Public Policy Foundation

4:00pm-5:15pm Panel Session III

Innovation, Educational Excellence, and the Role of Charter Schools *San Jacinto West (CLE accredited)* 12

- The Honorable Florence Shapiro, Chairman, Texas Senate Education Committee (80th Texas Legislature)
- Linda Bridges, President, American Federation of Teachers
- Tom Torkelson, CEO & Founder, IDEA Charter Schools in Texas
- Paul Vallas, Superintendent, New Orleans Recovery School District

Moderated by Brooke Dollens Terry, Policy Analyst, Center for Education Policy

What's the Prescription for Patient-Driven Health Care? *San Jacinto East (CLE accredited)* 13

- The Honorable Rob Orr, Chairman, Texas House Committee on Land and Resource Management (80th Texas Legislature)
- Dr. Albert Gros, Texas Medical Association
- John Hawkins, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Texas Hospital Association
- Alison Mitchell, President, Texas Nurse Practitioners

Moderated by Justin Keener, Vice President of Policy and Communications

6:00pm Keynote Dinner with Texas Lt. Governor David Dewhurst *Ballroom ABCD*

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS—JANUARY 22, 2009

6:00pm-Ballroom ABCD



LT. GOVERNOR DAVID DEWHURST

Texas

Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst is a native Texan, proud veteran, successful businessman, and rancher. He serves as President of the Texas Senate and is proud of the broad support he has earned during his tenure.

Through three Regular Sessions and seven Special Sessions of the Legislature, Lt. Governor Dewhurst has worked to bring together Republicans and Democrats to pass legislation to create new jobs and economic opportunity, improve schools, and protect public safety. In 2007, Dewhurst led the effort to pass one of the toughest Jessica's Laws in the nation. The law, part of Dewhurst's Texas Children First initiative, imposes tough, new penalties against child predators, including life in prison without the possibility of parole.

A fiscal conservative, Dewhurst has worked to balance three budgets without increasing the tax burden on Texans. These conservative budgets have helped the state's economy grow faster than the national economy and create more than one million new jobs in Texas over the last five years.

Lt. Governor Dewhurst believes every child in Texas deserves a quality education. In 2006, as Dewhurst led the Senate to approve \$14 billion in local school property tax cuts, he fought successfully to raise teacher salaries and educational standards, increase accountability, and reduce drop-out rates. To make university study affordable, Dewhurst worked to pass the "B-on-Time Loan Program," which provides college students with zero-interest, forgivable loans if they graduate on time with at least a "B" average.

The *Dallas Morning News* called Dewhurst's first term leading the Senate "a demonstration of steadiness, resolve and consensus building." The *Houston Chronicle* has called Dewhurst "an exceptional leader."

As Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, where he served from 1999-2002, Dewhurst reduced the workforce and budget, and turned back money each of two biennia to Texas taxpayers. He certified almost \$1 billion in below-market interest rate loans to veterans to honor their service and to stimulate the Texas economy, and helped protect the environment and increase tourism by restoring Texas' beaches and bays.

In the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, Dewhurst was appointed by Governor Rick Perry as Chairman of the Governor's Task Force on Homeland Security.

KICKOFF EVENT: DISCUSSION ON EMINENT DOMAIN

9:00am-10:15am Ballroom ABC Featuring Susette Kelo; Dana Berliner, Institute for Justice; and Jeff Benedict, author of "Little Pink House"



SUSETTE KELO

Susette Kelo was the lead plaintiff in *Kelo v. City of New London*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that private property can be taken for private economic development. Susette Kelo dreamed of owning a home that looked out over the water. She purchased and lovingly restored her little pink house where the Thames River meets the Long Island Sound in 1997. Tragically, the City of New London turned that dream into a nightmare. In 1998, pharmaceutical giant Pfizer built a plant next to Fort Trumbull and the City determined that someone else could make better use of the land than the Fort Trumbull residents. The City handed over its power of eminent domain—the ability to take private property for public use—to the New London Development Corporation (NLDC), a private body, to take the entire neighborhood for private development. As the Fort Trumbull neighbors found out, when private entities wield government’s awesome power of eminent domain and can justify taking property with the nebulous claim of “economic development,” all homeowners are in trouble.



DANA BERLINER Institute for Justice

Dana Berliner serves as a senior attorney at the Institute for Justice, where she has worked as a lawyer since 1994. She litigates property rights, economic liberty and other constitutional cases in both federal and state courts. She represented the home and business owners in Norwood, Ohio, who, on July 26, 2006, secured a unanimous ruling from the Ohio Supreme Court that the city could not take their property for a privately owned shopping mall and “lifestyle center.” Along with co-counsel Scott Bullock, she represented the homeowners in the recent decision in *Kelo v. New London*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that cities could condemn property because other uses may produce an increase in tax dollars and jobs. She also recently secured a ruling that the Village of Port Chester, New York, violated due process in its use of eminent domain to secure waterfront property. She has written amicus briefs on constitutional eminent domain issues in more than 10 states.



JEFF BENEDICT Author, *Little Pink House*

Jeff Benedict is an award-winning investigative journalist and the best-selling author of seven books. He has been a contributing writer for *Sports Illustrated*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Hartford Courant*. His books have been the basis for features on *60 Minutes*, ABC News *20/20*, *Dateline*, HBO *Real Sports* and the Discovery Channel. He is a Distinguished Professor at Southern Virginia University, where he teaches advanced writing and a class on politics and law. He holds a J.D., an M.A. in Political Science, and a B.A. in History and he previously practiced law in Connecticut. Benedict’s latest book *Little Pink House* (Grand Central Publishing) was released in early 2009. It chronicles the epic story behind the U.S. Supreme Court’s infamous decision on eminent domain—*Kelo v. New London*.

LIFTING THE VEIL ON GOVERNMENT SPENDING

10:30-11:45am San Jacinto West Moderator: The Honorable Talmadge Heflin, Director, Center for Fiscal Policy

With legislative action taken in the 2007 session and strong support from Governor Perry and Comptroller Combs, Texas has begun to lift the veil on government spending, giving citizens a chance to see where their money goes. Interested taxpayers are witnessing a growing number of counties, cities, and school districts beginning to open their check register for the public to see; some even making history in the process! In just a few short years, Texas has become a national leader in fiscal transparency, but there are still improvements to be made. Join us as a panel of nationally renowned experts discusses just how we go about applying the power of 21st century technology to government spending.



REPRESENTATIVE MARK STRAMA

Texas House of
Representatives

Elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2004, Representative Mark Strama served as Vice Chair of the Texas House Civil Practices Committee during the 80th Texas Legislature. Strama is a native Texan who has divided his career between public service and private business, always fighting to empower voters and make government more responsive to every American. After graduating from Brown University, he worked on Ann Richards' successful 1990 campaign for governor. He went on to become chief of staff for State Senator Rodney Ellis. In 1995, Strama left government to become director of programs at Rock the Vote, where he helped register more than one million new voters.



THE HONORABLE KEITH SELF

Collin County Judge

A fifth-generation Texan and graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, Keith Self served our nation for 25 years as an Army officer, first retiring from active duty in 1999. He was recalled to active duty from 2002-2003 for service in Afghanistan and Qatar, serving in the Plans and Policy Directorate and U.S. Central Command on General Tommy Franks' staff. Prior to taking office in January 2007, Keith worked for the Science Applications International Corporation (better known as SAIC) as the Texas Homeland Security Coordinator.



KRISTINA RASMUSSEN

National
Taxpayers Union

As National Taxpayers Union's Director of Government Affairs, Kristina Rasmussen amplifies the pro-taxpayer message to lawmakers and the public. Lobbying on federal and state issues, conducting policy research and analysis, assisting in taxpayer education efforts, and formulating reports and opinion editorials are Rasmussen's primary duties. Rasmussen's opinion pieces have been featured in the *Washington Post*, *Forbes Magazine*, *National Review Online*, *Investor's Business Daily*, *The Hill*, and the *Baltimore Sun*, among others. Her television appearances include CNN and CSPAN, and she has been a guest on numerous radio shows.



DAVID SIMMONS, PH.D.

Superintendent,
Richardson ISD

David Simmons, Ph.D., is a graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University, earning a bachelor of science degree and master's in education in 1982 and 1987, respectively. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Education Administration from Texas A&M University in 2001. His dissertation entitled "The Effectiveness of Wealth Recapture Legislation on Achieving Financial Equity Among the Public School Districts in Texas" discussed Texas school finance. Simmons began his career as a classroom teacher in Deer Park, Texas, followed by service as a curriculum director, counselor, and principal.

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR TEXAS CORRECTIONS

10:30-11:45am San Jacinto East Moderator: Marc Levin Esq., Director, Center for Effective Justice

While Texas criminal justice reforms made since 2005 have attracted national attention, the state still has the nation's second highest incarceration rate and the prison system is seeking another \$1.08 billion just to run existing facilities. Meanwhile, the Texas Youth Commission is smaller and more accountable, but the jury is still out on the effectiveness of its programs. With these and many other challenges, Texas policymakers will once again consider reforms to ensure taxpayers' money is spent wisely to protect public safety, restore victims, and reform offenders.



**SENATOR JOHN
WHITMIRE**

Texas Senate

Senator Whitmire represents the 15th Senatorial District comprised of north Houston and north Harris County. He was first elected to the Texas Senate in 1982 after serving 10 years in the Texas House of Representatives. With over 20 years of service in the Texas Senate, Senator Whitmire ranks first in seniority and serves as the "Dean of the Texas Senate." Senator Whitmire served as the Chair of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, as a member of the Senate Government Organization Committee, Senate Finance Committee, and the Senate Administration Committee during the 80th Texas Legislature.



**REPRESENTATIVE
JERRY MADDEN**

Texas House of
Representatives

Representative Madden served as chairman of the House Committee on Corrections during the 80th Texas Legislature. His 67th district includes portions of southwest Collin County, including Plano, Dallas, and Richardson. In 2007, *Texas Monthly* named him one of its "Ten Best" legislators, primarily for his leadership in overhauling the Texas Youth Commission. He has also been acknowledged for his bi-partisan, consensus-building capabilities which prompted the 80th Legislature to adopt a "smart" as well as "tough on crime" posture toward reducing criminal justice system costs while promoting public safety.



ADAM GELB
Pew Charitable
Trusts

Adam Gelb directs the Public Safety Performance Project, which works with more than a dozen states to advance fiscally sound, data driven policies in sentencing and corrections that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and control corrections spending. One of the project's reports, "One in 100: Behind Bars in America 2008," illustrated the high costs and low crime-control returns of prisons and highlighted state innovations that are cutting recidivism and saving money. Gelb has been involved in crime control and prevention issues for the past 20 years as a journalist, congressional aide, and senior state government official.



**MIKE
GRIFFITHS**
Dallas County
Juvenile
Department

As the Director of Juvenile Services for the Dallas County Juvenile Department, Mike Griffiths is responsible for the agency's operation, including Juvenile Board/Commissioners Court interaction, fiscal management, planning, research, facility development, program expansion, and public relations. Griffiths directs department staff to accomplish mandates of Title III of the Texas Family Code involving services for delinquent and pre-delinquent youth, their families, and victims of juvenile crime. He has worked in the Juvenile Corrections field since 1976, earning the Texas Probation Association's Juvenile Probation Administrator of the Year award in 2005 and 2008.

IMMIGRATION DEBATE

12:00pm Ballroom ABCD Moderator: Bill Peacock, Vice President of Administration and Director, Center for Economic Freedom.

The importance of the issues surrounding immigration, such as its impact on the U.S. economy, often gets lost in the rancorous nature of the debate. For this panel, we've brought in two experts on immigration, nationally-acclaimed economist Dr. Arthur Laffer and Mark Krikorian, Executive Director of the Center for Immigration Studies. While their debate will be lively and entertaining, they will be sure to focus on the issues that Texans need to be discussing when it comes to immigration.



**ARTHUR B.
LAFFER, PH.D.**

Laffer Associates

Arthur B. Laffer, Ph.D. is the founder and chairman of Laffer Associates, an economic research and consulting firm that provides global investment-research services to institutional asset managers, pension funds, financial institutions, and corporations. Since its inception in 1979, the firm's research has focused on the interconnecting macroeconomic, political, and demographic changes affecting global financial markets.

Laffer has been widely acknowledged for his economic achievements. His economic acumen and influence in triggering a world-wide tax-cutting movement in the 1980s have earned him the distinction as the "Father of Supply-Side Economics." He was also noted in *TIME's* 1999 cover story as one of the "Century's Greatest Minds" for inventing the Laffer Curve, which it deemed one of "a few of the advances that powered this extraordinary century." His creation of the Laffer Curve was deemed a "memorable event" in financial history by the *Institutional Investor* in its July 1992 Silver Anniversary issue, "The Heroes, Villains, Triumphs, Failures, and Other Memorable Events."

Laffer was a member of President Reagan's Economic Policy Advisory Board for both of his terms (1981-1989). He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Reagan/Bush Finance Committee in 1984 and was a founding member of the Reagan Executive Advisory Committee for the presidential race of 1980.



**MARK
KRIKORIAN**

**Center for
Immigration
Studies**

Mark Krikorian is Executive Director of the Center for Immigration Studies, a non profit, non partisan research organization in Washington, D.C., which examines and critiques the impact of immigration on the United States. The Center is animated by a pro immigrant, low immigration vision which seeks fewer immigrants but a warmer welcome for those admitted.

Krikorian frequently testifies before Congress and has published articles in *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and elsewhere, is a contributor at *National Review Online*, and has appeared on *60 Minutes*, *Nightline*, *CNN*, *National Public Radio*, and on many other television and radio programs. He is the author of *The New Case Against Immigration—Both Legal and Illegal*, published in 2008 by Sentinel (part of the Penguin Group).

Krikorian holds a master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University, and spent two years at Yerevan State University in then Soviet Armenia. Before joining the Center in February 1995, he held a variety of editorial and writing positions.

FINISHING THE JOB: COMPLETING THE MOVE TO A FILE-AND-USE REGULATORY SYSTEM

2:15-3:45pm San Jacinto West Moderator: Bill Peacock, Director, Center for Economic Freedom

Reform of the rules governing the Texas homeowners' insurance market in 2003 called for a file-and-use regulatory system. However, five years into the reforms, the Sunset Review Commission's Staff Report on the Texas Department of Insurance rightly concludes that "... the Legislature cannot judge the success of the shift to file-and-use rate regulation because the system has not been fully implemented." This panel will examine how and if file-and-use regulation should be fully implemented in Texas to improve the Texas insurance market.



REPRESENTATIVE CARL ISETT

Texas House of
Representatives

Carl Isett was the only practicing tax accountant in the Texas House of Representatives when elected in 1996. Concerned that government had become too intrusive into the families and businesses of Texas, Representative Isett took a much-needed perspective to Austin. He continues to fight for the core conservative values of less government, lower taxes, and personal freedom and responsibility. Representative Isett is currently Chairman of the influential Sunset Advisory Commission and is charged with re-authorizing or closing 27 state agencies. He chaired the Sub-Committee on General Government of the House Appropriations Committee and was Chairman of Budget and Oversight for the Licensing and Regulatory Committee during the 80th Texas Legislature.



REPRESENTATIVE RUTH JONES MCCLENDON

Texas House of
Representatives

Ruth Jones McClendon served as a member of the Texas House of Representatives for the past 12 years, representing District 120 in San Antonio. She is the recipient of the 2006 Regional and State "Legislator of the Year" awards from the Texas Council of Child Welfare Boards. McClendon was Chairman of the House Committee on Rules and Resolutions during the 80th Texas Legislature. Additionally, she held a coveted seat on the powerful House Appropriations Committee. She served on the Education and Transportation Subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee. Her appointment to the influential Sunset Advisory Commission makes her one of only five members of the Texas House serving on the 12-member panel.



JIM OLIVER

Texas Windstorm
Insurance
Association

Jim Oliver is General Manager of both the Texas FAIR Plan Association and Texas Windstorm Insurance Association. Prior to his current job, Oliver was Senior Vice President of Insurance Operations at the Auto Club Insurance Association in Dearborn, Michigan, where underwriting, claims, and actuarial reported to him. Previously, he was a Senior Vice President of Republic Insurance Group in Dallas. Earlier in his career, he was Vice President at New Hampshire Insurance Group and held various underwriting and management positions at Amica Mutual Insurance.



STEVE POCIASK

American
Consumer
Institute

For over 25 years, Steve Pociask has been involved in consumer public policy research. He has published numerous economic studies, including three books for the Economic Policy Institute, and policy studies for many independent nonprofit organizations. Many of his research studies have focused on the consequences that public policies have on consumer welfare. He has extensive experience in various policy issues, including energy, insurance, consumer products, information technology, and healthcare.

TAKING TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION TO THE NEXT LEVEL

2:15-3:45pm San Jacinto East Moderator: Rick O'Donnell, Research Fellow, Texas Public Policy Foundation

Adjusted for inflation, operating costs at Texas universities have increased 65 percent since 1991, which has led to significant increases in tuition. As Texas seeks to meet its goal of an additional 630,000 students attending college by 2015, policymakers are seeking ways to increase efficiency and affordability. The Foundation has recommended solutions such as student-centered funding, separating teaching and research budgets, and compensating faculty based on productivity. Together, higher education leaders and lawmakers have a unique opportunity to make Texas a beacon of excellence in both teaching and research.



**REPRESENTATIVE
DAN BRANCH**
Texas House of
Representatives

Representative Dan Branch serves as a member of the Texas House of Representatives from Dallas (Dist. 108). Elected in 2002, he represents downtown, uptown, near north & east Dallas, as well as the Town of Highland Park and the City of University Park. Branch served as Chair of the House Select Committee on Higher & Public Education Finance during the 80th Texas Legislature, and is a member of the Legislative Budget Board. His other assignments included seats on the House Appropriations, Calendars, and Public Education Committees. He has been named to *Capitol Inside's* "Best of the Texas Legislature" list for 5 consecutive years, and was named the "All Purpose Player" for the 2007 Session by *The Dallas Morning News*.



SCOTT CAVEN
UT Board of
Regents

H. Scott Caven, Jr., of Houston, Texas, was appointed to a six-year term on The University of Texas System Board of Regents by Governor Rick Perry in February 2003. The Board elected him Chairman on November 9, 2007. On August 23, 2007, Caven was named a Vice Chairman of the UT System Board of Regents. Regent Caven served on the Academic Affairs Committee; the Finance and Planning Committee; the Health Affairs Committee; and the Facilities Planning and Construction Committee. Caven chaired the Task Force on Admissions, Tuition, and Financial Aid and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of The University of Texas Investment Management Company (UTIMCO).



**RICHARD
VEDDER, PH.D.**
Ohio University

Dr. Richard Vedder is a Distinguished Professor of Economics at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He has written extensively on labor issues, authoring such books as *The American Economy in Historical Perspective* and, with Lowell Gallaway, *Out of Work: Unemployment and Government in Twentieth-Century America*. Vedder has written over 100 scholarly papers published in academic journals and books, and his work has also appeared in numerous newspapers and magazines including *The Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Investor's Business Daily*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and *USA Today*. Vedder has been an economist with the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, with which he maintains a consulting relationship. He has served as the John M. Olin Visiting Professor of Labor Economics and Public Policy at the Center for the Study of American Business at Washington University in St. Louis and has taught or lectured at many other universities.

INNOVATION, EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE, AND THE ROLE OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

4:00-5:30pm San Jacinto West Moderator: Brooke Terry, Policy Analyst, Texas Public Policy Foundation

Charter schools are subject to less regulation and therefore have freedom to innovate. What best practices can we learn from charter schools? How are charter schools performing in comparison to traditional public schools? This panel will address public charter schools from a variety of perspectives.



**SENATOR
FLORENCE
SHAPIRO**

Texas Senate

Senator Florence Shapiro is known as a deeply committed legislator who gives voice to the values of those she serves. Since becoming Chair of the Senate Education Committee, she has brought the focus of public education back to the student with legislation to phase out the TAKS test and replace it with end-of-course exams. Additionally, she has worked to create a seamless system of pre-K-16 pipeline, ensuring all Texas students have access to and encouragement for post-secondary education. As Education Chair, she has passed legislation to overhaul the state's school finance system, lower property taxes, provide more money for schools along with a teacher pay raise, and institute the first-ever incentive pay program.



LINDA BRIDGES

American
Federation of
Teachers

Linda Bridges started her career in education as an elementary special education teacher in the Corpus Christi ISD. Bridges was a charter member of the Corpus Christi American Federation of Teachers (Local 3456) and served as the local's secretary, executive vice-president, and then began her tenure as president of CCAFT that spanned 24 years (1981-2005). In 2005, Bridges was elected president of the Texas Federation of Teachers. As president of CCAFT, Bridges helped pioneer exclusive consultations for school employees. Under her leadership, CCAFT developed several collaborative ventures with the Corpus Christi Independent School District in the area of school reform.



TOM TORKELSON

IDEA Charter
Schools in Texas

Upon graduating from Georgetown University (Washington, DC) with a degree in economics in 1997, Tom joined Teach for America and taught fourth grade in Donna, Texas for three years. He successfully launched the IDEA Academy in 2000, serving as the first board president and founding principal. Since 2000, he has led the replication efforts of the original school; and system-wide there are now nearly 4,000 students enrolled in the 10 campuses, with two more schools set to open in 2009. The mission of IDEA Public Schools is to ensure that students in under-served communities are prepared to succeed in college and citizenship.



PAUL VALLAS

New Orleans
Recovery School
District

Paul Vallas is Superintendent of the Recovery School District, which includes 67 traditional and charter schools in New Orleans. He is implementing district-wide reforms, duplicating many of the initiatives that turned the school systems of Philadelphia and Chicago into nationally recognized models for reform. In New Orleans, Vallas' initiatives include a standardized curriculum, an extended school day and school year to provide students with more instructional time on task, and a classroom modernization program that has provided interactive white boards, laptops to all teachers, and more than 4,000 laptop computers to high school students.

WHAT'S THE PRESCRIPTION FOR PATIENT-DRIVEN HEALTH CARE?

4:00-5:30pm San Jacinto East Moderator: Justin Keener, Vice President of Policy and Communications

An in-depth discussion of provider regulations and the role they play in the health care market. The panel will provide insight on Texas' scope of practice laws and how they affect the price of health care and impact the delivery and accessibility of services.



**REPRESENTATIVE
ROB ORR**
Texas House of
Representatives

Rep. Rob Orr (R-Burleson) is serving his second term in the Texas House of Representatives representing District 58 (Johnson and Bosque Counties). During the 80th Legislative Session, Rep. Orr served as Chairman of the House Land and Resource Management Committee and Chairman of its Eminent Domain Subcommittee. He also served on the House Financial Institutions Committee. In addition, Rep. Orr served on the House Research Organization, Republican Caucus Policy Committee, Community College Caucus, and the Texas Conservative Coalition Research Institute.



**ALBERT GROS,
PH.D.**
Texas Medical
Association

Dr. Albert Gros has a solo private practice of obstetrics and gynecology in Austin, Texas. He received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in 1976. Dr. Gros has served on the Council on Legislation for the Texas Medical Association since April 2003. He has been serving as Chairman since 2007. Dr. Gros has also served as the Medical Director of South Austin Hospital since July 2007.



**JOHN
HAWKINS**
Texas Hospital
Association

John M. Hawkins is the Senior Vice President of Government Relations for the Texas Hospital Association (THA). He is responsible for managing all aspects of THA's state advocacy efforts before the Legislature and regulatory agencies. Before joining THA, Hawkins served as a senior policy analyst for the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission where he managed the performance reviews of state agencies, including the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the Texas Department of Human Services, and the Interagency Council on Early Childhood Intervention.



**ALISON
MITCHELL**
Texas Nurse
Practitioners

Alison Mitchell, RN, MSN, ACNP-BC, President of Texas Nurse Practitioners, is originally from New Zealand. Mitchell graduated Texas Tech School of Nursing Health Sciences Center in 1995 with a BSN, and then graduated from University of Texas-Houston School of Nursing Health Sciences Center in 2001, with an MSN as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP). Mitchell has been involved with the American College of Nurse Practitioners since her student years, receiving the first Legislative Scholarship offered in 2000, and presently serves as Treasurer on the Executive Board. Alison is a member of the Public Policy Committee for the American College of Nurse Practitioners.

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JANUARY 23, 2009—FOUR SEASONS HOTEL

8:00am VIP Breakfast: Exclusive to legislators, sponsors, and their guests, with featured speaker
The Honorable Barry Goldwater Jr. *Ballroom A*

9:00am-10:15am Panel Session IV

Franchise Tax: Fee or Flee? *San Jacinto West (CLE accredited)* 18

- The Honorable Dan Branch, Chairman, Texas House Select Committee on Higher & Public Education Finance (80th Texas Legislature)
- The Honorable Ken Paxton, Vice Chairman, Texas House Property Tax Relief and Appraisal Reform Committee (80th Texas Legislature)
- James LeBas, Texas Oil and Gas Association
- Kurt Summers, Owner, Austin Generator Services; Chairman, National Federation of Independent Business

Moderated by The Honorable Talmadge Heflin, Director, Center for Fiscal Policy

Texas Electricity: Is Deregulation Here to Stay? *San Jacinto East (CLE accredited)* 19

- The Honorable Phil King, Chairman, Texas House Committee on Regulated Industries (80th Texas Legislature)
- The Honorable Jim Dunnam, Texas State Representative (80th Texas Legislature)
- Don Ballard, Public Utility Counsel
- Peter Van Doren, CATO Institute

Moderated by Bill Peacock, Director, Center for Economic Freedom

10:30am-11:45am Panel Session V

Texas Water Markets: Opportunities and Obstacles *San Jacinto West (CLE accredited)* 20

- The Honorable Kip Averitt, Chairman, Texas Senate Natural Resources Committee (80th Texas Legislature)
- Mary Kelly, Vice President, Environmental Defense Fund
- Bennet Raley, Former Assistant Secretary of Water, U.S. Department of Interior and Partner, Trout, Raley, Montano, Freeman & Witwer, P.C.
- Lynn Sherman, Water Policy Expert

Moderated by Kathleen Hartnett White, Director, Center for Natural Resources

Doing More with Less: The Role of Competition and Privatization in Transportation *San Jacinto East (CLE accredited)* 21

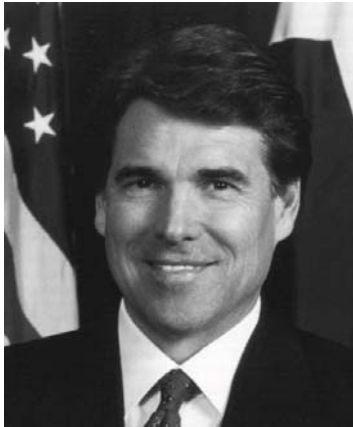
- The Honorable Linda Harper Brown, Chair of Budget & Oversight, Texas House Transportation Committee (80th Texas Legislature)
- The Honorable Deirdre Delisi, Commissioner, Texas Department of Transportation
- Tom Johnson, Executive Vice President, Associated General Contractors of Texas
- Robert Poole, Director of Transportation Studies, Reason Foundation
- Steve Stagner, President, Texas Council of Engineering Companies

Moderated by Justin Keener, Vice President of Policy and Communications

12:15pm Closing Lunch and Keynote Address from Texas Governor Rick Perry *Ballroom ABCD*

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS—JANUARY 23, 2009

12:00pm-Ballroom ABCD



GOVERNOR RICK PERRY

Texas

Sworn in as the state's 47th governor on December 21, 2000, Rick Perry was elected to a four-year term November 5, 2002 and re-elected November 7, 2006.

A fifth generation Texan, Governor Rick Perry has taken an extraordinary Texas journey, from a tenant farm in the rolling West Texas plains to the governor's office of our nation's second largest state.

The first Texas A&M graduate to occupy the Governor's Mansion, Rick Perry has led a life of public service, starting in the United States Air Force and continuing over two decades in elected office.

Governor Perry's administration has focused on creating a Texas of unlimited opportunity and prosperity by improving education, securing the border, and increasing economic development through classical conservative values. Governor Perry signed a school finance reform package that provides a 33 percent school property tax reduction, \$2,000 pay raise for teachers, record funding for classrooms, and a reformed business tax.

Governor Perry also signed the nation's most sweeping lawsuit reforms, which stand as a national model for addressing skyrocketing malpractice insurance rates. Many hospitals and doctors subsequently experienced insurance savings, obstetricians and specialists are returning to practice in previously high-risk areas, and physicians from across the country are moving to Texas to practice medicine.

Starting with his election as lieutenant governor in 1999, Rick Perry has worked to build a stronger safety net for the poorest of the poor. The number of children with health insurance under Medicaid and CHIP has more than doubled since 1999. He is also working to expand opportunities for the private sector to offer health insurance, and signed legislation allowing small businesses to pool together to offer affordable health insurance policies.

Rick Perry's political career started in 1985 as a representative for a rural West Texas district in the state House of Representatives. He was first elected to statewide office in 1990, and served as Texas Commissioner of Agriculture for two terms. Governor Perry hails from Paint Creek, a small farming community north of Abilene. His father, Ray Perry, served as a Haskell County Commissioner, school board member, and a World War II tail gunner. Between 1972 and 1977, Governor Perry served in the United States Air Force flying C-130 tactical airlift aircraft in the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East.

He is a 1972 graduate of Texas A&M University where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets, a junior and senior Yell Leader and an animal science major. The younger of Ray and Amelia Perry's two children, Governor Perry is an Eagle Scout and lifetime member of American Legion Post #75.

FRANCHISE TAX: FEE OR FLEE?

9:00-10:15am San Jacinto West Moderator: Talmadge Heflin, Director, Center for Fiscal Policy

The first payment on the new margins tax has been made. According to the Comptroller, revenue from the initial collections was slightly lower than expected. With the economy cooling, what effect will the state's new tax on businesses have on job creation, investment, and wages? Is this tax really more equitable than the previous franchise tax or does it, as many claim, punish small- and medium-size businesses and unfairly benefit larger, more capital intensive businesses? A knowledgeable panel with diverse views explores the viability of this tax and possibly determines the fate, short- and long-term, of the revised business tax.



**REPRESENTATIVE
DAN BRANCH**
Texas House of
Representatives

Representative Dan Branch serves as a member of the Texas House of Representatives from Dallas (Dist. 108). Elected in 2002, he represents downtown, uptown, near north & east Dallas, as well as the Town of Highland Park and the City of University Park. Branch served as Chair of the House Select Committee on Higher & Public Education Finance during the 80th Texas Legislature, and is a member of the Legislative Budget Board. His other assignments included seats on the House Appropriations, Calendars, and Public Education Committees. He has been named to *Capitol Insider's* "Best of the Texas Legislature" list for 5 consecutive years, and was named the "All Purpose Player" for the 2007 Session by *The Dallas Morning News*.



**REPRESENTATIVE
KEN PAXTON**
Texas House of
Representatives

Representative Ken Paxton is currently serving as the State Representative for District 70 which consists of Frisco, Allen, McKinney, Prosper, and Celina. He has made the power rankings list by on-line guide *Capitol Insider*. Additionally, he has been named "Texas Taxpayer Hero" by Texans for Fiscal Responsibility and has been named to the Texas Association of Realtors Legislative Hall of Fame for his "uncompromising commitment to championing the rights of homeowners." During the 80th Texas Legislature, Paxton served as Vice Chair of the powerful House State Affairs Committee and as a member of the House Ways and Means committee.



JAMES LEBAS
Texas Oil and
Gas Association

James LeBas is a consultant on Texas tax and fiscal matters. Past and present clients include the Texas Oil and Gas Association, Koch Industries, Association of Electric Companies of Texas, and others. He is a registered lobbyist with the Texas Ethics Commission and is a member of the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association. LeBas was previously Director of Financial Analysis for the Perry-Sharp Tax Reform Commission, during which time he was also chief financial officer for the Water Development Board. LeBas served six years as the state's chief revenue estimator in the Texas Comptroller's Office, and preceding that, performed budget and planning analysis for the Governor's Office.



KURT SUMMERS
National
Federation of
Independent
Business

Kurt Summers is the President of Austin Generator Service in Austin, Texas. Austin Generator Service began in March of 1978. As of today, the business has 17 employees. Summers officially took over as president of the business in April 2002. He is a very active member of the National Federation of Independent Business and serves as their NFIB/Texas Leadership Council Chairman. He is also active in other organizations and trade groups such as the Austin Association of Facility & Maintenance Engineers (AAFAME), the Electrical Generating Systems Association (EGSA), the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

TEXAS ELECTRICITY: IS DEREGULATION HERE TO STAY?

9:00-10:15am San Jacinto East Moderator: Bill Peacock, Director, Center for Economic Freedom

High natural gas prices and restrictions on coal and nuclear generation continue to keep pressure on electricity prices in Texas. Some people want to blame deregulation for the increase in prices. This panel will examine the successes and challenges of the Texas electricity market, and whether the call by critics to return to a regulated market is desirable, or even possible.



REPRESENTATIVE PHIL KING

Texas House of
Representatives

As State Representative for the 61st District, Representative Phil King represents the people of Parker and Wise counties. During the 80th Texas Legislature, King served as Chairman of the Regulated Industries Committee, where he has worked to promote competition in the electricity and telecommunications markets. King co-chaired the Electric Utility Restructuring Legislative Oversight Committee, a joint committee of the Texas House and Senate, and served on the Select Committee on Electric Generation Capacity and Environmental Effects. King also served on the Civil Practices Committee, the Redistricting Committee, and the Select Committee on Property Tax Relief and Appraisal Reform.



REPRESENTATIVE JIM DUNNAM

Texas House of
Representatives

Jim Dunnam was elected to the Texas House of Representatives (District 57) in November 1996. In 2003, Dunnam was elected as the Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, making him House Democratic Leader. He is also a member of the Legislative Study Group, the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, and the Texas Rural Caucus. In 1999, Dunnam received a Special Award in *Texas Monthly Magazine's* Best Legislators edition as an "up and comer." Dunnam has written and passed laws including improving 911 services to rural areas, protecting local drinking water, and ensuring smaller class sizes for elementary students, just to name a few.



DON BALLARD Public Utility Counsel

Don Ballard was appointed Public Utility Counsel by Governor Rick Perry and took office on January 3, 2008. The Office of Public Utility Counsel represents Texas' residential and small business consumers in electric and telecommunications utility proceedings that come before state and federal regulatory agencies and courts. Prior to his appointment, Ballard was General Counsel to the Texas Workforce Commission, a state agency with 3,000 employees and an annual budget of \$1.1 billion, responsible for 28 programs including all federal Department of Labor activities, state and federal training programs, and state child care initiatives.



PETER VAN DOREN Cato Institute

Peter Van Doren is a senior fellow and editor of Regulation at the Cato Institute. He received his bachelor of science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1977), and his masters (1980) and Ph.D. degrees (1985) from Yale. He taught at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, from 1984 until 1991, at the School of Management, Yale University, from 1991 until 1993, and in the Public Administration Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1993 until 1997. In 1987-88 he was a postdoctoral fellow in political economy at Carnegie Mellon University.

TEXAS WATER MARKETS: OPPORTUNITIES AND OBSTACLES

10:30-11:45am San Jacinto West Moderator: Kathleen Hartnett White, Director, Center for Natural Resources

Texas faces a daunting challenge to develop additional water supply to meet growing needs. Landmark water legislation (SB 1), enacted in 1997, stipulated that “voluntary redistribution of existing supply” was an optimal means of meeting future demand. In the last 10 years, however, water marketing has been limited to a few areas. What facilitates or discourages water markets? The panel will focus on obstacles, limitations, and opportunities for water markets in Texas.



**SENATOR KIP
AVERITT**

Texas Senate

Senator Kip Averitt was born in the small West Texas town of Crane. He earned a BBA and MBA in economics and finance from Baylor University in Waco. Averitt, a certified public accountant, is a state and local tax consultant for Ryan & Company. After serving nine-and-a-half years in the Texas House of Representatives, including two terms as Chairman of the House Committee on Financial Institutions, Averitt was elected to the Texas Senate in April of 2002. During the 80th Session, Averitt was Chairman of the powerful Senate Committee on Natural Resources. He crafted and passed Senate Bill 3, a powerful tool in his ongoing efforts to ensure a clean, adequate, and affordable supply of water for future generations of Texans.



MARY KELLY
Environmental
Defense Fund

Mary Kelly is the Vice President for Rivers and Deltas at Environmental Defense Fund. Founded in 1967, Environmental Defense Fund is a national organization that combines law, science, and economics to find cost-effective and lasting solutions to our most pressing environmental problems. Kelly has over 20 years of experience as an environmental lawyer, having worked in private practice and the not-for-profit sector. She manages major Environmental Defense Fund projects to protect and restore habitat, rivers, and coastal deltas across the U.S. She has specialized in water law and U.S./Mexico binational water management during much of her career.



BENNET RALEY
Trout, Raley,
Montano, Freeman
& Witwer, P.C.

Bennet Raley is an attorney with Trout, Raley, Montano, Freeman & Witwer, P.C. where his work includes litigation and administrative proceedings related to water rights, public lands, federal environmental laws, and federal reclamation law. From 2001-2004 he served as the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science for the Department of the Interior. In this position his responsibilities included the United States Geological Survey, Bureau of Reclamation, and other duties as assigned by the Secretary of the Interior.



**LYNN
SHERMAN**
Water Policy
Expert

Lynn Sherman provides strategic counsel on legal, legislative, regulatory, and business issues concerning water, wastewater, and the rights of landowners. He is regarded as a leading authority on water rights, the protection and development of water supplies, water transactions, water and wastewater utilities, and infrastructure development. Sherman has researched and written about some of the state's most important water rights issues. He co-authored an award-winning article published in the *Texas Tech Law Review*, which is the most extensive analysis ever published on the “rule of capture” pertaining to groundwater.

DOING MORE WITH LESS: COMPETITION AND PRIVATIZATION IN TRANSPORTATION

10:30-11:45am San Jacinto East Moderator: Justin Keener, Vice President of Policy and Communications

Our state's transportation infrastructure is under tremendous strain due to unbridled economic and population growth. Policymakers seeking to fund solutions to these challenges face many obstacles, from skyrocketing inflation on construction materials to reduced tax revenue due to increasing vehicle fuel efficiencies. This panel will examine options that leverage private-sector efficiencies to stretch taxpayers' limited fuel tax dollars.



**REPRESENTATIVE
LINDA HARPER
BROWN**

Texas House of
Representatives

Linda Harper Brown was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2002. Representative Harper Brown focuses on finding fiscally responsible solutions for our state budget, protecting Texas jobs, keeping Texans moving on our roadways, and finding ways to repair Texas' education system. During the 80th Texas Legislature, she was a member of the coveted Appropriations Committee and served as Chair of the Appropriations Interim Subcommittee on Transportation Issues. She also served in a top position on the House Committee on Transportation as the Chairman of Budget and Oversight.



**THE HONORABLE
DEIRDRE DELISI**

Texas
Department of
Transportation

Deirdre Delisi is the chair of the Texas Transportation Commission, which oversees the statewide activities of the Texas Department of Transportation. She was appointed chair on April 30, 2008 by Gov. Rick Perry. Delisi has more than 12 years experience in government policy. She served as chief of staff and deputy chief of staff to Gov. Perry, and served as his special assistant when he was lieutenant governor. A former policy advisor to the presidential campaigns of Lamar Alexander and George W. Bush, Delisi served at the Texas Department of Commerce and as legislative aide for Texas Senator Bill Ratliff.



TOM JOHNSON
Associated
General
Contractors
of Texas

Tom Johnson is the Executive Vice President of the Associated General Contractors of Texas. At the direction of the Board of Directors, he manages the day-to-day operations of the association. The association represents highway-heavy contractors and related industries in Texas. The membership traditionally builds over 85% of the highways in Texas. The association works with agencies such as the Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, as well as cities, counties, and legislators on both the state and national levels.



ROBERT POOLE
Reason
Foundation

Robert Poole is Director of Transportation Studies at the Reason Foundation in Los Angeles. He received his B.S. and M.S. in mechanical engineering at MIT. His 1988 policy paper proposing privately financed, congestion-relief toll lanes inspired California's landmark private tollway law (AB 680), which served as the prototype for more than 20 similar laws in other states. In 1993 he directed a study that introduced the term HOT Lanes. Poole has been an advisor to the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, and the White House Office of Policy Development.



STEVE STAGNER
Texas Council
of Engineering
Companies

Steve Stagner is President of the Texas Council of Engineering Companies, the business association that represents Texas engineering firms. He is a native of Tyler, Texas and holds degrees from Southern Methodist University and the University of Texas at Austin. Stagner has coordinated Texas CEC's governmental affairs policy for 15 years, working extensively on issues such as government competition with the private sector, tort reform, procurement matters, alternative project delivery, transportation policy, and tax policy.

MODERATORS: TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION



TALMADGE HEFLIN

Director, Center for Fiscal Policy

The Honorable Talmadge Heflin is the director of the Foundation's Center for Fiscal Policy. Prior to joining the Foundation, he served the people of Harris County as a state representative for 11 terms. Well regarded as a legislative leader on budget and tax issues by Democratic and Republican speakers alike, for several terms he was the only House member to serve on both the Ways and Means and Appropriations Committees. In the 78th Session, Heflin served as chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations. He navigated a \$10 billion state budget shortfall through targeted spending cuts that allowed Texans to avoid a tax increase. Originally from Webster Parish, Louisiana, Heflin has been a resident of Houston for over 35 years. Prior to his legislative service, he was a member of the Board of trustees at Alief Independent School District. He is also the namesake of Talmadge L. Heflin Elementary School in Alief, which opened in 1982 in honor of his service to Alief ISD.



JUSTIN KEENER

Vice President of Policy and Communications

Justin Keener oversees research, legislative, and communications initiatives for the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation, Justin worked in the Texas House, Texas Senate, non-profit community, and private sector. Justin's legislative experience includes serving as an advisor to Texas Speaker Tom Craddick, and as communications director to Senator Florence Shapiro and the Senate State Affairs Committee. His public affairs background started at the Greater Dallas Crime Commission, then as a lobbyist with a small firm in Dallas, and as a vice president in Austin with two of the nation's largest public relations firms before starting his own consulting practice. He has directed campaigns for numerous Fortune 500 companies, advocacy organizations, and political candidates.



MARC LEVIN

Director, Center for Effective Justice

Marc A. Levin is the director of the Center for Effective Justice at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Levin is an Austin attorney and an accomplished author on legal and public policy issues. Levin has served as a law clerk to Judge Will Garwood on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Staff Attorney at the Texas Supreme Court. In 2002, Levin received his J.D. with honors from the University of Texas School of Law. Levin's articles on law and public policy have been featured in publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *Texas Review of Law & Politics*, *National Law Journal*, *New York Daily News*, *Jerusalem Post*, *Toronto Star*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Washington Times*, *Los Angeles Daily Journal*, *Charlotte Observer*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Austin American-Statesman*, *San Antonio Express-News*, and *Reason Magazine*.

MODERATORS: TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION



RICK O'DONNELL
Senior Fellow

Rick O'Donnell is president of the Acton Foundation for Entrepreneurial Excellence, which creates and distributes cutting-edge entrepreneurship curricula, including case courses, sim games, and Socratic teaching tools. Its curriculum is fully implemented at the affiliated Acton School of Business, an intense, one-year entrepreneurial MBA like no other. For the fifth year in a row, the Princeton Review's Best Business Schools rank Acton as #2 "classroom experience," #3 "best professors" and #3 "most competitive students" in the country. Previously, O'Donnell served in the Cabinet of Colorado's Governor as Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. The Department oversees all 29 public institutions of higher education in the state that cumulatively enroll nearly 270,000 students.



BILL PEACOCK
Vice President of
Administration &
Director, Center
for Economic
Freedom

Bill Peacock is the vice president of administration and director of the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Center for Economic Freedom. Peacock has extensive experience in Texas government and policy on a variety of issues, including economic and regulatory policy, natural resources, public finance, and public education. His work has focused on identifying and reducing the harmful effects of regulations on the economy, businesses, and consumers. Prior to joining the Foundation, Peacock served as the Deputy Commissioner for Coastal Resources for Commissioner Jerry Patterson at the Texas General Land Office. Before he worked at the GLO, he was a legislative and media consultant. Peacock has also served as the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Intergovernmental Affairs for then-Commissioner Rick Perry at the Texas Department of Agriculture.



**BROOKE L.
ROLLINS**
President & CEO

Brooke L. Rollins is president & CEO of the Texas Public Policy Foundation. Before joining the Foundation, Rollins served as Governor Rick Perry's Deputy General Counsel, and later as his Policy Director. She managed the Governor's Policy Division and all policy issues including education, transportation, natural resources, agriculture, criminal justice, economic development, health and human services, and insurance. She attended Texas A&M University and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Development. While at Texas A&M, Rollins was the first female to be elected and serve as Student Body President and was recognized as the top graduate based on academics, leadership, and service. In 2007, Rollins was invited back to campus as the Aggie Muster speaker. Rollins graduated with honors from the University of Texas School of Law and spent several years as a litigator with Hughes & Luce, L.L.P., in Dallas, Texas, focusing primarily on complex commercial litigation. She also completed a federal judicial clerkship with the Honorable Barbara M.G. Lynn, a United States Federal District Judge in the Northern District of Texas. Most recently, Rollins received the 2008 Thomas Roe Award, the top honor for free-market think tank leadership, at the State Policy Network's annual meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona.

MODERATORS: TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION



BROOKE DOLLENS TERRY

**Policy Analyst,
Center for
Education Policy**

Brooke Dollens Terry is an education policy analyst at the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Center for Education Policy. Before joining the Foundation, she worked at the Texas Workforce Commission in government relations and as a policy analyst for Commissioner Diane Rath. At the Workforce Commission, she researched and analyzed child care, welfare, foster care, food stamps and a host of other workforce policy issues. Prior to working in state government, Terry worked in Washington, D.C. for U.S. Senator Phil Gramm analyzing federal legislation and policy in the areas of banking, housing, education, welfare, judiciary, and social issues. Upon Senator Gramm's retirement, she worked for U.S. Senators John Cornyn and Richard Lugar as a legislative assistant. During college, she interned in U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison's press office in Washington, D.C., and in then-Governor George W. Bush's criminal justice division in Austin.



KATHLEEN HARTNETT WHITE

**Director, Center for
Natural Resources**

Kathleen Hartnett White joined the Texas Public Policy Foundation as Director of the Center for Natural Resources in January 2008. Prior to joining the Foundation, White served a six-year term as Chairman and Commissioner of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). With regulatory jurisdiction over air quality, water quality, water rights & utilities, storage and disposal of waste, TCEQ's staff of 3000, annual budget of over \$600 million and 16 regional offices make it the second largest environmental regulatory agency in the world after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to Governor Rick Perry's appointment of White to the TCEQ in 2001, she served as then Governor George Bush appointee to the Texas Water Development Board where she sat until appointed to TCEQ. She also served on the Texas Economic Development Commission and the Environmental Flows Study Commission.

TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION

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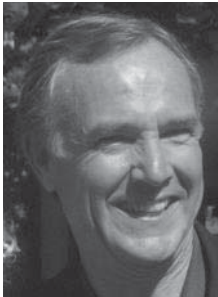
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IN MEMORIAM: A Texas Public Policy Foundation Leader

IN MEMORIAM



TPPF Board Member
Michael S. Stevens
1949-2008

Michael Snow Stevens, longtime Foundation board member and Houston developer, passed away on May 24, 2008, at the age of 58. Those who knew Michael will miss his incredible energy, keen intellect, and quick wit, along with his tireless devotion to both the city of Houston and to the state of Texas. There is no doubt that Michael left an indelible mark on numerous public policy debates on everything from tax reform to tort reform and transportation. A successful businessman and real estate developer, Michael's enthusiasm and leadership was apparent even as his health began to fail.

Our board of directors and staff mourn the loss of this dear friend who joined us in our fight for greater freedom, with the aim of making Texas a better, more prosperous state. Both Houston and Texas are better for Michael's service and leadership. Indeed, we would all hope to leave such a legacy behind. Without the leadership and vision of people like Michael Stevens, the Texas Public Policy Foundation would not be celebrating 20 years of successfully impacting policy in Texas.

Celebrating 20 Years —————

TEXAS PUBLIC POLICY FOUNDATION

The Voice of Liberty

Save the date for the Texas Public Policy Foundation's celebration of 20 years working for liberty and freedom in the Lone Star State. Join us for this special event.

September 11, 2009
20th Anniversary Banquet
Stephen F. Austin Hotel
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at 512-472-2700 or shanrahan@texaspolicy.com.**



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