

THE
GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS
INSTITUTE

at Georgetown University

Advanced Budget and Appropriations Process

Conducted By

Laura Blessing, Ph.D.

of

Government Affairs Institute

at Georgetown University

Telephone (202) 333-4838

June 29 - June 30, 2022

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Advanced Budget and Appropriations Process (online)

Agenda

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

- 9:00 - 9:30 am **Introduction**
- Laura Blessing, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow
Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University
- 9:30 - 10:30 am **Tax & Budget Reform History**
- Laura Blessing, Ph.D.
- 10:30 - 10:45 am **Break**
- 10:45 - 12:00 pm **Appropriations Vocabulary**
- Matt Glassman, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow
Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm **Lunch**
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm **Appropriations Bills and Reports, part one**
- (on Zoom)**
Michelle Mrdeza
Former Clerk
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
- 2:00 - 2:15 pm **Break**
- 2:15 - 3:15 pm **Appropriations: Mark-ups, Floor, and Conference, part two**
- (on Zoom)**
Michelle Mrdeza
- 3:15 - 4:00 pm **Wrap-up**
- Laura Blessing, Ph.D.

Thursday, June 30, 2022

- 9:30 - 10:30 am **The Office of Management and Budget**
Austin Smythe
Former Policy Director
Speaker Paul Ryan
And
Former Executive Associate Director
Office of Management and Budget
- 10:30 - 10:45 am **Break**
- 10:45 - 11:30 am **The Reconciliation Process**
Josh Huder, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow
Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University
- 11:30 - 12:00 pm **Principles and Priorities Workshop**
(Brief Check-in Before Class Discussion Later)
Laura Blessing, Ph.D.
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm **Lunch**
- 1:00 - 2:00 pm **Congress and the Budget**
Jennifer Scholtes
Budget and Appropriations Reporter
Politico
- 2:00 - 2:15 pm **Break**
- 2:15 - 3:15 pm **Roundtable Discussion**
Laura Blessing, Ph.D.
- 3:15 - 4:00 pm **Wrap-up and Evaluation**
Laura Blessing, Ph.D.

Course Director

Laura Blessing, Ph.D.

Laura Blessing, Ph.D. joined the Government Affairs Institute as a Senior Fellow in 2015. Prior to coming to GAI, she earned her PhD from the University of Virginia, where she was also a Miller Center National Fellow and a fellow for the Bankard Fund for Political Economy. Her dissertation covers the politics and development of tax policy; her interests include institutions, political parties, and policy (particularly tax and budget). She has taught classes at UVA (undergrad), Sweet Briar College (undergrad), and Georgetown University (graduate) on Congress; the Presidency; Media and Politics; the Public Policy Process; and Inequality and Public Policy, as well as advising students writing their Masters theses. At GAI she teaches two research seminars: Committees and Parties in Congress and the Politics of Tax and Budget Policy. After defending her dissertation she worked on the Hill as an American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellow. She served as the legislative assistant for tax policy for a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee. She has published on the eroding budget process, tax policy in the 2016 Presidential campaign, social movements and the Presidency, and the importance of practical experience in politics informing scholarship. She has engaged in congressional testimony and other public commentary on politics in various media venues. She is currently working on a book on the politics of tax policy from the midcentury period to today.

Education: PhD, University of Virginia; MA, University of Virginia; MAT, Johns Hopkins University; BA, George Washington University.

Speaker Bios

Matt Glassman, Ph.D.

Matt Glassman, Ph.D., joined the Government Affairs Institute as a Senior Fellow in 2017. He has taught courses on and off the Hill on American government, congressional process, congressional-presidential relations, and congressional leadership.

Prior to joining GAI, Matt worked on the Hill at the Congressional Research Service (CRS) for ten years. His portfolio included congressional operations, separation of powers, appropriations, judicial administration, agency design, and congressional history. He was detailed to the House Committee on Appropriations as professional staff for the Legislative Branch Subcommittee in FY2010 and FY2011.

Michelle Mrdeza

Michelle Mrdeza is President of her own consulting firm, MXMconsulting, which she started after 23 years of government experience. She ended her Congressional career as the first Staff Director (Clerk) for the House Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Homeland Security. Prior to her position on the Homeland Security Subcommittee, Mrdeza served as the majority staff director of the House Treasury, Postal Service, & General Government Appropriations Subcommittee from 1995-2003—becoming one of the first women to serve as an appropriations subcommittee staff director. From 1992-1995, she was the only Republican staffer on both the Energy & Water and Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government subcommittees. Mrdeza's Congressional experience started in 1985 as a senior analyst with the Senate Budget Committee, where she focused on education, job training, social services, and Veterans' benefits. Prior to these positions, she worked as a policy analyst at both the Veterans' Administration and the Office of Management and Budget.

She holds a B.S. in special education from UVA, as well as a Master's in Public Administration and a Master's in Sustainable Landscape Design, both from George Washington University.

Austin Smythe

Austin Smythe has over 30 years of experience working in the federal government. He most recently served as Policy Director for House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) from October 2015 to January 2019. He worked for Mr. Ryan in various capacities for 11 years. In 2015 he was the Policy Director for the House Ways and Means Committee and Staff Director for the House Budget Committee from 2007 to 2015.

Mr. Smythe's previous experience includes serving as the Executive Associate Director at the Office of Management and Budget from 2001 to 2007, working as a Vice President at Lehman Brothers for two years, and on the staff of the Senate Budget Committee for 15 years.

In 2018, Speaker Ryan and Leader Pelosi presented Mr. Smythe with the John C. McCormack Award of Excellence for service and bipartisan dedication to the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2016, he received the Distinguished Public Service Alumni Award from the LBJ School of Public Affairs / University of Texas.

Mr. Smythe received his master's degree in Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs and his bachelor's degree in Government from the University of Texas.

Josh Huder, Ph.D.

Joshua C. Huder, Ph.D., joined the Government Affairs Institute as a Senior Fellow in 2013. He primarily teaches courses on American government, Congress, advanced legislative process, separation of powers, and the federal budget process. He has provided political analysis to several news outlets, including the New York Times, Washington Post, Congressional Quarterly, Newsweek, Washington Examiner, Bloomberg News, CNN, and more.

Prior to joining GAI, Josh worked on the Hill as an American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellow. His portfolio included legislative procedure, government affairs, financial services, voting rights, campaign finance, trade, small business, and other issues. He is currently writing a book on the history of congressional procedure and politics since 1879.

Education: PhD, University of Florida; MA, University of Florida; BA, Rutgers University

Jennifer Scholtes

Jennifer Scholtes is editor of the Budget and Appropriations Brief. She has covered Congress since 2007, most recently writing about transportation security for POLITICO Pro and penning the Morning Transportation newsletter. Before that, she covered homeland security for CQ Roll Call. Jen got her start in journalism as a reporter for MediaNews Group newspapers in northern California and served as chief copy editor for the Paradise Post.