**Capitol Hill Fellowship Program Orientation for Air Force and Marine Corps**

**Agenda**

Room 383 HS

Monday, October 21, 2024 Hall of States Building

8:00 - 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast**

8:30 - 9:30 am **Introduction**

Worth H. Hester, Jr.

Assistant Director and Senior Fellow

Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

9:30 - 9:45 am **Break**

9:45 - 11:00 am **The Nature of Congress**

Matt Glassman, Ph.D.

Senior Fellow

Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

11:00 - 11:15 am **Break**

11:15 - 12:30 pm **Leadership and Organization in the 118th Congress**

Susan Sullivan Lagon, Ph.D.

Non-Resident Senior Fellow

Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

12:30 - 1:15 pm **Luncheon**

1:15 - 2:15 pm **Congress and Outside Interests**

Julie Minerva

Partner

Carpi & Clay, Inc.

2:15 - 2:30 pm **Break**

2:30 - 4:00 pm **Key Stages in the Legislative Process**

Worth Hester

Room 383 HS

Tuesday, October 22, 2024 Hall of States Building

8:00 - 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast**

8:30 - 9:30 am **Moving the Defense Bill Through Committee**

David Sienicki

Republican Staff Lead

Tactical Aviation & Land Forces Subcommittee

House Armed Services Committee

9:30 - 9:45 am **Break**

9:45 - 10:45 am **Working Defense Appropriations**

Robert Leonard

Professional Staff Member

Defense Subcommittee

Senate Appropriations Committee

10:45 - 11:00 am **Break**

11:00 - 12:00 pm **The Office of Legislative Counsel**

Noah Wofsy

Deputy Legislative Counsel

Office of Legislative Counsel

U. S. House of Representatives

12:00 - 1:00 pm **Luncheon**

1:00 - 2:00 pm **Congress and the Media**

Matthew Fuller

Congressional Bureau Chief

NOTUS

2:00 - 2:15 pm **Break**

2:15 - 3:15 pm **Staffing a Member’s Personal Office**

Kristin Nicholson

Director

Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

and

Former Chief of Staff

The Honorable James R. Langevin (D)

State of Rhode Island - 2nd District

U.S. House of Representatives

3:15 - 4:00 pm **Roundtable Discussion**

Worth Hester

Room 383 HS

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 Hall of States Building

8:00 - 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast**

8:30 - 9:30 am **OMB's Legislative Clearance Function**

Jeffrey A. Weinberg

Former Legislative Attorney

Office of Management and Budget

9:30 - 9:45 am **Break**

9:45 - 10:45 am **Documents in the Legislative Process**

Josh Huder, Ph.D.

Senior Fellow

Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

10:45 - 11:00 am **Break**

11:00 - 12:15 pm **The Unique Nature of the Senate**

James Wallner, Ph.D. (via Zoom)

Senior Fellow

R Street Institute

12:15 - 1:00 pm **Luncheon**

1:00 - 2:00 pm **The Biden Administration and Congress**

Alexis Simendinger

National Political Correspondent

The Hill

2:00 - 4:00 pm **Congressional Committee Hearings (Pre-recorded)**

Room 383 HS

Thursday, October 24, 2024 Hall of States Building

8:00 - 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast**

8:30 - 9:30 am **Congressional Committee Function and Operation**

Worth Hester

9:30 - 9:45 am **Break**

9:45 - 11:45 am **Floor Procedures in the House and Senate**

Matt Glassman, Ph.D.

11:45 - 12:45 pm **Luncheon**

12:45 - 2:00 pm **Partisanship in Congress: Has It Always Been This Bad?**

Josh Huder, Ph.D.

2:00 - 2:15 pm **Break**

2:15 - 3:30 pm **The Budget Dilemma**

Laura Blessing, Ph.D.

Senior Fellow

Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

3:30 - 4:00 pm **Roundtable Discussion**

Worth Hester

Room 383 HS

Friday, October 25, 2024 Hall of States Building

8:00 - 8:30 am **Continental Breakfast**

8:30 - 9:15 am **Managing Your Hill Assignment**

Worth Hester

9:15 - 9:30 am **Break**

9:30 - 10:45 am **Member's Motivations and Challenges**

The Honorable William V. Hilleary (R)

Chief of Staff

Office of The Honorable John W. Rose

State of Tennessee -- 6th District

U.S. House of Representatives

and

Former Representative

State of Tennessee--4th District

U.S. House of Representatives

10:45 - 11:00 am **Break**

11:00 - 12:00 pm **The Electoral Dimension**

Jacob Rubashkin

Deputy Editor

Inside Elections

12:00 - 1:00 pm **Luncheon**

1:00 - 2:00 pm **Leadership in the House of Representatives**

Catie Edmondson

Congressional Reporter

The New York Times

2:00 - 2:15 pm **Break**

2:15 - 3:15 pm **Understanding Congress: Some "Takeaways"**

Worth Hester

3:15 - 3:30 pm **Wrap-up and Evaluation**

**Worth H. Hester**

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

Worth has been studying and teaching about Congress and the legislative process for more than 30 years. He has served as Director of the Institute’s Capitol Hill Fellowship Program since 1997 and is Vice President of the Institute’s Board of Directors. He received his B.A. degree magna cum laude in Government from Campbell University. His M.P.A. in Coastal Studies/Natural Resource Management is from the University of West Florida.

**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. Matt holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Yale University.

**Susan Sullivan Lagon, Ph.D.**

After two decades as a Senior Fellow with the Government Affairs Institute (GAI), Susan Sullivan Lagon took Non-Resident Senior Fellow status in 2015. For several years, she taught American Politics and Constitutional Law in the Government Department at Georgetown. Before coming to Georgetown, she was a book editor at Congressional Quarterly where she was a frequent speaker on CQ’s “Understanding Congress” seminars. She has given lectures for numerous groups including the Fulbright Scholars Program, the World Bank, and more than 500 international visitors groups sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. Currently Prof. Lagon teaches occasionally for GAI and the Canada School of Public Service and serves as the Historian at the Jefferson Hotel four blocks north of the White House, where she interprets Thomas Jefferson’s political, architectural, and culinary contributions to American life.

Susan grew up "inside the Beltway" and holds a B.A. and M.A. in Government and Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia. Her Ph.D. in Government is from Georgetown University.

**Julie Minerva**

Julie Minerva is a recognized leader in infrastructure investments, having worked on a variety of

transportation and water resources projects nationwide. A former legislative assistant to the late

Congressman Robert T. Matsui, Julie has advanced critical infrastructure projects at the federal

level, representing transit agencies, commuter railroads, short line railroads, ports, harbors, water

districts, flood control agencies, cities, counties, airports, joint power authorities, and private

enterprises.

She has executed legislative and regulatory strategies for wide-ranging infrastructure interests,

including rail line relocations, light rail extensions, bus storage maintenance facilities, fleet

replacement, commuter rail service recapitalizations, airport facilities, innovative finance, economic development, levees, dams, shorelines, navigation channels, environmental restoration, and base reuse.

Julie’s advocacy efforts on behalf of infrastructure investments include working with the U.S.

Department of Transportation and its modal administrations, such as the Federal Transit

Administration and Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal

Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency, Office of Management and Budget, and the U.S. Congress.

Since joining Carpi & Clay in 2016, Julie has secured nearly $1 billion in direct federal assistance for transportation and water clients. Her two-decade career in Washington, D.C. has ranged from Capitol Hill to Am Law 200 law firms to her current position with Carpi & Clay’s concierge government relations practice. Julie has helped prepare clients for congressional testimony, coached new legislative staff on complex issues, and advised clients on navigating the ever-changing politics of Washington.

Julie’s proactive approach has been integral to revitalizing aging infrastructure and building new

investments. Her broad geographic and issue experience spans 25 states and American Samoa,

including helping build an intermodal station in Auburn, Maine, advancing clean water supplies in rural New Mexico, enhancing rail operations in northwest Indiana, and reducing flood risk in the Pacific Northwest. Julie has built many productive relationships, both within Congress and at the agency level, establishing her as a tremendous resource.

Her success in advancing infrastructure projects caught the attention of Washingtonian magazine, which named Julie one of Washington’s “Top 40 under 40” lobbyists. She has served as a monthly columnist for the Floodplain Management and Liability Reporter; is a regular contributor to The Levee Was Dry blog; coauthored the “New Starts Handbook,” a guide for congressional staffers for navigating the FTA’s Capital Investment Grant process; and organized the first “New Starts Day on the Hill” for the Capital Investment Grant Working Group.

Julie is a frequent guest speaker at national infrastructure conferences and a regular participant in

infrastructure industry meetings, such as the American Public Transportation Association, the

Capital Investment Grant Working Group, the American Association of Port Authorities, the

National Waterways Conference, and the National Association of Flood and Stormwater

Management Agencies. In September 2019, she was named to the board of directors for the National Waterways Conference.

Julie graduated from Santa Clara University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and theatre, with a dance emphasis.

**David Sienicki**

David Sienicki is the Republican Staff Lead for the Tactical Aviation & Land Forces Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee. He took this position at the beginning of the 118th Congress after serving a number of years as Staff Lead for the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee. As of October 2023, David has been with the Committee for 17 years. He is a retired Naval Officer and has completed a number of diverse naval assignments including the Combat Information Center Officer on the USS Blakely (FF 1072), Director of Public Works at the Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, MS and the Deputy Director of Public Works at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. He also completed an assignment as the Resident Officer in Charge of Construction at Vicenza, Italy serving both Army and Air Force clients throughout Northern Italy.

In 2001, David received a legislative fellowship in Representative Gene Taylor’s staff as the Military and Environmental Legislative Assistant. At the conclusion of this assignment, he returned to the Pentagon and served on the Chief of Naval Operations’ staff as the Basing Officer and later as the BRAC 2005 planner. In 2004, he served on the Secretary of the Navy’s staff as an Executive Assistant to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Facilities. He attended the Georgia Institute of Technology on an NROTC scholarship where he earned his Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree and was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy. He holds a Master of Engineering from the University of Florida and is a Registered Engineer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He is qualified as a Surface Warfare Officer and a Level III Acquisition Officer.

David, his wife Carey, and children Nicholas and Ashley reside in Vienna, Virginia.

**Robert Leonard**

Rob Leonard is Professional Staff Member with the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, a position he took in 2019. Prior to this, Rob worked for Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) for 8 years, first as a Legislative Assistant and then as National Security Advisor. Before coming to the Senate, Rob was Senior Legislative Assistant and Rules Associate to Rep Doris Matsui (D-CA-7).

**Noah Wofsy**

Noah Wofsy has been a Counsel with the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House of

Representatives for over 36 years. For over 20 of those years, he has specialized in issues relating to election law and the legislative branch. Before that, he worked in the area of health care legislation. Throughout his career, he has been responsible for legislation relating to the District of Columbia.

Mr. Wofsy earned his BA with honors in political science from the James Madison College of

Public Affairs at Michigan State University, and his JD from the University of Southern

California Law Center. He has served as a member of the adjunct faculty at The George Washington University Law School, where he taught a course on Legislative Drafting and Analysis.

**Matthew Fuller**

Matt Fuller is Congressional Bureau Chief with NOTUS. He recently joined them after serving as Washington Bureau Chief for The Daily Beast. He previously reported on Congress for HuffPost from November 2015 until March 2021, and he reported on House leadership for Roll Call from June 2013 until October 2015. Before that, he reported on the House and Senate floor and covered defense, energy, and agriculture issues for Congressional Quarterly (CQ). In 2016, Matt received the Everett McKinley Dirksen Award for Distinguished Reporting of Congress for his coverage of the House Freedom Caucus. He is a graduate of Saint Anselm College in his native New Hampshire.

**Kristin Nicholson**

Kristin Nicholson has been the Director of the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown

University since 2017. Prior to joining GAI, she spent two decades on Capitol Hill, where she served for sixteen years as Chief of Staff to Congressman Jim Langevin (D-RI). She spent her early years on the Hill serving in senior staff positions for Rep. Glenn Poshard (D-IL) and Rep. David Phelps (D-IL).

Kristin holds a B.S. from Northwestern University and a J.D. from the University of Colorado

School of Law, and she was selected as a Stennis Congressional Staff Fellow in the 109th Congress. Kristin is also the co-founder of Congress Too, an organization of former congressional staff dedicated to addressing issues of sexual harassment in and around Congress.

**Jeffrey A. Weinberg**

Jeffrey Weinberg, recently retired, served as a legislative attorney at the Office of Management and Budget in the Executive Office of the President, under nine presidents. He was responsible for coordination and clearance of the Administration's testimony before congressional committees on legislation; draft legislation for presentation to Congress; and Administration positions on legislation being considered on the floor of the House and Senate. He also prepared memoranda for the President on legislation awaiting his approval or veto. Mr. Weinberg received OMB's Distinguished Service Award "For outstanding contributions over six presidential Administrations in managing the legislative clearance process on behalf of the OMB Director and the President."

Mr. Weinberg is an adjunct professor at The Washington Campus, a consortium of 16 business

schools, and speaks for a variety of Washington-based programs.

**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 the Congress, advanced legislative process, the separation of powers, and the federal budget process. He has published work in several academic outlets and is currently writing a book on the history of House procedure and politics since 1879. He has also provided and published political analysis in several news outlets including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, BBC World News, Politico, The Washington Examiner, The Daily Caller, and more.

Prior to joining GAI, Josh worked on the Hill as an American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellow, covering a portfolio ranging from legislative procedure, government affairs, and financial services, to voting rights, campaign finance, trade, small business, and other issues.

He holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Political Science from the University of Florida, and a B.A. in

Political Science and Philosophy from Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

**James Wallner, Ph.D.**

James Wallner is a senior fellow at the R Street Institute, where he writes about the theory and

practice of democratic politics. His research focuses on the separation of powers, Congress, political parties, and the federal policy process. He also serves as a Lecturer in the Department of Political Science at Clemson University.

Before joining R Street, James was the Group Vice President for Research at the Heritage

Foundation. He spent over a decade on Capitol Hill earlier in his career working in senior positions in both the House of Representatives and Senate. He was the Executive Director of the Senate Steering Committee during the chairmanships of Pat Toomey and Mike Lee. In that capacity, he served as the principal parliamentary advisor to the chairman and Steering’s 16-member Executive Committee. Before this, he served as Legislative Director to Jeff Sessions and Pat Toomey. He began his career on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant in the House of Representatives.

James is the author of three books, The Death of Deliberation: Partisanship and Polarization in the United States Senate, (Lexington Books, 2013), On Parliamentary War: Partisan Conflict and

Procedural Change in the United States Senate, (The University of Michigan Press, 2017) and The Death of Deliberation: Gridlock and the Politics of Effort in the United States Senate (Lexington Books, 2020). He has published articles on the American founding, separation of powers, Congress, parliamentary procedure, and the budget process in the Journal of Policy History, Journal of Legislative Studies, Journal of Law and Politics, Humanitas, and The Forum: A Journal of Applied Research in Contemporary Politics.

James received a bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Georgia. He received both his master’s and doctoral degrees in politics from the Catholic University of America. He also holds a master’s in international and European politics from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

**Alexis Simendinger**

Alexis Simendinger is an award-winning journalist who has covered the White House, Congress,

national affairs and presidential politics for respected, nonpartisan news outlets in Washington since 1986, reporting on five presidents, including Donald Trump.

Before joining The Hill in 2017 as national political correspondent, Alexis covered the White House and President Obama for RealClearPolitics and was on the trail to report on the 2012 and 2016 presidential elections.

In 2017, she was inducted into the Society of Professional Journalists' "Hall of Fame" in

Washington, along with ABC News’ Martha Raddatz and Washington Post columnist Gene

Weingarten, saluted for her more than two decades of excellence in reporting about the nation's

capital.

For National Journal magazine, Alexis covered Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush as

White House correspondent, and also reported on the Senate and national politics. She won the

esteemed Aldo Beckman Memorial Award in 2008, administered by the White House

Correspondents' Association, for sustained excellence in coverage of the presidency.

Early in her career, she reported for The Tampa Tribune in Florida, and covered the White House

and Congress for BNA Inc. Alexis earned a master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and her B.A. from New College in Sarasota, FL. As a national reporter, she is a frequent guest commentator on radio and television.

**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 interests include Congress, 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. She worked on the Hill as an American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellow, serving 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.

**William V. Hilleary**

The Honorable Van Hilleary is the former Representative from the 4th District of Tennessee ('95 - '02). He recently took the position of Chief of Staff to Representative John Rose, a Republican

representing the 6th District of Tennessee. A native of Tennessee, Van helped start and run the

family textile company. He graduated from the University of Tennessee, served in the Air Force, went to law school, and then volunteered for duty in the Persian Gulf War. He flew 24 missions in a C-130. He ran for Congress on the Republican ticket in 1994 and was elected with 57% of the vote. He was re-elected 3 more times, each time with a greater percentage of the vote. He served on the Armed Services Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

He left the Congress in 2002 to run for Governor, but lost in a close race, 51-48%.. A longtime

favorite speaker on our programs, Congressman Hilleary was elected to serve on GAI’s Board of

Directors in 2013.

**Jacob Rubashkin**

Jacob Rubashkin is deputy editor of Inside Elections, which provides nonpartisan analysis of

campaigns for Senate, House, governor and president. He's also co-host of The Inside Elections

podcast and a contributor to elections site FiveThirtyEight.

Jacob has appeared on CNN, C-SPAN’s Washington Journal, the BBC, Scripps News, Cheddar and WUSA9, CBS’s Washington, DC affiliate. He's been quoted on elections in major outlets including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, the Associated Press, Fox News, and local outlets across the country. On election night in 2020, Jacob worked on the decision desk at Edison Research, which provides results to ABC, NBC, CBS and CNN. Jacob is a native of the DC area

**Catie Edmondson**

Catie Edmondson has reported on Capitol Hill for The New York Times as a congressional

correspondent since 2018. Currently focused on the House Republican majority, since beginning at The Times as an intern she has covered the debt ceiling fight, the election and ouster of Speaker Kevin McCarthy, the election of Speaker Mike Johnson, three election cycles, and countless pieces of legislation in between. Catie graduated from Barnard College at Columbia University.