



THE

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AFFAIRS

INSTITUTE

at Georgetown University

NASA Congressional Operations Seminar

Conducted By
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of

Government Affairs Institute
at Georgetown University
Telephone (202) 333-4838

March 24-25, 2026

NASA Congressional Operations Seminar

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Agenda

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

10:00 - 10:30 am

Introduction

Matt Glassman, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow
Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

10:30 - 11:45 am

Nature of Congress

Matt Glassman, Ph.D.

11:45 – 12:00 pm

Break

12:00 - 1:15 pm

Leadership and Organization in Congress

Mark Harkins
Senior Fellow
Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

1:15 - 2:00 pm

Lunch

2:00 - 3:00 pm

The Congressional Appropriations Process

Jamie Wise
Professional Staff Member
Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives

3:00 - 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 - 4:30 pm

Key Stages in the Legislative Process

Worth Hester
Senior Fellow and Assistant Director
Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

9:45 – 10:00 am

Day 2 Introduction
Matt Glassman, Ph.D

10:00 – 11:00 am

Space and Science Policy: Past and Current Trends
Marcia Smith
President, Space and Technology Policy Group, LLC
Founder and Editor, SpacePolicyOnline.com

11:00 – 11:15 am

Break

11:15 - 12:15 pm

Staffing a Member's Office
Kristin Nicholson
Director
Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University

12:15 – 1:15 pm

Lunch

1:15 – 2:15 pm

Partisanship: Has it always been this bad?
Josh Huder, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow, Government Affairs Institute

2:15 – 2:30 pm

Break

2:30 – 3:45 pm

Political Dynamics of the 119th Congress
Matt Glassman, Ph.D.

3:45 – 4:00 pm

Wrap-Up

Speaker Bios

Matt Glassman

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.

Mark Harkins

Mark B. Harkins joined the Government Affairs Institute as a Senior Fellow in 2013. Prior to joining GAI, Mark was a senior public policy advisor at a number of law firms where he focused on the representation of corporate, nonprofit and government clients before Congress and the Executive Branch. He has extensive experience with the federal appropriations and budgeting process, as well as issues handled by the Financial Services, Science, Ways and Means, and Homeland Security Committees.

Mark came to the Hill in 1989 and worked for two Members of Congress and one Committee before taking the position of Senior Legislative Assistant to Representative David Price (D-NC), where his portfolio included appropriations. His next assignment was as Legislative Director for the Democrats to the House Science Committee. Ultimately, he served as Chief of Staff for Brad

Miller (D-NC).

Prior to working on Capitol Hill, he worked as Sports Information Director at Swarthmore College where he also received his BA Degree in Economics. He was once a co-owner of one of the largest fantasy sports statistics services in the United States.

Jamie Wise

James (“Jamie”) Wise is a professional staff member on the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee on the House Appropriations Committee. Prior to joining the committee, Jamie served as a Senior Vice President and a Political Risk Consultant at Height Capital Markets. Before that, Jamie served in a variety of staff capacities on Capitol Hill. He began his career working for Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) in 2004 before moving over to the Senate to work as a Legislative Assistant for Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) in 2007, eventually becoming the Senator’s Legislative Director from 2010-2014 and Chief of Staff from 2014-2017.

Jamie earned his B.A. from Tufts University and his M.A. from the Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy.

Worth H. Hester, Jr.

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.

Marcia Smith

Marcia Smith is President of Space and Technology Policy Group, LLC and founder and editor of the website SpacePolicyOnline.com. A veteran space policy analyst, Smith spent 31 years (1975-2006) as a science and technology policy expert specializing in space activities at the Congressional Research Service (part of the U.S. Congress) except for a one-year leave of absence when she served as Executive Director of the 1985-1986 National Commission on Space chaired by former NASA Administrator Tom Paine. After leaving CRS, she was Director of the Space Studies Board and of the Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board at the National Research Council, the operating arm of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. She left the NRC in 2009 to found her own consulting company and create a website providing objective information and analysis about the full range of domestic and foreign space programs and policies – SpacePolicyOnline.com. Among her professional activities, she is a Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), a Fellow of the American Astronautical Society (AAS), and the North American editor of the quarterly journal Space Policy.

Kristin Nicholson

Kristin Nicholson is the Director of the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University. 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.

Joshua Huder

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 House procedure and politics since 1879.

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