

THE
GOVERNMENT
AFFAIRS
INSTITUTE

at Georgetown University

Congressional Operations Seminar (online)

Conducted By

Josh Huder, Ph.D.

of

Government Affairs Institute

at Georgetown University

Telephone (202) 333-4838

July 15 - July 18, 2024

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Congressional Operations Seminar (online)

Agenda

Monday, July 15, 2024

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| 9:00 - 9:30 am | Introduction
Josh Huder, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow
Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University |
| 9:30 - 10:45 am | The Nature of Congress
Matt Glassman, Ph.D.
Senior Fellow
Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University |
| 10:45 - 11:00 am | Break |
| 11:00 - 12:00 pm | Leadership and Organization in the 118th Congress
Josh Huder, Ph.D. |
| 12:00 - 1:00 pm | Lunch |
| 1:00 - 2:15 pm | Key Stages in the Legislative Process
Worth H. Hester, Jr.
Assistant Director and Senior Fellow
Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University |
| 2:15 - 2:30 pm | Break |
| 2:30 - 3:30 pm | The Role of Congressional Personal Staff
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 |
| On your own | Congress and Outside Interests
Jennifer N. Higgins
Vice President of Government Affairs
Guardant Health |

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 am	Staffing a Congressional Committee [ZOOM] Askia Suruma Associate Vice President Eli Lilly and Company and Former Deputy Democratic Staff Director Committee on Ways and Means U.S. House of Representatives
10:30 - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 - 12:00 pm	The Unique Nature of the U.S. Senate James Wallner, Ph.D. Senior Fellow R Street Institute
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 pm	The Congressional Appropriations Process [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	Congress and the Media Matthew Fuller Congressional Bureau Chief NOTUS
On your own	Watch Committee Hearings

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 am	Committee Hearings Roundtable Josh Huder, Ph.D.
10:30 - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 - 11:45 am	A Former Member's Perspective on the Congress [ZOOM] The Honorable Michael "Mike" Capuano Former Representative Massachusetts's 7th District U.S. House of Representatives
11:45 - 12:45 pm	Lunch
12:45 - 2:15 pm	Floor Procedures in the House and Senate Laura Blessing, Ph.D. Senior Fellow Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University
2:15 - 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 - 3:30 pm	Partisanship in Congress: Has It Always Been This Bad? [ZOOM] Josh Huder, Ph.D.
On your own	Congressional Oversight Elise J. Bean Co-Director of the Levin Center and Former Staff Director and Chief Counsel Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs U.S. Senate

Thursday, July 18, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 am	The Electoral Dimension Kyle D. Kondik Director of Communications and Managing Editor Sabato's Crystal Ball University of Virginia Center for Politics
10:30 - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 - 12:00 pm	The Budget Dilemma Mark Harkins Senior Fellow Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Congressional Leadership and Current Political Dynamics Rory Cooper Managing Director Purple Strategies and Former Deputy Chief of Staff Congressman Eric Cantor Majority Leader's Office U.S. House of Representatives
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Break
2:15 - 3:15 pm	Roundtable Discussion Josh Huder, Ph.D.
3:15 - 3:30 pm	Wrap-up and Evaluation

Course Director

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.

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.

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.

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.

Askia Suruma

Mr. Suruma came to Capitol Hill in 1993 the same year he graduated from Georgetown University--as an intern in the office of Congressman Martin Frost (D-TX). He was promoted to serve in several capacities in that office, including Systems and Mail Manager, Press Secretary, and Legislative Director. He also worked as Special Projects Director for the House Democratic Caucus while Congressman Frost was Caucus Chair. In between his Hill assignments, Mr. Suruma spent 1998 and 1999 as a Public Information Officer at the Small Business Administration. In 2001, he became the Democratic Deputy Chief of Staff on the House Rules Committee, where he served until 2007. From 2007 to 2014 he was first Deputy Chief of Staff and then Democratic Staff Director for the House Ways and Means Committee. In 2017, he returned to Capitol Hill to serve as Chief of Staff for Congressman Marc Veasey, after three years as Director of Federal and International Relations for George Washington University. Mr. Suruma is currently a Vice President for Government Affairs for Eli Lilly and Company.

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.

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, a Master's in Public Administration and a Master's in Sustainable Landscape Design from the George Washington University.

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.

Micheal "Mike" Capuano

Mike Capuano is a former Representative from Massachusetts's 7th District. Capuano was born and raised in Somerville. After graduating from Dartmouth College and Boston College Law School, he worked as an attorney and Somerville alderman. After losing two mayoral elections in 1979 and 1981, he worked as legal counsel for the Massachusetts General Court. In 1989 Capuano ran for mayor a third time and won, serving from 1990 to 1999.

In 1998 Capuano won a crowded Democratic primary to replace Joseph Kennedy II in Congress and was re-elected nine times. He represented the state's 8th district until it was redrawn in 2013 into the 7th district. In Congress he was a staunch liberal and member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

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.

Kyle D. Kondik

Kyle Kondik is managing editor of Sabato's Crystal Ball, the University of Virginia Center for Politics' authoritative, nonpartisan newsletter on American campaigns and elections. Kyle's analysis of presidential, congressional, and gubernatorial politics has been cited by the BBC, New York Times, Wall Street Journal, BuzzFeed, and numerous other publications, and he is a frequent contributor to Politico Magazine. He also serves as the Center's communications director and is based in Washington, where he manages the Center's DC office.

Kyle has analyzed American politics on CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC, and he has given speeches to groups at the U.S. Department of State, National Governors Association, Congressional Summer Intern Lecture Series, Princeton University, University of Virginia, and many others.

Before joining the Center for Politics in 2011, Kyle served as director of policy and research for former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray and as a reporter, editorial page editor, and political columnist at newspapers in Northeast Ohio. He is a 2006 graduate of the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, where he also served as editor of the university's student-run newspaper, The Post.

Kyle's book, *The Bellwether: Why Ohio Picks the President*, was published in June of 2016 by Ohio University Press.

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 service in the United States.

Rory Cooper

Rory Cooper is a veteran communications, policy and political strategist who served leadership in the House of Representatives, at the White House and in campaign committees. He is currently a Managing Director at Purple Strategies, a boutique strategy firm that brings together experts from the political and brand reputation worlds to create integrated campaigns that shape opinion and inspire action.

Prior to joining Purple Strategies, Cooper was Communications Director for U.S. House Majority Leader Eric Cantor. Previously Cooper directed communications for The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. Cooper also served in senior roles at the U.S. Department of Energy, and NASA.

Cooper was part of the original staff for the Office for Homeland Security at The White House following the events of September 11, 2001, and remained as a senior advisor after it became the White House Homeland Security Council. He played a central role in the creation of the Department of Homeland Security and helped author the first National Strategy for Homeland Security. Prior to 9/11, Cooper was Deputy White House Liaison for HUD Secretary Mel Martinez.

He has served in senior political roles on campaigns and campaign committees, including President Bush's 2004 re-election, and the National Republican Congressional Committee, the Republican Governors Association and on many federal, state and local efforts.

Rory is a graduate of Tulane University in New Orleans and is a native of Michigan.

Jennifer N. Higgins

Jenn Higgins is the Vice President of Government Affairs at Guardant Health. Prior to joining Guardant, she was partner at Chamber Hill Strategies. Jenn has spent the past fifteen years using that tenacity and policy knowledge to help corporate executives navigate a constantly changing legislative and regulatory landscape.

During her tenure in Washington, Jenn has represented a wide variety of Fortune 500 companies

before Congress and the Administration, serving as Principal and Partner with two prominent lobbying firms, as well as advising senior agency officials at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Jenn has consistently cultivated her relationships with key Republican members within the House Ways and Means Committee and Senate Finance Committee, due to their primary jurisdiction on health care and tax issues. Her work with House Republican leadership has also facilitated direct access for clients to key decision makers in the health care, tax, and immigration space.

Jenn also spent four years capitalizing on her health policy expertise to advise Wall Street investors and hospital chief executives. As Senior Associate with the Marwood Group, a healthcare and financial services firm based in New York, her primary responsibility was to advise clients on the legislative and regulatory risks to facility-based health care companies. Her previous experience includes debriefing hospital chief executives on the intricacies of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 as an analyst with the Advisory Board Company.

Jenn is engaged in a variety of political activities here in Washington, particularly ongoing efforts by the Republican campaign committees to recruit and elect more Republican women to Congress. Since 2016, she has served as Board Chair for Right NOW Women PAC, a political action committee dedicated to supporting female Republican candidates nationwide, while also advising several other political organizations on candidate recruitment. When she is not lobbying or campaigning, Jenn serves as a guest lecturer at Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute and a regular panelist on PBS's To the Contrary, a weekly discussion of news and national affairs with a panel of nationally known women.

Jenn attended Davidson College where she received a B.A. in Medical Economics and Ethics. She also holds a Certificate in Legislative Studies from Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute.

Elise J. Bean

From 1985 to 2014, Elise Bean worked for U.S. Senator Carl Levin (D-Mich.), including 15 years at the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI). Appointed his PSI staff director and chief counsel in 2003, Ms. Bean handled investigations, hearings, and legislation, including matters involving money laundering, offshore tax abuse, corruption, corporate misconduct, and shell companies. After Senator Levin retired in 2014 and established the Levin Center at Wayne Law, Ms. Bean joined his efforts to strengthen legislative capacities at the national, state, local, and international levels to conduct investigations and oversight.

Ms. Bean graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Wesleyan University and received a law degree from the University of Michigan. She clerked for the Chief Judge of the U.S. Claims Court, and worked for two years at the U.S. Department of Justice. In 2015, she was included in the Global Tax 50, a list compiled by the International Tax Review of the year's top 50 individuals and organizations influencing tax policy and practice. In 2013 and 2011, the Washingtonian magazine named her one of Washington's 100 most powerful women. In 2010, the National Law Journal selected her as one of Washington's most influential women lawyers.