

Is It Time for the U.S. to Engage in Real Pension Reform?

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Charlotte Clark, a deputy director at the U.K. Department for Work and Pensions, heads the Workplace Pension Reform Policy Team. An economist by background, she has worked on the pension reform program for the past three years. Prior assignments include heading the analytical team whose work led to wholesale reform of child support. Her analysis and evaluation contributed to significant reform of the housing benefit system, and she was responsible for developing the measures used by the government to assess success in tackling child poverty.

Janet Novack (moderator) is Washington bureau chief for *Forbes Magazine*, where she writes about tax and budget policy and oversees coverage of tax, estate, and retirement planning. She is editor of the *Forbes 2009 Retirement Guide*, a special issue of the magazine scheduled to appear on newsstands in early October. Before joining the magazine's Washington staff 22 years ago, Novack was the statehouse bureau chief for the *Philadelphia Bulletin* and New York bureau chief for the *Dallas Times Herald*.

Pamela Perun is policy director of the Initiative on Financial Security at the Aspen Institute and an affiliated scholar with the Urban Institute. She is an employee benefits lawyer and policy analyst who has written about U.S. saving system reforms, phased retirement programs, annuities and tax-favored savings plans, pension coverage, and retirement income adequacy. She consults for the Workplace Flexibility 2010 Project at the Georgetown University Law Center and is the editor of the *Employee Benefits, Compensation, and Pension Journal* of the Social Science Research Network.

Dallas Salisbury is president and CEO of the Employee Benefit Research Institute. Prior to joining EBRI at its founding in 1978, Salisbury worked for the Washington State Legislature, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Employee Benefits Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. He is on the board of advisers to the comptroller general of the United States and served on the presidentially appointed PBGC Advisory Committee.

Eugene Steuerle became vice president of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation this year after 19 years as a senior fellow at the Urban Institute. He is a former deputy assistant secretary of the Treasury for tax analysis and, from 1984 to 1986, served as economic coordinator and original organizer of the Treasury's tax reform effort. Steuerle chaired the 1999 technical panel advising Social Security on its methods and assumptions. He is author of *Contemporary U.S. Tax Policy* and coeditor of *Social Security and the Family*, both from the Urban Institute Press.