

## Watchdogs, Investigations, Evaluations: Using Art and Science to Improve Government

### Speaker Biographies

**Danielle Brian** has been the executive director of the Project On Government Oversight (POGO) since 1993. She frequently testifies before Congress and regularly meets with members of Congress and officials at the White House and federal agencies to discuss how to achieve a more effective, accountable, open, and ethical federal government. Brian was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to serve on the US Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Federal Advisory Committee in 2012. In 2013, she was elected chair of the civil society organizations on the Federal Advisory Committee. Brian was inducted into the Freedom of Information Act Hall of Fame, has been ranked by *Ethisphere* magazine as one of the top 100 most influential people in business ethics, and received the Smith College Medal. She serves on the board of Taxpayers for Common Sense, and is the chair of the Steering Committee for [OpenTheGovernment.org](http://OpenTheGovernment.org).

**Bob Corker** grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. After working as a construction superintendent, he started his own construction company, which eventually expanded to operations in 18 states. In 1999, Corker acquired two of the largest and oldest commercial real estate companies in Chattanooga. A mission trip to Haiti in his late twenties inspired Corker to take a closer look at needs in his own community. He led the creation of Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, a nonprofit that today has helped more than 10,000 families secure decent, fit, and affordable housing through low-interest loans and personal training in home maintenance. In 1994, Corker was appointed Tennessee Commissioner of Finance and Administration, where he tightened the state's budget and helped move almost 40,000 Tennesseans off welfare and into jobs. In 2001, he was elected mayor of Chattanooga and helped transform his hometown into one of the nation's most admired cities. He spearheaded the 21st Century Waterfront, attracted \$2.1 billion in new investment, and established strong business recruitment efforts, helping develop the 1,200-acre Enterprise South Industrial Park. He implemented merit bonus pay for teachers, which dramatically raised student achievement in some of the city's most challenged schools, and worked with local law enforcement officials to cut violent crime in half. Corker was elected to the US Senate in 2006. He is ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee and an active member of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. He holds a degree in industrial management from the University of Tennessee.

**David Eichenthal** is executive director of the Strong Cities Strong Communities National Resource Network and managing director with PFM Group's Management and Budget Consulting practice. He works on projects nationwide to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of municipal governments, with a focus on fiscal turnarounds. Before joining PFM, Eichenthal served as president and CEO of the Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies. He was also a nonresident senior fellow with the Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution. Eichenthal has held senior positions in both Chattanooga and New York City government. As city finance officer and director of performance review for the City of Chattanooga, he oversaw implementation of one of the nation's first 311 systems and creation of a citywide performance management initiative. In New York, he was chief of staff to the Public Advocate, the city's second-highest elected official. He also served as the assistant inspector general of the New York City School Construction Authority and assistant deputy comptroller and counsel for special projects in the Office of the New York City Comptroller. He received his BA in public policy studies, cum laude, from the University of Chicago and his JD from the New York University School of Law.

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**Daniel L. Feldman** led significant investigations resulting in programmatic reforms and criminal convictions as executive assistant to a member of Congress, investigative counsel to a committee of the New York State legislature, senior staff member to the New York State Attorney General, and Special Counsel for Law & Policy to the New York State Comptroller. In between, he wrote over 140 laws as a member of the New York State Legislature for 18 years, during 12 of which, as chair of the Assembly Committee on Correction, he investigated and corrected prison abuses and led the effort to repeal the Rockefeller drug laws. Feldman now teaches at John Jay College of Criminal Justice as an associate professor of public management and has written several books and many articles on American law and government. He majored in economics at Columbia College and took his law degree at Harvard, where he was awarded the Williston Prize for Contract Negotiation and Drafting.

**Mark Funkhouser** began his career as a social worker, then went on to become an auditor, first in Tennessee state government and then for the City of Kansas City, Missouri, where he served from 1988 until 2006. Funkhouser was mayor of Kansas City from 2007 to 2011, and he is credited with stabilizing the city's finances during his term. He is now the publisher of *GOVERNING* magazine. Funkhouser holds several degrees, including a PhD in public administration.

**Erika C. Poethig** is an Institute fellow and director of urban policy initiatives at the Urban Institute. In this role, she assembles experts from throughout the Institute to tackle policy challenges facing urban America in the 21st century. She leads efforts to better use the Institute's vast resources to inform civic leaders across regional economies who are working on the ground to spur growth, expand opportunities, and improve the lives of people in their communities. She is also developing new clusters of work that examine how specific populations are affected by a range of policies. Most recently, Poethig served as acting assistant secretary for policy development and research at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, where she led 150 staff responsible for research, policy analysis and program development assistance, and information collection and analysis. She was also a leading architect of the White House Council for Strong Cities and Strong Communities. At the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Poethig was associate director for affordable housing. She also served as assistant commissioner for policy, resource and program development at the City of Chicago's Department of Housing. In the late 1990s, she developed Mayor Daley's campaign to combat predatory lending, prevent foreclosures, and stabilize communities. Poethig was a Phi Beta Kappa from the College of Wooster, a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Vienna, and graduated with honors with a master's in public policy from the University of Chicago.

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**Orice Williams Brown** has served over 20 years with the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) and is currently the managing director of the Financial Markets and Community Investment team. This team helps Congress improve the effectiveness of regulatory oversight in financial and housing markets and the management of community development programs. Before this position, Brown served six years as a director in this team; in this capacity, she was responsible for directing engagements on cross-cutting issues in the financial services sector, including securities, futures, banking, and insurance. Over the past decade, she has led a wide variety of assessments of the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of federal and state regulation of the financial services sector. Recent work under her direction includes a series of well-received reports assessing regulatory structure issues in the financial services sector, oversight of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, and the federal response to the 2007–09 financial crisis. Brown graduated with honors from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BS degree in business and finance and holds an MBA in finance from Virginia Tech. She is the 2013 recipient of the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal for Career Achievement.

**Sarah Rosen Wartell** is president of the Urban Institute. Wartell, a public policy executive and housing markets expert, previously served in the Clinton administration as the Deputy Assistant to the President for Economic Policy and as Deputy Director for the National Economic Council. She cofounded the Center for American Progress, serving as its first chief operating officer and general counsel. Later, as executive vice president, Wartell oversaw its policy teams and fellows. Before her work at the Center for American Progress, Wartell practiced law in Washington, DC, was a visiting scholar and adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center, and was a consultant to the bipartisan Millennial Housing Commission. She directed the Mortgage Finance Working Group and "Doing What Works" government performance programs. Wartell is currently on the boards of the Low Income Investment Fund, Center for Law and Social Policy, and Center for Urban Science and Progress at New York University. She also serves on the Fannie Mae Affordable Housing Advisory Council and is a Penn Institute for Urban Research Scholar. Her areas of expertise include community development, consumer finance and asset building, and housing finance.