

Social Security Disability Insurance: Challenges and Opportunities

Speaker biographies

KENNETH APFEL

*Professor of the Practice, University of Maryland
School of Public Policy*

Before joining the School of Public Policy, Kenneth Apfel served as the Sid Richardson chair in Public Affairs at the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs. Prior to that, he served as commissioner of the Social Security Administration from 1997 until his term ended in January 2001. He was the first Senate-confirmed Commissioner of Social Security after SSA became an independent agency and Congress authorized the new Cabinet-level position. Previously, he had served as associate director for Human Resources at the Office of Management and Budget, and as assistant secretary for management and budget at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Before he joined the Clinton Administration, Apfel worked for two decades in the area of social policy, as legislative director to Senator Bill Bradley, as the Senator's chief staff person for federal social and budget policy, as staff for the U.S. Senate Budget Committee, and as a Presidential Management Intern at the U.S. Department of Labor. Apfel received his bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst; a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Northeastern University; and a master's degree in public affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs. He is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, the National Academy of Social Insurance, and the Council for Excellence in Government.

*Director of Federal Policy, Health and Disability
Advocates (HDA)*

LISA EKMAN

Lisa Ekman represents HDA to Members of Congress and the Administration, completes legislative and regulatory analysis, and prepares comments in response to proposed regulations related to aspects of disability policy, including health care, income security, long-term services and supports and employment. Ekman also serves as HDA's representative to the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), the nation's largest cross-disability advocacy coalition. She was elected by her colleagues to serve a member of the CCD Board of Directors and a co-chair of the CCD Health Task Force. Prior to joining HDA, Ekman served as a disability advisor to Senators Tom Harkin and Edward M. Kennedy as a detailee to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and worked for the Social Security Administration to improve employment outcomes for people with disabilities. Ekman earned her master of social work from the University of Denver and her juris doctor, *cum laude*, from Georgetown University.

MELISSA FAVREULT

Senior Fellow, The Urban Institute

Dr. Melissa Favreault co-edited *Social Security and the Family: Addressing Unmet Needs in an Underfunded System* (Urban Institute Press 2002), and has written extensively about the distributional effects of proposed changes to Social Security. Her work in this area has focused on how changes in family structure and work/earnings patterns affect economic well-being in retirement, with a special emphasis on effects for women, low-wage workers, and persons with disabilities. For this work, she has often relied on dynamic microsimulation models, and she has helped to develop these types of models for both the Urban Institute and the Social

Security Administration. Favreault served on the Social Security Advisory Board's 2011 Technical Panel on Assumptions and Methods. She earned her BA in political science and Russian from Amherst College, and her MA and PhD in sociology from Cornell University.

HOWARD GLECKMAN (MODERATOR)*Resident Fellow, Urban Institute*

Howard Gleckman is author of *Caring for Our Parents* (St. Martin's Press) and is a frequent writer and speaker on long-term care. He is author of the long-term care chapter in *Landmark: The Inside Story of America's New Health Care Law* and *What It Means for Us All* (Public Affairs) and of the chapter on long-term care financing in *Universal Coverage of Long-Term Care* (Russell Sage, forthcoming). He writes and edits TaxVox, the fiscal policy blog of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. He was formerly senior correspondent in the Washington bureau of Business Week, where he was a National Magazine Award finalist. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Suburban Hospital (Bethesda, MD) and the Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington. Gleckman was a 2006–2008 visiting fellow at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. He also served as a Media Fellow at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

GINA LIVERMORE*Senior Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research*

Dr. Gina Livermore is an expert in health insurance and employment policy issues for people with disabilities. Her expertise includes evaluation research and design. Livermore, who joined Mathematica in 2007, is directing an evaluation of the Ticket to Work program for the Social Security Administration. Her work focuses on issues related to improving the economic well-being and self-sufficiency of working-aged people with disabilities and has included research on the prevalence of long-term poverty and material hardship among people with disabilities. Her work also focuses on improving the quality of national disability data and has included describing limitations and suggesting improvements in the national disability data system. Livermore publishes widely and has authored several chapters in *Growth in Disability Benefits: Explanations and Policy Implications*, *The Decline in Employment of People with Disabilities: A Policy Puzzle*, and a forthcoming book on disability statistics. She publishes in journals such as the *Journal of Disability Policy Studies*, *Health Affairs*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and others. She is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance and was formerly assistant director of Cornell University's Institute for Policy Research and a vice president and senior manager at the Lewin Group. She has a PhD in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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