



Please join us on Tuesday, **January 9, 2018** for our **7th Annual Policy Conference** in Washington, DC. As always, we are assembling an array of expert speakers on pertinent macro and sector policy topics. Issues to be discussed include: Tax reform, NAFTA/Trade, 2018 midterm election outlook, Investigation of the President, Regulation of tech companies, Growing economic nationalism and more.

As was the case in past years, we expect the Conference to hit capacity. If you are interested in attending please contact your Strategas salesperson for more information. Additional speakers will be added as they are confirmed.

**Steve Bannon**

Former White House Chief Strategist for the Trump Administration

**Neil Bradley**

Senior Vice President and Chief Policy Officer
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

**Donna Brazile**

Veteran Democratic Political Strategist

**Dan Clifton**

Head of Policy Research,
Strategas Research Partners

**Sam Geduldig**

Partner,
CGCN Group

**Bruce Mehlman**

Founder,
Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen
& Thomas

**John G. Murphy**

Senior Vice President for
International Policy
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

**Grover Norquist**

President,
Americans for Tax Reform



Michael Williams

Founder,
The Williams Group



Benjamin Wittes

Research Director In Public
Law, The Brookings
Institution
Editor-In-Chief, Lawfare Blog



Tuesday, January 9, 2018

08:00 AM to 09:00 AM

Breakfast & Registration

The Hay Adams - Top of the Hay

09:00 AM to 09:45 AM

Navigating The New Gilded Age

- **Bruce Mehlman**
Founder,
Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen & Thomas

09:45 AM to 10:30 AM

The Post Tax Reform Economic Agenda of the Republican Government

- **Grover Norquist**
President,
Americans for Tax Reform

10:30 AM to 10:45 AM

Break

10:45 AM to 11:30 AM

The Investigation of President Trump

- **Benjamin Wittes**
Research Director In Public Law, The Brookings Institution
Editor-In-Chief, Lawfare Blog

11:30 AM to 12:15 PM

Macro Policy Outlook and Potential Budget Outcomes

- **Neil Bradley**
Senior Vice President and Chief Policy Officer
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

12:15 PM to 12:30 PM

Break

12:30 PM to 01:45 PM

Lunch with Steve Bannon

- **Steve Bannon**
Former White House Chief Strategist for the Trump Administration

01:45 PM to 02:00 PM

Break

02:00 PM to 02:45 PM

Donna Brazile

- **Donna Brazile**
Veteran Democratic Political Strategist
Adjunct Professor; Author; and Syndicated Columnist

02:45 PM to 03:30 PM

NAFTA/Trade Policy Outlook



- **John G. Murphy**
Senior Vice President for International Policy
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

03:30 PM to 04:15 PM

Infrastructure Panel

- **Michael Williams**
Founder,
The Williams Group

- **Sam Geduldig**
Partner,
CGCN Group

04:15 PM to 05:00 PM

Cocktails with Clifton: 2018 Policy & Political Outlook

- **Dan Clifton**
Head of Policy Research,
Strategas Research Partners

SPEAKERS



Steve Bannon

Former White House Chief Strategist for the Trump Administration

Steve Bannon served as the White House Chief Strategist and Senior Counselor to the 45th President of the United States, Donald J. Trump. Before joining the White House, Mr. Bannon served as the Chief Executive Officer of President Trump's historic insurgent 2016 presidential campaign. Mr. Bannon is the Executive Chairman of Breitbart News Network. According to Amazon-owned Alexa analytics, Breitbart is ranked the 50th most popular website of all websites in the United States. In September, Mr. Bannon was named by Politico Magazine #1 of their Annual Top 50 for being "the man who got us here." He is the co-founder and former executive chairman of the Government Accountability Institute which investigates and exposes crony capitalism, misuse of taxpayer monies, and other government corruption or malfeasance. He is an entrepreneur and financier in the media and film industries and a former investment banker in Mergers & Acquisitions at Goldman Sachs. He wrote and directed *Generation Zero*, *The Undefeated*, *Occupy Unmasked* and *Torchbearer*, among other groundbreaking political documentaries. Mr. Bannon served in the U.S. Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer on the USS Paul F. Foster (DD - 964) for two deployments in the South China Sea, Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf. In addition, he served as special assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, a Master's Degree in National Security Studies from Georgetown University's School of Government and a M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.



Neil Bradley

Senior Vice President and Chief Policy Officer
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Neil Bradley, senior vice president and chief policy officer at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, has spent two decades working directly with congressional committee chairpersons and other high-ranking policymakers to achieve solutions. At the Chamber, Bradley is responsible for aligning the organization's overall policy priorities and advocacy efforts. He also leads four major policy divisions within the Chamber: Economic Policy; Environment, Technology & Regulatory Affairs; Labor, Immigration & Employee Benefits; and National Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Before joining the Chamber, Bradley was president of Chartwell Policy Solutions, LLC, a research, analysis, and advisory firm focused on public policy issues. In addition to his work at Chartwell, he served as chief strategy officer for the nonprofit Conservative Reform Network (CRN), the leading organization supporting the Conservative Reform Movement. There he produced, incubated, and promoted ideas, policies, and efforts to grow the American economy, expand the middle class, and create opportunities for all Americans.

Prior to founding Chartwell and joining CRN in 2015, Bradley spent nearly 20 years working in the House of Representatives, including 11 years working for the House Republican leadership. He served as deputy chief of staff for Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (CA) where he developed the legislative agenda for House Republicans,

oversaw policy formulation in the leader's office, and coordinated committee activity in the House. Bradley held the same position for Eric Cantor (VA) during his tenure as majority leader. Previously, he was policy director for House Republican Whip Roy Blunt (MO).

Earlier in his career, Bradley served for four-and-a-half years as executive director of the Republican Study Committee. He also held numerous positions in the office of then-Rep. Tom Coburn (R-OK).

While working on Capitol Hill, Bradley was regularly named to *Roll Call's* list of 50 top congressional staffers.

Bradley, a graduate of Georgetown University, resides in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Kiki, and their son, Peter. He is a native of Sapulpa, Oklahoma.



Donna Brazile

Veteran Democratic Political Strategist
Adjunct Professor; Author; and Syndicated Columnist

Veteran Democratic political strategist Donna Brazile is an adjunct professor, author, syndicated columnist, television political commentator, former Vice Chair for Civic Engagement and Voter Participation at the Democratic National Committee (DNC), and former chair of the DNC's Voting Rights Institute.

Ms. Brazile has worked passionately in the rebuilding and recovery efforts in her beloved hometown of New Orleans. Additionally, she loves working with young people, encouraging them to vote, to run for office, and to work within the system to strengthen it. Since 2000, Ms. Brazile has lectured at over 200 colleges and universities across the country on such topics as "Inspiring Civility in American Politics," "Race Relations in the Age of Obama," "Why Diversity Matters," and "Women in American Politics."

She first got involved in politics at the age of nine when she worked to elect a City Council candidate who had promised to build a playground in her neighborhood; the candidate won, the swing set was installed, and a lifelong passion for political progress was ignited. Ms. Brazile worked on every presidential campaign from 1976 through 2000, when she became the first African-American to manage a presidential campaign.

In addition to her work as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University, Ms. Brazile is the author of the best-selling memoir *Cooking with Grease: Stirring the Pots in American Politics* and is on leave from her writing columns. She continues to be on leave with ABC News, where she regularly appears on the Sunday morning show *This Morning*. She is especially pleased to have made three cameo appearances on CBS's *The Good Wife*, and two cameo appearances on Netflix's series *House of Cards*. She most recently appeared on BET's *Being Mary Jane*. Ask her and she'll tell you that acting, after all, is the key to success in politics.

In 2014, Brazile was appointed by President Obama to serve on the board of the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. In addition, she serves on the National Democratic Institute, the National Institute for Civil Discourse, the BlackAmericaWeb.com Relief Fund, Inc., and as Co-Chair for Democrats for Public Education.

In August 2009, *O, The Oprah Magazine* chose Ms. Brazile as one of its 20 "remarkable visionaries" for the magazine's first-ever O Power List. In addition, she was named among the 100 Most Powerful Women by *Washingtonian* magazine, Top 50 Women in America by *Essence* magazine, and received the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's highest award for political achievement. In 2016, Ms. Brazile was awarded Wonk of the Year from the Kennedy Political Union at American University.

Ms. Brazile is the proud recipient of honorary doctorate degrees from Louisiana State University, North Carolina A&T State University, Grambling State University, Spelman College, LeMoyne Owen College, Northeastern Illinois University, Medgar Evers College, Morehouse Medical College, Bethune Cookman University, Thomas Jefferson University, and Xavier University of Louisiana, the only historically Black, Catholic institution of higher education in the United States.

Ms. Brazile is founder and managing director of Brazile & Associates LLC, a general consulting, grassroots advocacy, and training firm based in Washington, DC.

Last but not least, she is a proud native of New Orleans, Louisiana. In the aftermath of the two catastrophic hurricanes that made landfall in the Gulf region, Ms. Brazile was appointed by former Governor Kathleen Blanco to serve on the Louisiana Recovery Board to work for the rebuilding of the state and to advocate for the Gulf recovery on the national stage. Brazile was recently appointed by New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu to serve on the Tricentennial Commission.

Ms. Brazile assumed the role of Interim Chair of the Democratic National Committee shortly before the start of the historic 2016 Democratic National Convention which nominated Secretary Hillary Clinton for President of the United States.



Dan Clifton

Head of Policy Research,
Strategas Research Partners

Daniel Clifton is a Partner and Head of Policy Research for Strategas Research Partners. In this capacity, Mr. Clifton evaluates government policy initiatives and its impact on the global economy and financial markets for institutional investors.

Daniel and his team have been recognized by *Institutional Investor* magazine as one to the top Washington policy analysts in their annual survey nine consecutive years. Separately, Mr. Clifton is currently ranked as the #2 analyst on Wall Street for Accounting & Tax Policy in the same survey.

Prior to joining Strategas, Mr. Clifton was Executive Director of the American Shareholders Association (ASA), a non-partisan, non-profit organization which analyzes public policy affecting shareholders. In this capacity, Daniel was part of coalitions that successfully lowered capital gains and dividend tax rates to 15 percent, a repatriation tax holiday on foreign source revenue in 2004, and reform of the nation's private-sector pension system.

Prior to joining ASA, Mr. Clifton was Federal Affairs Manager for Americans for Tax Reform and served as a senior staff member in two gubernatorial administrations working on economic and fiscal policy issues.

Daniel has also worked in various capacities on elections at federal, state, and local levels.

Mr. Clifton received both his BA in Urban Planning and his MS in Public Policy from Rutgers University where he was a Fellow at the Eagleton Institute of Politics and a Harold Martin Fellow for Public Policy.



Sam Geduldig

Partner,
CGCN Group

Sam Geduldig brings unrivaled passion to his work on clients' behalf, investing personally in their success. That energy and enthusiasm is a big reason Geduldig is a regular on The Hill newspaper's list of top lobbyists and why National Journal turns to him for its elite Political Insiders Poll. As the Washingtonian noted, his "experiences allow him to offer his clients an exceptionally well-rounded view of the legislative process."

The Hill noted his ability to "kill legislative threats to his clients." Before joining CGCN in 2007, Geduldig served in multiple roles for John Boehner before the Ohio Republican became speaker. Geduldig also worked as a top aide on the House Financial Services Committee to then-Chairman Mike Oxley. And he spent four years as the top liaison between House GOP leaders and the business community as a senior advisor to then-House Majority Whip Roy Blunt, now in the U.S. Senate. He began his career as a research analyst at Public Opinion Strategies, a polling firm, and worked on the press team for then-Sen. Bob Dole's 1996 presidential campaign.



Bruce Mehlman

Founder,
Mehlman Castagnetti Rosen & Thomas

Recognized as one of the city's "top lobbyists" by Washingtonian Magazine, Bruce Mehlman has been a leader in our nation's capital for nearly two decades, helping Fortune 500 companies and innovative start-ups understand, anticipate and navigate the public policy environment and trends likely to impact the global marketplace.

A founding partner of his bipartisan firm, Mehlman is widely regarded as an expert in running issue campaigns, managing C-suite associations and developing strategies that achieve impactful policy outcomes. He concurrently serves as Executive Director of the Technology CEO Council and Co-Chairman of the Internet Innovation Alliance.

Mehlman previously held the post of Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Policy, having been nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed to the office by the United States Senate in 2001.

Before Commerce, Mehlman worked as the lead Republican lobbyist for high tech heavyweight Cisco Systems, representing the Silicon Valley company before Congressional committees, federal agencies and the executive branch.

Mehlman held the position of policy director and general counsel to the House Republican Conference under Representative J.C. Watts (R-OK) and before that served as General Counsel to the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC), where he advised Republican Members and their staffs on matters of election law, ethics and political broadcast regulations. A graduate of Princeton University and the University of Virginia Law School, he lives with his family in Bethesda, Maryland.



John G. Murphy

Senior Vice President for International Policy
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

John G. Murphy directs the U.S. Chamber's advocacy relating to international trade and investment policy. Since joining the Chamber in 1999, Murphy has led its successful campaigns to win congressional passage of trade agreements with a dozen nations, including Colombia, Panama, and South Korea in 2011, as well as Trade Promotion Authority in 2015. Murphy also plays a key role in the Chamber's advocacy for international business priorities before Congress, the administration, foreign governments, and the World Trade Organization.

From 2001 to 2008, Murphy served as the Chamber's Vice President for Western Hemisphere Affairs and as Executive Vice President of the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America (AACCLA). In 2008, he received AACCLA's Eagle of the Americas award, which is given annually to the individual who has "done the most to advance our mission of increased trade and investment between the United States and Latin America."

In the 1990s, Murphy worked at the International Republican Institute (IRI), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of democracy overseas, and at the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), which champions market-oriented economic reform around the world. From 1992 to 1993, he was the first Western lecturer in economics at the National University of Economics in Czechoslovakia.

Murphy graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and he received his Master of Science degree from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He serves on the boards of the Global Business Dialogue, the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, and the Washington International Trade Foundation. He is fluent in Spanish.



Grover Norquist

President,
Americans for Tax Reform

Grover Norquist (Twitter: [@GroverNorquist](#)) is president of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), a taxpayer advocacy group he founded in 1985 at President Reagan's request. ATR works to limit the size and cost of government and opposes higher taxes at the federal, state, and local levels and supports tax reform that moves towards taxing consumed income one time at one rate. ATR organizes the [Taxpayer Protection Pledge](#), which asks all candidates for federal and state office to commit themselves in writing to the American people to oppose all tax increases. In the 113th Congress, 219 House members and 39 Senators have taken the pledge. On the state level, 14 governors and 1,035 state legislators have taken the pledge.

Norquist chairs the Washington, DC - based "Wednesday Meeting," a weekly gathering of more than 150 elected officials, political activists, and movement leaders. The meeting started in 1993 and takes place in ATR's conference room. There are now 60 similar "center-right" meetings in 48 states.

Mr. Norquist also:

- Serves on the board of directors of the National Rifle Association of America, the American Conservative Union, the Parental Rights Organization and Center for the National Interest (formerly The Nixon Center.)
- Serves as a Contributing Editor to the *American Spectator* Magazine.
- Serves as president of the American Society of Competitiveness.
- Authored three books: *Rock the House*; *Leave Us Alone – Getting the Government's Hands Off Our Money, Our Guns, Our Lives*; and (with co-author John Lott) *Debate: Obama's War on Jobs and Growth and What We Can Do Now to Regain Our Future*

In the past, Mr. Norquist served as:

- A commissioner on the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce.
- A commissioner on the National Commission on Restructuring the Internal Revenue Service.
- Economist and chief speech-writer, U.S. Chamber of Commerce (1983-1984.)
- Campaign staff on the 1988, 1992, 1996 Republican Platform Committees.
- Executive director of the National Taxpayers' Union.
- Executive director of the College Republicans.

Arianna Huffington calls Norquist "The dark wizard of the Right's anti-tax cult."

According to **John Stossel**, "No one in modern times has fought harder to shrink the state than the founder of the group Americans for Tax Reform."

In the words of **Newt Gingrich**, Grover Norquist is "the person who I regard as the most innovative, creative, courageous and entrepreneurial leader of the anti-tax efforts and of conservative grassroots activism in America . . . He has truly made a difference and truly changed American history."

P.J. O'Rourke says "Grover Norquist is Tom Paine crossed with Lee Atwater plus just a soupçon of Madame Defarge."

Senator Mitch McConnell says, "It's because of soldiers like Grover that the conservative movement is so vibrant today and that the liberals who thought they had taken over two years ago are on the run."

Mr. Norquist holds a Masters of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, both from Harvard University. He lives in Washington, DC with his wife, Samah, and his daughters, Grace and Giselle.



Michael Williams

Founder,
The Williams Group

The Williams Group is led by Michael Williams, who has more than two decades of experience in business advocacy and strategic communication as well as federal and state government service.

Prior to founding The Williams Group, Michael was a Managing Director of Credit Suisse in the Public Policy Americas division, based in Washington, D.C. He was responsible for maintaining and expanding the Bank's relationships with members and staff of the congressional tax-writing committees and other committees such as Financial Services, Banking and Foreign Relations. Michael was directly involved in the formulation and implementation of the Bank's legislative policies and strategies.

Michael joined Credit Suisse in February 2007 from The Bond Market Association/ Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association's Washington, D.C. office, where he was Senior Vice President. In this capacity, he was responsible for representing the Association's views to various congressional committee and regulators. In addition, he oversaw the Association's close working relationships with state and local governments and their representative organizations.

Michael served as Special Assistant to the President and Staff Director for Legislative Affairs during the Clinton Administration, where he was a key member of the White House team responsible for developing and implementing the Administration's agenda on financial services, tax and international trade legislation. Michael also served as a Deputy Assistant for Congressional Affairs at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative during the Clinton Administration. Michael has coordinated and participated in numerous election campaigns at the federal, state and local levels. He has also served as a congressional liaison for the National Democratic Convention for more than 14 years.

Michael holds a Bachelors degree in Sociology and Masters in Public Administration from the State University of New York at Albany. He also holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Maryland.



Benjamin Wittes

Research Director In Public Law, The Brookings Institution
Editor-In-Chief, Lawfare Blog

Benjamin Wittes is a senior fellow in Governance Studies at The Brookings Institution. He co-founded and is the editor-in-chief of [the Lawfare blog](#), which is devoted to sober and serious discussion of "Hard National Security Choices," and is a member of the Hoover Institution's Task Force on National Security and Law. He is the author of *Detention and Denial: The Case for Candor After Guantanamo*, published in November 2011, co-editor of *Constitution 3.0: Freedom and Technological Change*, published in December 2011, and editor of *Campaign 2012: Twelve Independent Ideas for Improving American Public Policy* (Brookings Institution Press, May 2012). He is also writing a book on data and technology proliferation and their implications for security. He is the author of *Law and the Long War: The Future of Justice in the Age of Terror*, published in June 2008 by The Penguin Press, and the editor of the 2009 Brookings book, *Legislating the War on Terror: An Agenda for Reform*.

His previous books include *Starr: A Reassessment*, published in 2002 by Yale University Press, and *Confirmation Wars: Preserving Independent Courts in Angry Times*, published in 2006 by Rowman & Littlefield and the Hoover Institution.

Between 1997 and 2006, he served as an editorial writer for *The Washington Post* specializing in legal affairs. Before joining the editorial page staff of *The Washington Post*, Wittes covered the Justice Department and federal regulatory agencies as a reporter and news editor at *Legal Times*. His writing has also appeared in a wide range of journals and magazines including *The Atlantic*, *Slate*, *The New Republic*, *The Wilson Quarterly*, *The Weekly Standard*, *Policy Review*, and *First Things*.

Benjamin Wittes was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He graduated from Oberlin College in 1990, and he has a black belt in taekwondo.



Accommodations

The Hay Adams Hotel
800 16th St NW, Washington, DC
20006

Room Block for the night of January 8th is under Strategas.
Main Reservations line: 1-800-424-5054