

**2011 GEORGIA
LEGISLATIVE POLICY BRIEFING**

“Wisdom, Justice and *Innovation*”

**Bringing the nation’s top experts
to Georgia for an all-day event
focused on innovative solutions
to Georgia’s challenges**

Hosted by

The Georgia Public Policy Foundation

and

The Conservative Leadership Policy Institute

The Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

September 30, 2011 7:15 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



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AGENDA

7:15-8:00 : Continental Breakfast — Ballroom B/C

8:00 – Welcome: Ballroom B/C

The Honorable **David Ralston**, Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives

8:10 – Opening Session: Ballroom B/C

Keynote Speaker Lee Hicks, founder and CEO, C Port Solutions; “Keeping Innovative Startup Companies and Jobs in Georgia” introduced by Lt. Governor **Casey Cagle** (invited)

9:00-10:15 Concurrent Sessions

Ballroom A — Conservative Criminal Justice Reform: Less Crime for Less Money

How to bring Georgia’s corrections costs under control, while reducing crime, making victims whole and putting more offenders on the path to being productive, taxpaying citizens.

Judge Tain Kell, Superior Court of Cobb County; **Jason Newman**, Pew Public Safety Performance Project, **Andrea Shelton**, Heartbound Ministries
Moderator: **Judge Todd Markle**, Superior Court of Fulton County

Ballroom B/C — Planes, Trains and Automobiles: Cutting Congestion amid Growing Freight

Innovative ideas for addressing traffic congestion and the flow of freight through Georgia with a statewide freight transportation network.

Carrie Thompson, McKinsey & Company; **Ed Crowell**, Georgia Motor Trucking Association; **Page Siplon**, Georgia Center of Innovation for Logistics
Moderator: **Marsha Anderson Bomar**, Stantec / Duluth City Council

10:15-10:30 Governor Rick Perry of Texas

Ballroom B/C — “**Taxes , Torts and Texas: The Key Policies Supporting the Growing Texas Economy**”

10:30-11:45 Concurrent Sessions

Ballroom B/C — Legal Reform: Reducing the Costs of Our Runaway Legal System

How Georgia can reform medical malpractice and reduce costs while improving the quality of health care.

Dr. John Goodman, president and founder, National Center for Policy Analysis;
Richard L. Jackson, Chief Executive Officer, Jackson Healthcare
Moderator: **Dr. Brian E. Hill**, author of “Stop the Noise: A Physician’s Quest to Silence the Politics of Health Care Reform”

Ballroom A — Forward on Tax Reform: Flatter, Broader, Lower

What lessons can Georgia learn from last year’s tax reform debate?

Dr. Christine Ries, professor of economics at the Georgia Institute of Technology and member of the Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians;
William Beach, The Heritage Foundation; **Jonathan Williams**, American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)

Moderator: **Bird Blitch**, entrepreneur and CEO at SecureHealthPay

12:00-1:45 p.m. Lunch — Ballroom B/C

Dr. John Goodman, president and founder of the National Center for Policy Analysis, “Free Our Health Care Now”

Bernie Marcus, co-founder of Home Depot, “How to Make Georgia a Leader in Entrepreneurship and Innovation”

2:00-3:00 Session

Ballroom B/C — The Promise of Online Learning

How Georgia can seize the coming disruptive innovation in education.

Michael B. Horn, co-founder and Executive Director, Education for the Innosight Institute and co-author of “[Disrupting Class: How Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns.](#)” Introduced by Senate Majority Leader **Chip Rogers**, a member of the [Digital Learning Council](#).

SPEAKERS, PANELISTS AND MODERATORS

Governor Rick Perry of Texas, a fifth-generation Texan, is the 47th governor of the nation's second-largest state and the first Texas A&M graduate to occupy the Governor's Mansion.



During his tenure, Governor Perry has maintained a strong focus on fiscal discipline, becoming the only Texas governor since World War II to sign budgets that reduced general revenue spending.

He has used his line-item veto to scrub more than \$3 billion in budgeted spending, while encouraging investments in the building blocks of a prosperous state: the economy, education and security.

The Texas economy is performing well in the current global economic crisis, thanks to a focused effort to keep taxes low, regulations predictable and legal system fair. Gov. Perry led the effort to reform the legal system, signing into law a series of lawsuit reforms designed to stem the flow of frivolous lawsuits through Texas courts. As a result, employers can devote their resources to creating jobs instead of defending against those frivolous lawsuits. More importantly, the reforms reversed the trend on skyrocketing malpractice insurance rates which has led to an influx of doctors seeking to practice in Texas. As a result, obstetricians and other specialists are returning to practice in previously underserved, high-risk areas.

On the education front, Governor Perry has worked to improve the quality of Texas schools from top to bottom by increasing accountability, raising expectations and funding programs that work.

Stepping into the gap left by the federal government, Governor Perry has worked with the Legislature to fund coordinated border security efforts to the tune of more than \$230 million over the past several years. Governor Perry has initiated a “boots on the ground” strategy, integrating and coordinating local, county, state and federal law enforcement efforts, resulting in significantly decreased crime in key areas along the border.

Rick Perry's political career started in 1985 as a representative for a rural West Texas district in the state House of Representatives. He was first elected to statewide office in 1990, and served as Texas Commissioner of Agriculture for two terms. Governor Perry hails from Paint Creek, a small farming community north of Abilene. Between 1972 and 1977, Governor Perry served in the United States Air Force, flying C-130 tactical airlift aircraft in the U.S., Europe and the Middle East.

He is a 1972 graduate of Texas A&M University where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets, a junior and senior yell leader and an animal science major.

Dr. John C. Goodman, president and CEO of the National Center for Policy Analysis (www.ncpa.org), is known as the “Father of Health Savings Accounts.” He is fre-



quently invited to testify before Congress on health care reform and retirement topics and has published more than 50 studies on topics including health policy, retirement reform and taxes. He is the author of nine books, including, “Lives at Risk: Single Payer National Health Insurance Around the World;” “Leaving Women Behind: Modern Families, Outdated Laws;” and the trailblazing, “Patient Power: Solving America’s Health Care Crisis,” whose condensed version sold more than 300,000 copies.

Dr. Goodman appears regularly on television and radio news and talk programs, writes editorials on economic policy issues and is a regular contributor to The Wall Street Journal, Kaiser Health News and other national publications. His blog (<http://healthblog.ncpa.org/>) is the premier right-of-center health care blog on the Internet. It is the only place where pro-free enterprise, private sector solutions are routinely proposed, examined and debated by top health policy experts throughout the country.

Dr. Goodman is the Kellye Wright Fellow in health care at the NCPA. The mission of the Wright Fellowship is to promote a more patient-centered, consumer-driven health care system. He was also the pivotal lead expert in the NCPA’s grassroots public policy campaign, “Free Our Health Care Now.” This unsurpassed national education effort to communicate patient-centered alternatives to a government-run health care system resulted in the largest online petition ever delivered on Capitol Hill.

A native of Waco, Texas, he received his doctorate in economics from Columbia University, and has taught and conducted research at Columbia, Stanford University, Dartmouth University, Southern Methodist University and the University of Dallas. He became interested in economics and classical liberal ideas as an undergraduate at the University of Texas at Austin, where he was vice president of the student body.

Bernie Marcus is co-founder of The Home Depot, Inc., the world’s largest home improvement retailer, and served as chairman of the board until his retirement in 2002. He



is chairman of the board of The Marcus Foundation, which focuses on Jewish causes, children, medical research, free enterprise and the community.

Mr. Marcus’ philanthropic contributions are given with the expectation that they will make a significant difference. The Georgia Aquarium, his \$250 million gift dedicated to the people of Georgia and the associates, customers and shareholders of The Home Depot, is the largest aquarium in the world. It has attracted more than 11 million visitors since its November 2005 opening in downtown Atlanta and is credited with generating more than \$6 billion in construction and

development in the area.

In 2009, The Marcus Foundation presented a \$20 million gift to Grady Health System to improve emergency care to trauma and acute neurological injury victims throughout Georgia. The Marcus Stroke & Neuroscience Center at Grady and The Marcus Trauma Center at Grady expand hospital space for trauma and brain injury victims and improve time-dependent therapies for stroke and acute neurological emergencies.

In conjunction with Shepherd Center in Atlanta, Mr. Marcus also announced the creation of Project Share, renowned for treatment of brain and spinal injuries. To ensure that members of the military and veterans get diagnosed and cared for without financial constraint, the Marcus Foundation underwrites the housing, transportation and care costs of any military personnel with brain or spinal injuries who are sent to Shepherd. He and his wife, Billi, were inducted into the National Spinal Cord Injury Association's 2008 "Hall of Fame."

In 2008, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta joined forces with The Marcus Institute, founded in 1991, to create the Marcus Autism Center, which offers expanded services for children with autism. Mr. Marcus and The Home Depot broke ground on the Marcus/Home Depot Hospitality House to assist families who travel to Atlanta for medical care.

Mr. Marcus serves in numerous leadership roles including at Shepherd Center, City of Hope, The Marcus Jewish Community Center and Business Executives for National Security. He and his wife received the Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service, given to individuals who have served with distinction in public life. He was named the inaugural recipient of Inc. 500's Bernard A. Goldhirsh Award, inducted into the Junior Achievement U.S. Business Hall of Fame, and has received the USO Patriot Award; the SeaKeeper Award for promoting the restoration and protection of the world's oceans; Jewish Federation of Great Atlanta's Lifetime of Achievement Award; the Golden Plate Award from the Academy of Achievement; Hearthstone Builder Humanitarian Award as one of Builder Magazine Innovator; the Anti-Defamation League's America's Democratic Legacy Award; and was recognized with the TiE Award for his Lifetime Contribution to Entrepreneurship.

A native of Newark, N.J., Mr. Marcus earned his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy at Rutgers University.

Michael B. Horn is the co-founder and Executive Director, Education of Innosight Institute (www.innosightinstitute.org), a not-for-profit think tank devoted to applying



the theories of disruptive innovation to problems in the social sector. He is the co-author of the 2008 book, "Disrupting Class: How Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns" with Harvard Business School Professor and bestselling author Clayton M. Christensen and Curtis W. Johnson, president of the Citistates Group. BusinessWeek named the book one of the 10 Best Innovation & Design Books of 2008, Strategy + Business awarded it the best human capital book of 2008, Newsweek named it as the 14th book on its list of "Fifty Books for Our Times," and

the National Chamber Foundation named it first among its 10 “Books that Drive the Debate 2009.”

“Disrupting Class” uses the theories of disruptive innovation to identify the root causes of schools’ struggles and suggests a path forward to customize an education for every child in the way he or she learns. Mr. Horn has been a featured keynote speaker at many conferences including the Virtual School Symposium and Microsoft’s School of the Future World Summit. Tech & Learning magazine also named him to its list of the 100 most important people in the creation and advancement of the use of technology in education.

Mr. Horn worked at America Online during its aol.com re-launch. Before that he served as David Gergen’s research assistant, where he tracked and wrote about politics and public policy. He has written articles for numerous publications, including Education Week, Forbes, the Boston Globe and U.S. News & World Report. In addition, he contributed research for Charles Ellis’ book, “Joe Wilson and the Creation of Xerox,” and Barbara Kellerman’s, “Bad Leadership: What It Is, How It Happens, Why It Matters.”

Mr. Horn earned his MBA from Harvard Business School and his bachelor’s degree from Yale University, where he graduated with distinction in History.

Lee Hicks is the CEO and founder of Atlanta-based C PORT Solutions (www.cportsolutions.com), which is the world’s leading provider of mobile unified



collaboration solutions serving the health care, hospitality and professional services verticals. C PORT Solutions is the only company that mobilizes telemedicine, telepresence and unified collaboration. Mr. Hicks has 24 years of technology leadership experience and has been involved in more than 100 installations of advanced collaboration systems at companies like Disney, P&G, Toyota, Boeing, IBM, AT&T, Medtronic and Med Assets. He has held executive and sales management positions with Steelcase, SAP, Dun & Bradstreet and Ceridian. A native of Atlanta, Mr. Hicks holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in finance from the University of Georgia.

William W. Beach is Director of The Heritage Foundation’s Center for Data Analysis (www.heritage.org). As the think tank’s chief “number cruncher,” Mr. Beach oversees



Heritage’s original statistical research on taxes, Social Security, energy, crime, education, trade and a host of other issues, ensuring it is both rigorous in technical scholarship and produced in time to help inform public debate.

Under his leadership, Heritage has acquired one of the largest collections of privately held public-policy databases in the United States, as well as a variety of peer-reviewed analytical models. Together, these acquisitions allow the Center for Data Analysis to

produce some of the most sophisticated calculations done anywhere in the world.

His ability to boil down complicated data into plain language and real-world examples makes Mr. Beach a reliable source for news reporters and a frequent guest on television and radio talk shows. He serves on the Economics Advisory Panel for ABC News.

Mr. Beach helps build analytical models as well as acquires them. He was instrumental in developing the state-of-the-art econometric models Heritage uses to produce detailed estimates of how proposed tax and energy changes would affect individuals, families and business sectors as well as the overall national economy. Indeed, the Center has become the leading proponent of “dynamic scoring,” which shows, for example, how much federal revenues change when the U.S. economy reacts to a tax increase or tax cut.

Under Mr. Beach’s direction, the Center for Data Analysis has progressed to the point that it regularly competes with the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of Management and Budget, the Joint Committee on Taxation or any other government agency when it comes to scoring potential costs and benefits of legislation. Federal lawmakers often ask the Center to analyze their draft legislation, knowing they can get a reliable estimate more quickly than from a Capitol Hill agency.

Before joining Heritage in 1995, Mr. Beach held a variety of posts in the public, private and academic sectors. He was a litigation economist with two Kansas City, Mo., law firms. As an economist for Missouri’s Office of Budget and Planning, he designed and managed the state’s econometric model and advised the governor on revenue and economic issues. After a stint in the corporate headquarters of Sprint United Inc., Mr. Beach moved to the Washington, D.C., area to serve as president of the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University.

A graduate of Washburn University in Topeka, Kan., he holds a master’s degree in history and economics from the University of Missouri-Columbia and is a visiting fellow at Buckingham University in Britain.

Marsha Anderson Bomar has more than 38 years of experience in transportation planning, traffic engineering, public involvement, education and training, meeting facilitation, traffic analysis, management and administration of transportation and traffic engineering projects, master transportation plans and studies, transit systems planning, parking studies and design analyses, freight studies, modeling and general research.



Ms. Bomar has served as the Principal-in-Charge and Project Manager for more than 300 traffic impact and transportation master plan studies, including major data collection and analysis efforts. She has extensive experience in facilitating public meetings, hearings, stakeholder groups, and charettes.

Ms. Bomar has received many awards: She was the first woman to serve as International President of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and was the first woman to receive the ITE Burton Marsh Distinguished Service Award. In 2010, she

received the Karl Bevins Distinguished Service Award from the Georgia Section of ITE, given to recognize highly competent and professional engineers who practice in the field of traffic and/or transportation over a number of years. Also in 2010, Ms. Bomar was awarded the Legacy Treasure Award from United Way of Gwinnett County and the American Council of Engineering Companies Community Service Award for outstanding contributions to her community.

Ms. Bomar is serving her second term as Council Member and Mayor Pro Tempore for the City of Duluth.

Bird Blitch is the CEO of SecureHealthPay (www.securehealthpay.com), a company that is changing the way payment transactions occur between patients and their doctors. Since its 2010 launch, thousands of patients have used SecureHealthPay's free Patient-Wallet™ which enables them to manage and better understand their health care expenses while providing doctors with increased revenue and tools with which to grow their practices.



Previously, Mr. Blitch was co-founder and CEO of BroadSource and was instrumental in transforming the venture-funded company into one of the leading telecom expense management companies. BroadSource was twice listed by INC magazine as one of the Fastest Growing Private Companies in the United States.

Mr. Blitch also serves as an Advisory Board member of the Advanced Technology Development Center, a start-up accelerator that helps technology entrepreneurs launch and build successful companies. A graduate of Georgia Tech, Mr. Blitch is the recipient of the Georgia Tech 2010 Outstanding Young Alumnus/Alumna award and is a member of the Council of Outstanding Young Engineering Alumni.

Ed Crowell joined the professional staff of Georgia Motor Trucking Association in late 1992 and has served as its President and CEO since April 1993. He manages both the day-to-day operations of the 1,000-member organization as well as its government affairs efforts and its work with both state and federal regulatory agencies.

Mr. Crowell was previously a transportation industry researcher and policy analyst for the American Transportation Research Institute and former CEO of a public relations agency. He was a staffer in the Executive Office of the President during the first Reagan Administration and on the staff of a U.S. Senator.



He has served as an international affairs analyst in financial realm and also has experience in commercial real estate. This eclectic background helps him bring practical and sometimes unique perspective to transportation issues.

Mr. Crowell is a current or past member of committees and task forces that include work with the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies, the Industry Pol-

icy Committee of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, as well as several committees and task forces for the Atlanta Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Transportation.

He is a member of the state's Commercial Motor Carrier Task Force and the Georgia Statewide Freight Plan Private Sector Advisory Committee. Additionally, he serves on the national industry committees on highway policy, taxation and environmental matters and is a member of the board of directors of ATRI.

Mr. Crowell is a political scientist by training, with a bachelor's degree from Liberty University and a master's from Georgia State University

Dr. Brian E. Hill is the author of the recent book , "Stop the Noise: A Physician's Quest to Silence the Politics of Health Care Reform." (www.stopthenoisehealthcare.com). The Atlanta-based physician, who specializes in laparoscopic surgery, urologic oncology and adult urology, earned his medical degree at the Medical College of Virginia and trained at the University of Maryland.



He is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and American Urologic Association and donates his time, through the Men's Health and Wellness Center of Atlanta, speaking about health issues and providing free cancer screenings.

Dr. Hill has appeared on CNN and FOX News and frequently addresses groups on health care reform.

Richard L. Jackson is Chairman and CEO of Jackson Healthcare (www.jacksonhealthcare.com), which provides hospitals with physicians, clinicians and allied health professionals to ensure the delivery of timely, high quality patient care.

For the past 34 years, Mr. Jackson has been instrumental in conceptualizing and developing more than 25 health care companies. He has owned and operated staffing



companies, surgery centers, practice management companies, clinics and hospitals, demonstrating a unique ability to anticipate industry trends, identify underserved niches and create industry-leading companies.

Driven by a personal mission to inject hope and opportunity into the lives of underserved children, Mr. Jackson actively supports numerous local and international charitable organizations.

In 2010, he established a national Hospital Charitable Service Awards program, the only recognition program in the health care industry celebrating hospital accomplishments at the program

level.

Judge C. LaTain (Tain) Kell, Sr. was appointed by Gov. Sonny Perdue in 2007 as the 10th Superior Court Judge of the Cobb Judicial Circuit. He has practiced law for over 20 years in courtrooms across the State of Georgia, including both state and federal courts, the Georgia Court of Appeals and Georgia Supreme Court, all three federal district courts, and the Eleventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. He is also admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court.



From 1987 to 1997, Judge Kell served in the Georgia Attorney General's Office, practicing in the area of civil litigation. He was in the Litigation Section at Troutman Sanders law firm in Atlanta from 1997 to 2000. In 2000, he joined the Marietta law firm of Brock, Clay, Calhoun & Rogers, P.C., where he was a partner/shareholder until his judicial appointment in 2007.

The Cobb County resident has been active in many civic and community activities, including participating in the 2001 class of Leadership Cobb, serving as Chairman of the Marietta Area Council of the Cobb Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Advisory Board of the East Cobb YMCA, and serving for many years in the Hospitality Ministry of his church.

Judge Kell obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Georgia's Grady School of Journalism and Mass Communications in 1984 and his law degree from UGA in 1987.

D. Todd Markle, who was sworn in as a Fulton County Superior Court judge on August 5, 2011, entered public service in December 2010 as Executive Counsel of then Gov.-elect Nathan Deal. He served as Governor Deal's chief legal advisor during the 2011 legislative session.

Judge Markle continues to serve as the Governor's designee and chair of the statewide Sentencing Reform Council, which is currently evaluating Georgia's system of criminal justice.



He began his practice in 1989 at Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers. He later worked as an associate at Cashin, Morton & Mullins. In 1996, he founded his own firm, Miller & Markle. In 2009, he joined Mabry & McClelland.

Judge Markle graduated magna cum laude from the University of Georgia in 1986 and graduated cum laude in 1989 from Mercer University Law School, where he was a member of the law review.

Jason Newman is a Senior Associate with the Public Safety Performance Project at the Pew Center on the States (<http://tinyurl.com/3axqck>). He previously was a senior associate for Pew's Government Performance Project. Before joining Pew, Mr. Newman was state and local policy director at the Democratic Leadership Council, where

he oversaw and implemented the council's state and local public policy efforts and managed the extensive nationwide network of state and local elected officials.

Previously, Mr. Newman also worked with the Kellogg Foundation and the Northeast-Midwest Institute on both federal and state agriculture legislation. He earned a law degree from Wake Forest University School of Law and his bachelor's degree in politics from Washington and Lee University.

Dr. Christine P. Ries, a Georgia Tech professor and Chair of the School of Economics since 1997 (www.econ.gatech.edu/people/faculty/ries), served on the Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians. Before that, she taught at The Harvard Business School, The Fuqua School of Business at Duke, the Peter Drucker Graduate Management Center at Claremont, and at Stanford University.



Dr. Ries is a specialist in International Finance, Markets and Organizations, and Economics of the Firm in the School of Economics. Her articles include publications in *The Journal of International Business Studies*, *The Harvard Business Review*, *Euromoney* and *The Financial Analysts' Journal*. Her books address the policies of international corporations and the politics and economics of emerging markets. She is the author of over 20 case studies that have been published by the Harvard Business School. Several appear in her co-authored book of case studies and many are printed and reprinted in other case books and textbooks.

Dr. Ries has served on the Board of The Academy of International Business and on the editorial boards and as referee of several major professional and academic journals. Service on advisory councils includes service to several foreign universities and governments and U.S. companies.

Andrea Shelton is President and founder of HeartBound Ministries (www.heartboundministries.com), a non-profit prison ministry that seeks to support and equip Georgia prison chaplains and minister to the prison community – staff, inmates and their families – in Georgia's state prisons, transitional centers and youth development centers. In recognition of its contributions to the Georgia prison system, HeartBound Ministries has been named a "Faith-Based Contributor of the Year" for three consecutive years.



In 2005, Ms. Shelton received the first-ever "Spirit of Oglethorpe Award" from Oglethorpe University for her work on behalf of Georgia's prison chaplains and those they serve. She graduated from Oglethorpe University in Atlanta in 1991. After a brief marketing career at Lockheed Aeronautics, she earned a law degree from the University of Tennessee in 1996. Following law school, she served as a Special Assistant Administrative Law Judge with the Office of State Administrative Hearings in Georgia. She is a member of the 2006 class of Leadership Georgia and was a 2007 Leadership Georgia Program Chair.

Leadership Georgia Program Chair.

Page Siplon has been Executive Director of the Center of Innovation for Logistics since 1995. As an industry-focused component of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, the Center is the state's leading resource for fueling logistics competitiveness.

Mr. Siplon initiated the state's first statewide Logistics Summit in 2009 and created the first Georgia Logistics Report, defining the state's logistics industry and the resulting economic impact. He also was the lead consultant on the Commission for a New Georgia's Freight and Logistics Task Force and has consulted with other state departments of transportation on leveraging public-private partners for comprehensive statewide freight transportation planning.



Before joining the Center, he served a combined 12 years in the U.S. Marine Corps and Air Force, providing circuit level maintenance on various ground-to-air and ground-to-ground communication systems and integrating encryption techniques and solutions for large-scale secure voice and data communications systems.

Mr. Siplon is a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and its Computer Society. He is also a member of the Coastal Business, Education & Technology Alliance, where he serves as Vice-Chair of the Ambassador program. He also serves on the board for Georgia FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a technology and education focused non-profit organization.

Mr. Siplon, originally from New York, received his bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Georgia Tech, where he also completed a master's degree in electrical and computer engineering focused on digital signal processing. Mr. Siplon also received an associate's degree in electronic systems from the Air Force College, along with completing multiple military leadership academies.

Carrie Thompson is an Associate Principal at McKinsey & Co. and part of the leadership group for the America's Infrastructure practice. Her client work focuses on infrastructure investment strategies and growth strategies for governments and private investors.

Ms. Thompson's recent logistics client engagements include supporting the development of Georgia's long-term Statewide Transportation Plan, which included freight and people mobility. She helped the state set goals and objectives, prioritize programs and potential projects, make a business case for increased investment, and evaluate potential funding mechanisms.



She has also worked with private equity and infrastructure investment funds to identify opportunities to invest in ports; developing a five-year growth strategy for a large, U.S. logistics provider; and valuing a European state-owned logistics company and preparing it for privatization, and developing growth strategies for two global airlines.

She has also worked with governments in Asia and the Middle East to support development of their long-term transportation strategies and financial plans, including public-private partnership strategies, and supported an infrastructure consortium in its successful acquisition of a tollroad.

Prior to joining McKinsey, Carrie worked for the White House Council of Economic Advisers where she focused on international economic policy. She holds a master's and doctorate in Economics from Princeton University.

Jonathan Williams is the director of the Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force for the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), where he works with state legislators and the private sector to develop free-market fiscal policy solutions in the states. Prior to joining ALEC (www.alec.org), Mr. Williams was staff economist at the non-partisan Tax Foundation, authoring numerous tax policy studies.



His work has been featured in many publications including The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, Forbes and Investor's Business Daily. With Dr. Arthur Laffer and Steve Moore, Mr. Williams co-authored "Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer Economic Competitiveness Index." He has been a contributing author to the Reason Foundation's Annual Privatization Report and has written for the Ash Institute at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. He is also a contributor to The Examiner (Washington, D.C.) and an adjunct fiscal policy fellow at the Kansas Policy Institute.

In addition to testifying before numerous legislative bodies and speaking to audiences across America, Mr. Williams is a popular guest on talk radio shows and has appeared on numerous television outlets, including The Glenn Beck Program and Fox Business News.

A Mid-Michigan native, Mr. Williams graduated magna cum laude from Northwood University in Midland, Mich., majoring in economics, banking/finance and business management. While at Northwood, he was the recipient of the prestigious Ludwig von Mises Award in Economics.