



**STUDY VISIT TO WASHINGTON**  
**24 September - 28 September 2017**

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**PROFILES OF THE SPEAKERS**



## **Sunday, 24 September**

- **Congressional Institute<sup>1</sup>**

Founded in 1987, the Congressional Institute is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to helping Members of Congress better serve their constituents and helping their constituents better understand the operations of the national legislature.

- **Mark Strand - President Congressional Institute<sup>2</sup>**

Mark Strand became President of the Congressional Institute in 2007. He is also an adjunct professor of legislative affairs at George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management, and the coauthor of the book *Surviving Inside Congress*.

Strand spent nearly 24 years on Capitol Hill in both the House and the Senate, most recently serving as Chief of Staff to James Talent (R-MO). He served as the Staff Director of the House Committee on Small Business when Talent was Chairman. He was also chief of staff for Reps. Bill Lowery (R-CA) and Stan Parris (R-VA). He has also served as a Legislative Director and a Press Secretary.

Strand obtained a master's in Legislative Affairs from GWU's Graduate School of Political Management, an M.B.A. in Marketing from the University of Phoenix, and was an undergraduate double major in Political Science and History at Excelsior College of the University of New York.

## **Monday, 25 September**

- **Ambassador David O'Sullivan - Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United States<sup>3</sup>**

David O'Sullivan was appointed Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to the United States in Washington, DC, from November 2014.

Mr. O'Sullivan has a long and distinguished career that spans five decades. He has served in a number of senior official posts in the European public service.

Prior to his appointment as Ambassador to the US, he was the Chief Operating Officer of the 'European External Action Service' and responsible for establishing this new EU diplomatic service.

Mr. O'Sullivan career includes a number of notable and senior positions within the European Commission: Head of Commission President Prodi's Cabinet (1999-2000), Secretary General of the European Commission (2000-2005). He has extensive trade experience as Director General for Trade (2005-2010) and Chief Negotiator for the Doha Development Round. He was responsible for overseeing the launch of a number of free trade agreements and concluded the EU's agreement with

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<sup>1</sup> <http://conginst.org/about/>

<sup>2</sup> *ibidem*

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.euintheus.org/who-we-are/ambassadors-corner/message-of-the-month/>



South Korea. Before joining the Commission, he started his career with the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (1977-1979).

Mr. O'Sullivan graduated from Trinity College, Dublin with a degree in Economics and Sociology (1975) and completed post-graduate studies at the College of Europe, Bruges (1976).

He holds an Honorary Doctorate from the Dublin Institute of Technology (2005). He has been a visiting Professor at the European College of Parma. He was been awarded a second Honorary Doctorate from his alma mater Trinity College, Dublin (2014).

In addition to this, he received several honours and awards such as the EU Transatlantic Business Award by the American Chamber of Commerce (June 2014), Alumnus of the Year by the College of Europe (2013), European of the Year by the European Movement of Ireland (1999), European of the Year by the European Movement of Ireland (1999).

- **Mr. Antoine Ripoll - EPLO Director<sup>4</sup>**

Antoine Ripoll is heading the European Parliament Liaison Office with the U.S. Congress since late 2012.

Antoine Ripoll previously served as the Director for Relations with political groups in the General Secretariat of the European Parliament. He served in various capacities in political Groups from 1990 until 2012.

- **Bipartisan Policy Center<sup>5</sup>**

The Bipartisan Policy Center is a non-profit organization that combines the best ideas from both parties to promote health, security, and opportunity for all Americans. BPC drives principled and politically viable policy solutions through the power of rigorous analysis, painstaking negotiation, and aggressive advocacy.

They are currently focused on health, energy, national security, the economy, financial regulatory reform, housing, immigration, infrastructure, and governance.

- **Mr. John C. Fortier - Director, Bipartisan Policy Center<sup>6</sup>**

John C. Fortier is the director of BPC's Democracy Project. Prior to joining BPC in April 2011, he was a research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, where he served as the principal contributor to the AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project, the executive director of the Continuity of Government Commission, and the project manager of the Transition to Governing Project. He was a regular contributor to AEI's Election Watch series. He also served as the director of the Centre for the Study of American Democracy at Kenyon College.

Mr. Fortier is the author of *Absentee and Early Voting: Trends, Promises and Perils*, the author and editor of *After the People Vote: A Guide to the Electoral College*, and the author and co-editor with

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/unitedstates/en/who-s-who>

<sup>5</sup> <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/about/who-we-are/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/person/john-c-fortier/>



Norman Ornstein of *Second Term Blues: How George W. Bush Has Governed*, and numerous academic articles in political science and law journals.

Mr. Fortier has been a regular columnist for *The Hill* and *Politico*. Fortier is a frequent commentator on elections and government institutions. He has appeared on ABC's *Nightline*, CNN, Fox News, PBS's *News Hour*, CBS News, NBC's *Today Show*, C-SPAN, NPR, Bloomberg, and BBC. He has taught at Kenyon College, University of Pennsylvania, University of Delaware, Harvard University and Boston College.

Mr. Fortier has a Ph.D. in political science from Boston College and a B.A. from Georgetown University.

### **NDI (National Democratic Institute)<sup>7</sup>**

The National Democratic Institute is a non-profit, nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization that has supported democratic institutions and practices in every region of the world for more than three decades.

Since its founding in 1983, NDI and its local partners have worked to establish and strengthen political and civic organizations, safeguard elections and promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government.

- **Kenneth Wollack - President of NDI<sup>8</sup>**

Kenneth Wollack is president of NDI. He has been actively involved in foreign affairs, journalism and politics since 1972.

Mr. Wollack joined NDI in 1986 as executive vice president.

Mr. Wollack has traveled extensively in Eastern and Central Europe, the former Soviet Union, Latin America, the Middle East, Asia and Africa on behalf of the Institute's political development programs.

Before joining NDI, Mr. Wollack co-edited the *Middle East Policy Survey*, a Washington-based newsletter. He also wrote regularly on foreign affairs for the *Los Angeles Times*. From 1973 to 1980, he served as legislative director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Mr. Wollack has been active in American politics, serving on the national staff of the McGovern presidential campaign in 1972. He graduated from Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., and was a senior fellow at UCLA's School for Public Affairs.

He has testified on numerous occasions before congressional committees, appeared on national television and radio, and spoken before world affairs councils across the country. He has served on various task forces sponsored by the Brookings Institution, the United States Institute of Peace, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Center for U.S. Global Engagement, the Bipartisan Policy Center and the Atlantic Council.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ndi.org/who-we-are>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ndi.org/people/kenneth-wollack>



Mr. Wollack has served as a member of USAID's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid and as chairman of the U.S. Committee for the United Nations Development Programme.

- **Ivan Doherty - Director of Political Party Programs, NDI<sup>9</sup>**

Ivan Doherty is NDI's senior associate and director of political party programs. As the Institute's principal in-house expert on political party development, he currently oversees party development programs in more than 55 countries and is responsible for building NDI's relationships with political party international organizations and other democracy foundations. Mr. Doherty has also served as a member of the steering committee of the World Movement for Democracy, and leads NDI's participation in a number of other global and regional initiatives, including the Community of Democracies, the OAS Inter-American Forum on Political Parties, and the U.N. Conference on New or Restored Democracies.

Mr. Doherty is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University lecturing on political parties and governance and is also a guest lecturer at a number of institutions including the U.S. State Department Foreign Service Training Institute and the Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. Mr. Doherty also served as foreign policy advisor from 2005 to 2008 to Gov. Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Mr. Doherty has an extensive background in political party development and international affairs. He worked for more than 15 years with Ireland's Fine Gael Party in a number of senior positions, including assistant national director of organization, deputy general secretary, and general secretary from 1990 to 1994. Appointed government program manager in 1994, Mr. Doherty was assigned to Ireland's Ministry of Tourism and Foreign Trade. He has served as senior advisor to the European People's Party parliamentary grouping in the European Parliament, played a role in the Irish Presidency of the EU and the WTO Ministerial in 1996, and conducted Irish trade promotion missions around the world.

#### **IRI - International Republic Institute<sup>10</sup>**

The International Republic Institute is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization, the International Republican Institute advances freedom and democracy worldwide by helping political parties to become more issue-based and responsive, assisting citizens to participate in government planning, and working to increase the role of marginalized groups in the political process – including women and youth.

Founded in 1983 and initially known as the National Republican Institute for International Affairs, the IRI's stated mission is to "expand freedom throughout the world". Its activities include assisting political parties and candidates develop their values and institutional structures, good governance practices, civil society development, civic education, women's and youth leadership development, electoral reform and election monitoring, and political expression in closed societies. It has been chaired by Arizona Senator John McCain since January 1993.

IRI has dramatically increased its efforts to bring institutional structure to Arab countries whose social and political fabric was frayed by the Arab Spring. IRI controversially was helping organize Haitian workers and farmers in Haiti prior to the 2004 Haitian coup d'état, organized conservative political

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ndi.org/people/ivan-doherty>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.iri.org/who-we-are>



parties in Poland, and has been involved in organizing women in Egypt during and after the Arab Spring.

- **Jan Surotchak - IRI Europe Director<sup>11</sup>**

Jan Surotchak first joined the International Republican Institute in 1994 and currently serves as Regional Program Director for Europe. In this position he oversees IRI programming in the Baltic States, Central and Southeastern Europe, and Turkey, as well as outreach efforts to partner parties in Western Europe and institutions at the European Union level. Since 2003, Jan has served as director of IRI's Regional Program for Central and Eastern Europe, based in Bratislava, Slovakia. Surotchak has taken part in numerous election observation missions and political assessments around the world for IRI, among others in Afghanistan, Albania, Bangladesh, China, Honduras, Jordan, Nigeria, Somaliland and Turkey. He co-edited IRI's study 'Why We Lost: Explaining the Rise and Fall of the Centre-Right in Central and Eastern Europe, 1996-2002.'

- **Mr. Conrad Tribble - Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs<sup>12</sup>**

Conrad Tribble joined the Foreign Service in 1987, and has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Europe and the European Union since August 2015. He arrived in Washington after three years as Deputy Chief of Mission in Havana, where he helped manage the historic reestablishment of diplomatic relations and the opening of the U.S. Embassy.

Mr. Tribble started his career as a consular officer in Santiago, Chile, and then spent a two-year tour in the Department's Politico-Military Bureau. He spent the next eleven years working on U.S.-European relations as Germany desk officer, Cyprus desk officer, OSCE action officer, and Coordinator for Baltic Sea regional cooperation programs. That period included a three-year tour in Bonn, where he was an exchange diplomat in the German Foreign Office prior to heading the external political affairs section. After a tour as *Political Counselor* in Port-au-Prince, Haiti from 2003-2005.

Mr. Tribble served as a Senior Watch Officer in the State Department's Operations Centre, and then attended the National War College at Ft. McNair, Class of 2007, where he earned Distinguished Graduate honours. Following a stint as Director of the Department's 24-hour Intelligence and Research Watch, Mr. Tribble led a Provincial Reconstruction Team embedded with a U.S. Army brigade in eastern Baghdad, Iraq, from 2008-2009. For the following three years, he served as Principal Officer and Consul General in Munich, Germany before transferring to Havana in 2012.

Mr. Tribble holds a B.A. in history from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, an M.A. in international relations from the University of Southern California, and an M.A. in national security studies from the U.S. National War College.

Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Mr. Tribble studied and worked for extended periods in Germany and Honduras. He speaks German, French, Spanish, and Haitian Creole.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.iri.org/who-we-are/bod/jan-erik-surotchak>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/biog/bureau/247194.htm>



- **Ben Longstreth, Senior Attorney in the Climate and Clean Air Program at Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)<sup>13</sup>**

Benjamin Longstreth is a senior attorney with the Climate and Clean Air Program at the Natural Resources Defense Council. Before joining NRDC, he was an attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice and a law clerk for the Honorable John M. Walker, Jr. Ben holds a bachelor's degree from Williams College and a JD from Columbia University. He is based in Washington, D.C.

### **Tuesday, 26 September**

- **The National Museum of African American History and Culture<sup>14</sup>**

The National Museum of African American History and Culture is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. It was established by Act of Congress in 2003, following decades of efforts to promote and highlight the contributions of African Americans. To date, the Museum has collected more than 36,000 artefacts and nearly 100,000 individuals have become charter members. The Museum opened to the public on September 24, 2016, as the 19<sup>th</sup> and newest museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

- **Mr. Bart Gordon<sup>15</sup>**

Bart Gordon is an American lawyer and former U.S. Representative for Tennessee's sixth congressional district, serving from 1985 until 2011. The district includes several rural areas and fast-growing suburbs east of Nashville. He was Chairman of the House Committee on Science and Technology from 2007 until 2011. He is a member of the Democratic Party.

Active in Democratic politics early on, he was briefly executive director of the Tennessee Democratic Party in 1979 and state party's president from 1981 to 1983.

When sixth District Congressman Al Gore announced in 1983 that he would run for the United States Senate in 1984, Gordon stepped down as state party's president to run for the seat.

He initially faced a hard-fought race against the brother of the publisher of Nashville's former conservative newspaper, the *Nashville Banner*. However, he won handily in November 1984, riding Gore's coattails in the midst of Ronald Reagan's landslide victory in that year's presidential election. Gordon is been regarded as a moderate. He has favoured the repeal of the inheritance tax and the "marriage tax penalty".

Gordon was re-elected by huge margins until 1994, when his Republican opponent was attorney Steve Gill. Gordon was re-elected in 1998 and 2000 by margins similar to those he scored in the 1980s and early 1990s. He faced no significant opposition in 2002, 2004 and 2006 and was unopposed in 2008.

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<sup>13</sup> <http://law.howard.edu/faculty-staff/benjamin-longstreth>

<sup>14</sup> <https://nmaahc.si.edu/about/museum>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Bart%20Gordon>



This is largely because the 2002 reapportionment by the Democratic-controlled Tennessee General Assembly removed Williamson County, a wealthy and heavily Republican suburban area south of Nashville, from the Sixth District and added it to the already heavily Republican Seventh District.

- **Mr. Jim Walsh<sup>16</sup>**

He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he served from 1989 to 2009. During his tenure in Congress, Mr. Walsh served as a deputy Republican whip from 1994-2006. He was appointed as a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee where he served from 1993-2009. During that time he became Chairman of four House Appropriations Subcommittees: District of Columbia; Legislative Branch; VA, HUD and Independent Agencies (NASA, EPA, FEMA, NSF, Selective Service); and Military Quality of Life (included jurisdiction for Military Base Construction, the Defense Health Program, and Housing Accounts) and Veterans Affairs.

He also served as ranking Republican member of the Labour, Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Appropriations. Earlier in his career in Congress Mr. Walsh served on the House Agriculture Committee, the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families and on the House Administration Committee.

- **Ignasi Guardans<sup>17</sup>**

He is registered as a lawyer at the Barcelona Bar. After some years of academic activity in Spain he joined later a large Spanish law firm, dealing with foreign investment and international contracts, in particular in the field of IP law. In 1996 he started a career in public service taking him to assume different elected responsibilities, in Spain and at the European Union (Spanish Parliament, European Parliament and Spanish Government).

His experience combined a deep involvement in international relations and international trade with an intense involvement in legislation drafting and policy practice related to Technology, Media & Telecom.

### **Wednesday, 27 September**

- **Mr. Paul Ryan<sup>18</sup> - Speaker of the House**

Paul Ryan is serving his ninth term as a member of Congress; Paul Ryan works on many important issues affecting Wisconsin residents and is an effective advocate for the First Congressional District.

In October 2015, after then-House Speaker John Boehner retired from Congress, Mr. Ryan was elected House Speaker. A committed conservative and public servant, he has spent his life advocating for real solutions that will expand opportunity for all Americans. Moreover, to the speakership, he will bring that same passion for getting results.

Prior to serving as speaker of the House, Congressman Ryan served as the president of the House Ways and Means Committee. It was there where he focused on many issues across the federal

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<sup>16</sup> <http://www.klgates.com/james-t-walsh/#overview>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.klgates.com/ignasi-guardans1/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://paulryan.house.gov/biography/>



government, such as fixing the broken tax code, holding the IRS accountable, strengthening Medicare and Social Security, repairing the safety net, promoting job-creating trade agreements, and developing patient-centred solutions to make health care more affordable.

During the 112<sup>th</sup> & 113<sup>th</sup> Congresses, he served as president of the House Budget Committee, where he put forward specific plans to tackle our looming fiscal crisis, driven by the dramatic rise in entitlement spending. These plans, titled *“The Path to Prosperity,”* would help spur job creation, stop spending money the government does not have, balance the budget, and lift the crushing burden of debt.

Paul is a graduate of Joseph A. Craig High School in Janesville and earned a degree in economics and political science from Miami University in Ohio.

- **Mr. David Skaggs<sup>19</sup>**

Representative from Colorado; born in Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio, February 22, 1943; graduated from Cranford High School, Cranford, N.J., 1960; B.A., Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., 1964; LL.B., Yale University Law School, New Haven, Conn., 1967; United States Marine Corps, 1968-1971; United States Marine Corps Reserve, 1971-1978; lawyer, private practice; aide to United States Representative Timothy Wirth of Colorado, 1975-1977; delegate, Democratic National Convention, 1984, 1988, 1992, and 1996; member of the Colorado state house of representatives, 1980-1986; elected as a Democrat to the One Hundredth and to the five succeeding Congresses (January 3, 1987-January 3, 1999); was not a candidate for reelection to the One Hundred Sixth Congress in 1998.

- **Mr. Cliff Stearns - FMC President<sup>20</sup>**

Cliff Stearns was the U.S. Representative for Florida's sixth congressional district from 1989 to 2013. He is a member of the Republican Party.

In 2006, the College of Central Florida named their Learning Resource Centre Library to honour Cliff Stearns' service to his district.

Since leaving the United States Congress after 24 years, he is been employed with APCO Worldwide, which is a communications and public relations firm headquartered in Washington D.C. Mr. Stearns is a member of APCO Worldwide International Advisory Council (IAC), which comprises more than 70 recognized global leaders including former elected politicians who advise clients on complex issues. In addition, he is on three boards namely, The Graduate School of Political Management at The George Washington University, Minority Media & Telecom Council and The United States Association of Former Members of Congress.

In July 2016, Cliff Stearns was been elected President of the United States Association of Former Members of Congress (USAFMC) whose mission it is to educate high school and college students about the three branches of the Government. USAFMC strengthens the message of representative

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.dentons.com/en/david-skaggs>

<sup>20</sup> [https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=E.%20C.%20Stearns%20%26%20Company&item\\_type=topic](https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=E.%20C.%20Stearns%20%26%20Company&item_type=topic)



democracy and NGOs and other organizations to support the growth of democracy around the globe with study groups in Germany, Japan, Turkey and Europe.

Mr. Stearns is a member of the Reformers Caucus of Issue One.

## **Thursday, 28 September**

- **Pew Research Center<sup>21</sup>**

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world. They conduct public opinion polling, demographic research, content analysis and other data-driven social science research. We do not take policy positions.

- **Bruce Stokes<sup>22</sup>**

Bruce Stokes is director of global economic attitudes at Pew Research Centre, where he assesses public views about economic conditions, foreign policy and values. He is also a non-resident fellow at the German Marshall Fund and an associate fellow at Chatham House. He is the former international economics correspondent for the National Journal, a former senior transatlantic fellow at the German Marshall Fund and a former senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, where he is a member. Stokes is author of the recent Pew Research Center studies *Europeans Face the World Divided*, *Euroskepticism Beyond Brexit*, *Germany and the United States: Reliable Allies* and *Americans, Japanese: Mutual Respect 70 Years After the End of WWII*. Stokes is a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and Johns Hopkins University's School for Advanced International Studies. He has appeared on numerous television and radio programs including CNN, BBC, NPR, NBC, CBS and ABC and is a frequent speaker at major conferences around the world.

- **AFL-CIO<sup>23</sup>**

The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) is a national trade union center and the largest federation of unions in the United States. It is made up of fifty-six national and international unions, together representing more than 12 million active and retired workers. The AFL-CIO engages in substantial political spending and activism, typically in support of Democrats and liberal or progressive policies.

The AFL-CIO was formed in 1955 when the AFL and the CIO merged after a long estrangement.

- **Damon Silvers - Co-Director of Advocacy and Policy Section, AFL-CIO<sup>24</sup>**

He joined the AFL-CIO as associate general counsel in 1997.

Silvers serves on a pro bono basis as a special assistant attorney general for the state of New York.

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.pewresearch.org/about/>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.pewresearch.org/staff/bruce-stokes/>

<sup>23</sup> <https://aflcio.org/about>

<sup>24</sup> <https://aflcio.org/policy-experts/damon-silvers>



Silvers is also a member of the Investor Advisory Committee of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the Treasury Department's Financial Research Advisory Committee, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's Standing Advisory Group and its Investor Advisory Group.

Silvers served as the deputy chair of the Congressional Oversight Panel for the Troubled Asset Relief Program from 2008 to 2011. Between 2006 and 2008, Silvers served as the chair of the Competition Subcommittee of the U.S. Treasury Department Advisory Committee on the Auditing Profession and as a member of the Treasury Department Investor's Practice Committee of the President's Working Group on Financial Markets.

Prior to working for the AFL-CIO, Silvers worked for the Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers, the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and as a law clerk at the Delaware Court of Chancery for Chancellor William T. Allen and Vice-Chancellor Bernard Balick.

Silvers received his Juris Doctor with honors from Harvard Law School. He received his Master of Business Administration with high honors from Harvard Business School and is a Baker scholar. Silvers is a graduate of Harvard College, summa cum laude, and has studied history at King's College, Cambridge University.