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SPEAKER BIOS

Keith Brainard serves as Research Director for the National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA). He is the co-author of The Governmental Plans Answer Book, Third Edition, and created and maintains the Public Fund Survey. Additionally, he created the State & Local Pension Exchange and is a recipient of the Award for Excellence in Government Finance from the Government Finance Officers Association. He holds a B.A. and an M.P.A. from the University of Texas at Austin.

Senator William Cassidy is currently the United States Senator for Louisiana and has served since 2014. From 2008 to 2014, he represented Louisiana’s Sixth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2006, Sen. Cassidy was elected to the Louisiana State Senate. Sen. Cassidy grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and attended Louisiana State University (LSU) for his undergraduate studies and for Medical School.

Representative Joe Crowley is currently the United States Congressman for New York’s 14th Congressional District and serves as the Democratic Caucus Vice-Chairman of the United States House of Representatives. From 1993 to 2013, he served as the U.S. Congressman for New York’s 7th District. From 1987 to 1998 he served as a New York State Assemsman for the 30th District of New York. Rep. Crowley was born in New York City and graduated from Queens College with a degree in political science.

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Scott Evans is the Deputy Comptroller for Asset Management and Chief Investment Officer for the New York City Retirement System. Prior to his appointment, Evans was most recently Executive Vice President of TIAA-CREF and President of its Asset Management subsidiaries. In addition to his responsibilities to New York City, Evans currently serves as a member of the investment committees of the William T. Grant Foundation, Tufts University and the Dutch pension fund ABP. Additionally, he is a member of the IRS Foundation. He holds a CFA designation, earned an M.M. from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management, and holds a B.A. in economics from Tufts University.

Teresa Ghilarducci is the Bernard L. and Irene Schwartz Chair in economic policy analysis and directs the Schwartz Center for Economic Policy Analysis (SCEPA). She joined The New School in 2008 after 25 years as a professor of economics at the University of Notre Dame. She is the author of Rescuing Retirement, which is co-authored with Blackstone’s Tony James. Her previous books include How to Retire with Enough Money, When I’m Sixty-Four: The Plot Against Pensions and the Plan to Save Them, and Labor’s Capital: The Economics and Politics of Employer Pensions. Ghilarducci received her Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

Fiona Greig is the Director of Consumer Research for the JP Morgan Chase Institute. Previously, she served as the Deputy Budget Director for the City of Philadelphia from 2012 through 2014 and as an Adjunct Professor of Public Policy at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to that, Greig was a consultant at McKinsey & Company. She holds a B.A. from Stanford University and a Ph.D. in Public Policy from Harvard University.

Melissa Kahn is a Managing Director and Retirement Policy Strategist with State Street Global Advisors (SSGA). She is tasked with strengthening SSGA’s position as an advocate supporting retirement and pension related issues. She is focused on increasing SSGA’s engagement with key policy makers and leveraging these connections to inform future research projects. Prior to joining SSGA, Kahn established MUKAHL Associates, LLC, a benefits consulting firm. Kahn was also a vice president with MetLife for 12 years. She was based in MetLife’s Washington, DC Government Relations office. Kahn holds a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.A. from Cornell University.

SPEAKER BIOS

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Diane Oakley is the Executive Director of the National Institute on Retirement Security. Prior to joining NIRS, Oakley served as senior policy advisor to Congressman Earl Pomeroy, who represented the state of North Dakota and worked to achieve policy solutions on a range of tax, pension, Social Security, and workforce issues. Additionally, Oakley has held executive, leadership and technical positions with TIAA-CREF. She holds a B.S. degree from Fairfield University and an M.B.A. in Finance from Fordham University.

Helaine Olen is the author of Pound Foolish: Exposing the Dark Side of the Personal Finance Industry and the co-author of The Index Card: Why Personal Finance Doesn’t Have to Be Complicated. She also writes the personal finance column “Spread the Wealth” for Inc. As a regular contributor to Pacific Standard magazine and Reuters’ “The Great Debate” series, her work has been published in numerous print and online publications. Most recently she was a columnist at Slate. Olen graduated from Smith College and attended the University of Minnesota.

Councilwoman Cherelle L. Parker proudly serves the 9th Council District in Philadelphia. Prior to her election in November 2015, Councilwoman Parker served for 10 years as the State Representative for the 200th Legislative District in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, where she became the youngest African-American woman ever elected in September 2005. She has a B.S. degree from Lincoln University.

Brian Perlman serves as Senior Vice President, Financial Service Practice Lead for Greenwald & Todd. Prior to his 17-year tenure at Greenwald, he served as the Director of Research for the American Council of Life Insurers for over 10 years. Perlman has both CHFC and CLU designations and a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of New Hampshire.