

Taxpayers Regional Forum Zagreb, April 24-25th, 2017

Speakers



Scott Hennig

Vice President, Canadian Taxpayers Federation

A long-time CTF supporter, Scott worked as a speechwriter and public policy researcher with the Government Members' Research Branch in Edmonton before becoming the Alberta director. He served as the CTF's Alberta director from 2005 until 2012 when he was promoted to Vice President, Communications. He is a graduate of the University of Alberta where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics.

Scott previously served on the Fort Saskatchewan Minor Hockey Association Executive and the Fort Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Student Work Program Committee and is a founding and current member of the Fort Saskatchewan Urban Forest Committee. During the winter, Scott referees hockey in the Edmonton area.

Scott enjoys running, playing basketball, slo-pitch and golf, despite not being very good at any of them. Scott and his wife Stacey have two children and live in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.



Scott A. Hodge

President, Tax Foundation

Scott A. Hodge is president of the Tax Foundation in Washington, D.C., one of the most influential organizations on tax policy in Washington and in state capitals. During his 17 years leading the Tax Foundation, he has built the Tax Foundation's Taxes and Growth (TAG) Dynamic Modeling program which has normalized dynamic scoring as an accepted tool for analyzing tax policy. He also spearheaded the creation of the Tax Foundation's Center for State Tax Policy and the State Business Tax Climate Index, two programs that have spurred tax reform in dozens of states.

Hodge has appeared on over 600 radio and television programs—including NBC Nightly News, CBS Nightly News, CNN, Fox Network, Fox Business, and CNBC—and is frequently quoted in the print press by *The Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and numerous regional papers. He has edited three books on federal spending, published over 100 studies on a wide range of tax and budget issues, and authored dozens of op-eds for publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and the *New York Post*.



Davor Huić

President, Taxpayers Association Lipa

Davor is one of the founders and member of the board of Croatia's first tax payers' association Lipa – an influential think tank and grass root movement that changed Croatian public debate in the last two years.

Davor graduated at Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. He had a successful career as journalist and editor for the global news agency Reuters. Later he founded and managed one of Croatia's top 5 PR companies, Briefing komunikacije. During 2016 he was an internal policy adviser to the Prime Minister Tihomir Orešković.

Davor is a life-long classical liberal, expressing his opinions as a columnist in a daily newspaper Večernji list.



Michael Jäger

Secretary General, Taxpayers Association of Europe (TAE) since 1996

In 2011 becomes Chief Executive Manager (CEO) of the European Economic Senate, the network of leading corporates in Europe. Michael Jaeger is working for the Bavarian Taxpayers Association since 1991 and since October 2015 as its Vice-President.

He is an entrepreneur and consultant operating as a watchdog of taxpayers and fighting for less taxation, more individual freedom and free market economy.

Author of many publications, articles, statements and lectures in matters pertaining to taxation, public spending, agricultural and structural reforms, funds, deregulation, privatization and institutional reforms.



Troy Lanigan

President, Canadian Taxpayers Federation

Troy Lanigan was appointed president and CEO of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation January 1, 2009, after serving the organization in various capacities since 1992 including British Columbia spokesperson from 1993-1999.

Prior to the CTF, Troy worked for an educational foundation in the United States and experimented with – but never inhaled – partisan politics on both sides of the border.

To earn his degree in economics from the University of Victoria Troy spent summers working at the Kokanee beer plant in his home town of Creston, BC. When he wasn't on the bottle line he could be heard in the lunchroom arguing politics with his father who headed the union.

As organization president he has stepped back from media commentary but still writes and speaks at conferences at home and abroad. Troy is author of the 2015 released [Fighting for Taxpayers: Battles Fought and Battles Ahead](#) a book that chronicles campaigns led by the CTF over its 25 year history and highlights the public policy issues that will matter most to taxpayers going forward.

Since 2009 Troy has served on the board of the Stockholm Sweden-based [World Taxpayers Associations](#). In March 2016 Troy was elected Chairman of WTA for a three-year term by WTA members at the World Taxpayers Conference hosted in Berlin, Germany.

Troy enjoys travel, attempting to golf, [playing guitar](#) and participating in various athletic endeavours. Troy has completed six marathons and is a two-time finisher of Ironman Canada but more recently has taken up Crossfit as his current addiction. He and his wife Erika make their home in Victoria, they have four children.



Zoran Löw

Executive Manager, Croatian Taxpayers Association (Lipa)

Zoran Löw has a university degree in Economics and master degree in Information Sciences. Since 1991 he is in private business, being founder or co-founder of three information technology companies. During the years he specialized as a consultant in the complex business - information systems implementation.

Zoran is not a member of any political party and in Lipa is since its foundation. From April 2016 he is Lipa's executive manager. Zoran is a life-long classical liberal and libertarian.



Lorenzo Montanari

Director of the international advocacy & affairs at the Americans for Tax Reform (ATR)

Lorenzo Montanari is also Executive Director of the **Property Rights Alliance** (PRA) an advocacy group affiliated with ATR for the protection of physical and intellectual property rights, both domestically and internationally.

On the international stage, PRA works closely with famed property rights champion and President of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy (ILD) in Lima, Peru, Hernando de Soto and other 91 think tanks.

At Property Rights Alliance, he is in charge of publishing the [International Property Rights Index](#), an international comparative study focus on intellectual and physical property rights. He is also Private Chair at the International Relations Task Force at the **Americans Legislative Exchange Council** (ALEC).

Previously, Montanari worked for a public affairs firm and for the international department of the [GSPM/George Washington University](#) in Washington, DC as well as a political analyst and electoral observer in Latin America. Montanari holds a BA in Political Science, a MA in International Relations from the University of Bologna and MA in Political Management from the George Washington University. He collaborates with The Daily Caller and Forbes.



Tanja Porčnik

President, Visio Institute.

Tanja Porčnik is also an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute, and co-author of [The Human Freedom Index](#).

She was formerly a senior fellow at the Atlas Economic Research Foundation, a government teaching fellow at Georgetown University (through The Fund for American Studies), the president of the Svetilnik Association, and a research associate & manager of external relations at the Cato Institute. Her articles and opinion pieces on economics, international relations, and human rights appear regularly in printed media, and she is a frequent commentator on television and radio.

Porčnik is currently working on her PhD dissertation in American Studies. She received her master's degree in Political Science from the University of Ljubljana and her bachelor's degree in Applied Economics from the University of Maribor.



Adam Radman

Grassroots Campaigns Manager, Americans for Tax Reform

Adam Radman is the Grassroots Campaigns Manager at Americans for Tax Reform, where he handles digital advocacy and campaign outreach for the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, ATR's flagship project. In 2007, Adam cofounded the New Media Exchange (NME), a networking group of America's most prominent center-right digital strategists. Through his leadership on NME and nine years of managing digital communications for Americans for Tax Reform, Adam has become a leading voice in center-right American politics on digital strategy, advertising, and effective grassroots advocacy. Adam received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Politics from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.



Matthew Tyrmand

Deputy Director, American Transparency/OpenTheBooks.com.

Matthew Tyrmand grew up in Brooklyn, New York and after surviving the city's public school system he attended the University of Chicago. After graduating in 2003 he spent almost 10 years working on Wall Street as a hedge fund portfolio manager where he analyzed and traded healthcare and telecommunications stocks. After the 2008/2009 financial meltdown the financial markets became a far less gratifying place in which to be involved. In 2011 he left Wall Street and started his own consulting firm to help small and medium sized enterprises grow their businesses and in 2013 he joined a new 501c3 called American Transparency with the mission of putting all government spending online in one repository called OpenTheBooks.com. Since he joined founder and executive director Adam Andrzejewski in helping grow this entity, his roles have encompassed public relations, strategy, litigation analysis, development, fundraising, coalition building and many other ad hoc responsibilities. Matthew obtained Polish citizenship in 2011 and is active in Polish civil debate. His criticism of the corruption in Polish government has gotten much national press and he writes a column for the #2 Polish daily; *Superexpress*.



Aneta Vainė

Director of Development and Programs, Lithuanian Free Market Institute

Lithuanian Free Market Institute (LFMI) is a private Vilnius-based think-tank. In 2013 Aneta was appointed to strategically develop and manage LFMI's programs, foundation relations, and international partnerships. She first joined LFMI in 1994 and until 2004 served as the institute's project leader and senior policy analyst on the shadow economy, business deregulation, and corruption.

From 1999 until 2009 she served as national rapporteur on Lithuania's democratization for the Freedom House's Nations in Transit publication. Aneta authored research reports on Lithuania's investment climate, EU accession and the shadow economy for the World Bank, the European Commission and the Bertelsmann Foundation.

Aneta has developed and managed numerous national and international policy research, advocacy and education projects. She has played a key role in strengthening LFMI's international outreach and partnerships. She has also lectured on strategic management and fundraising. Aneta holds Master's degrees in English and economics from Vilnius University and a certificate in European studies from Surrey University, U.K.



Staffan Wennberg

Former President, World Taxpayers Associations (WTA)

Staffan Wennberg has worked as a media executive in Scandinavia, being a manager in Sweden and Scandinavia for major international publishers like Hachette, Sanoma, Bonniers and Torstar/Harlequin. He also has a background in journalism and a business degree from the University of Stockholm. He has been the marketing director for the Swedish Taxpayers Association, growing the member level to over 180,000. The last ten years he has volunteered his time as auditor of WTA, before being elected Chairman of the World Taxpayers Associations in 2014.

As such he wrote a monthly commentary on international events and with ideas and practical advice for the members and friends of the taxpayers' movement. He has until recently also been chairman of the Friends Association of the Museum Millesgarden in Stockholm. He speaks five languages, is married with two sons and three grandchildren.



David E. Williams

President, Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA).

TPA was founded in 2011 as a 501 (c) (4) nonprofit, educational and advocacy organization dedicated to educating the public through the research, analysis and dissemination of information on the government's effects on the economy. TPA through its network of taxpayers will hold politicians of both parties accountable for the effects of their policies on the size, scope, efficiency and activity of government and offer real solutions to runaway deficits and debt.

Mr. Williams is an expert on government waste and the budget process. His television appearances include: ABC News, CNN, and Fox News. He has also appeared on numerous local network affiliates. Mr. Williams has appeared on hundreds of radio talk shows from coast to coast, including WBZ in Boston, WGN in Chicago, KABC in Los Angeles, WCBS in New York, and WOAI in San Antonio.

Mr. Williams has testified numerous times on government waste issues before committees of the United States Senate and House of Representatives. During his 24 years in Washington, DC, Mr. Williams has been instrumental in the development of strict criteria to define pork-barrel spending that is used by members of Congress and the media.

Mr. Williams has traveled to Jamaica, South Korea, and Ukraine to help establish groups similar to TPA in those countries. Mr. Williams has also traveled to Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, China, France, the Republic of Georgia, Lithuania, Romania, Uganda, and Ukraine to advise taxpayer and free market groups.

Mr. Williams has a Masters of Art in Political Science from Villanova University, and a Bachelor of Science in Telecommunications from Kutztown University.