

Taxpayers Regional Forum

Chisinau, March 28th&29th, 2019

Speakers



Daniel Bunn

Director of Global Projects, Tax Foundation

Daniel Bunn researches international tax issues with a focus on tax policy in Europe.

Prior to joining the Tax Foundation, Daniel worked in the United States Senate at the Joint Economic Committee as part of Senator Mike Lee's (R-UT) Social Capital Project and on the policy staff for both Senator Lee and Senator Tim Scott (R-SC). In his time in the Senate, Daniel developed legislative initiatives on tax, trade, regulatory, and budget policy.

He has a master's degree in Economic Policy from Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from North Greenville University in South Carolina.

Daniel lives in Halethorpe, Maryland, with his wife and their three children.



Andreas Hellmann

Program Manager, Americans for Tax Reform

Andreas Hellmann is a Program Manager at Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), a Washington, D.C. based taxpayer advocacy and policy research organization founded in 1985 by Grover Norquist.

His focus are issues of international taxation like the digital services tax. He is also responsible for building coalitions with a focus on Europe. You can follow him on Twitter @ahellmann or reach him by email at ahellmann@atr.org.



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*.



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.



Brent Lowder

Volunteer Faculty, Leadership Institute

Brent Lowder has over 21 years of experience working in the national and California political arenas. During this time, he has served in senior positions on several national and state political campaigns, led the largest state Republican Party in the country for four years, and helped run the most successful national Super PAC of the 2016 Presidential election cycle. Brent also has a successful track record in the financial sector, working for one of the world's most prestigious investment banks.

During the 2016 election cycle, Brent served as Executive Director of Great America PAC ("GAP"), the largest and most successful Pro-Trump Super PAC. During his tenure, GAP raised and spent nearly \$30 million in support of Donald Trump's candidacy, broadcasting more than 20,000 TV spots and 300,000 radio ads, placing over 30 million phone calls, and sending over 2.5 million pieces of mail. All of this was bolstered by the national file of 30 million active, engaged Trump supporters across the country, that was built in the 10 months leading up to the election. In addition to helping run the day-to-day operations, Brent also served as GAP's lead media consultant, developing and overseeing all elements of the paid media strategy and execution.

From 2009-2013, Brent served as the Executive Director of the California Republican Party ("CRP") and directed the day-to-day operations from their offices in Sacramento, CA. With over 5.23 million Republicans in the state, the CRP raised and spent over \$37 million and executed one of the most extensive voter contact programs in its history during Brent's tenure.

In 2007, Brent served as the California Executive Director for the Rudy Giuliani Presidential Committee. In this role he managed a campaign team of 20 political, finance and communications staff and directed the daily operations of the state campaign. Brent developed and executed a fundraising plan that raised \$7.72 million for the campaign, which represented 13% of the funds raised nationally and the second highest producing statewide effort for the committee.

Prior to joining the Giuliani campaign, Brent worked as an investment banker in the New York and San Francisco offices of Morgan Stanley. While at the firm his public finance team senior managed over \$3 billion of municipal bond financings across the country, including transactions for the States of California, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Virginia.

From 2001-2002, Brent served as a senior advisor to Bill Simon during his campaign for governor of California. In this position he directed a campaign team and traveled with Mr. Simon on a daily basis to all events to advise him on upcoming appearances, press developments, local political issues, speeches and messaging strategy. Prior to this effort, Mr. Lowder worked on local races in the 2000 election cycle, on California State Treasurer Matt Fong's campaign for U.S. Senate from 1997-1998 and on Governor Pete Wilson's political committee from 1994-1996.

Brent currently serves as President of Apex Strategy Group, a Public Affairs and Political Consulting Firm based in Sacramento, California. He was born and raised in northern California and graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with bachelor's degree in History. Brent and his wife Shanna live with their two children in El Dorado Hills, California.



Christopher Lingle

Professor of Economics, Universidad Francisco Marroquin

Christopher LINGLE earned a doctorate in economics from the University of Georgia in 1977. Since then, he has been employed at universities in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and USA.

He is a passionate supporter of human creativity and volunteer actions that lead to social harmony. To this end, he travels relentlessly to anywhere in the globe to engage in discussions on the merits of institutions and public policy with respect to their impact on human liberty and personal dignity.

Currently, he is Visiting Professor of Economics in the Escuela de Negocios at Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala (since 1998), Adjunct Scholar at the Centre for Independent Studies (Sydney), Research Scholar at the Centre for Civil Society (New Delhi), International Political Economic Advisor for the Asian Institute for Diplomacy and International Affairs (AIDIA – Kathmandu) and Member of the Academic Advisory Council of the Globalization Institute (Brussels).

Previous academic positions include: Visiting Fellow in the Department of Management of City University in Hong Kong (February to March 2010); Visiting Professor at Institute of

International Studies, Ramkhamhaeng University in Bangkok (2008 to 2009); Adjunct Professor of Economics, Georgetown University (July 2004); Visiting Associate Professor of Economics, Case Western Reserve University (1996 to 1998); Visiting Scholar—Emory University & Adjunct Professor of Economics—Georgia State University (January 1995 to August 1996); Senior Fellow, European Studies Program, National University of Singapore (September 1993 to November 1994); Associate Professor of Economics, Loyola University (New Orleans); Associate Professor of Economics, Miami University, European Center, Luxembourg and Oxford, Ohio (1981 to 1984 and 1989 to 1991), Adjunct Professor, *Departement de Droit et des Sciences économiques, Centre Universitaire de Luxembourg* (1989-91); Visiting Foreign Expert in Economics, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics (February to May 1987); Lecturer and Senior Lecturer—University of Natal, South Africa (1984-90); Assistant Professor of Economics, Auburn University (1978); Assistant Professor of Economics, West Georgia College (1977).

Dr. LINGLE's research interests are in the areas of Political Economy and International Economics with a focus on emerging market economies and public policy reform in East and Central Europe, East Asia, Latin America, and Southern Africa. His work has appeared as chapters in books, the international media, and scholarly journals, including the *American Economic Review*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Journal for Studies in Economics and Econometrics*, *Kyklos*, and *Pacific Review*.

His book on the political economy of Singapore's development was entitled, *Singapore's Authoritarian Capitalism: Asian Values, Free Market Illusions, and Political Dependency* (1996). He is widely credited with anticipating the turmoil in the East Asian economies that began in 1997 (*The Rise and Decline of the 'Asian Century': False Starts on the Road to the 'Global Millennium'*, May 1997).



Daniel J. Mitchell

Founder, Center for Freedom and Prosperity

Dan Mitchell is a public policy economist in Washington, DC. His major research interests include tax reform, international tax competition, the economic burden of government spending, and other fiscal policy issues. He is one of the nation's leading experts on the flat tax, and has been the leading international voice in the fight to preserve tax competition, financial privacy, and fiscal sovereignty. He has decades of experience authoring papers, writing editorials, working with the public policy community, and presenting the free-market viewpoint to newspaper, television, and radio media.

Dan was a Senior Fellow with the Cato Institute for 11 years and spent nearly 17 years as an economist at the Heritage Foundation. Earlier in his career, he served as an economist for Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon and was Director of Tax and Budget Policy for Citizens for a Sound Economy. For more than three years in the mid-1990s, Dan began every day by co-hosting the morning show on NET, the Political NewsTalk Network. The program, "Mitchells in the Morning," was available in more than 10 million households, and featured in-depth discussion of current events with elected

officials, journalists, pollsters, authors, and public policy experts.

A prolific writer, Dan is the author of *The Flat Tax: Freedom, Fairness, Jobs, and Growth* and co-author of *Global Tax Revolution*. In addition, Dan's work has been published in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Times*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *National Review*, *Villanova Law Review*, *Journal of Regulation and Social Cost*, *Forbes*, *Emory Law Journal*, *Public Choice*, *Journal of Financial Crime*, *Foreign Policy*, *Pace Law Review*, *USA Today*, *Offshore Investment*, *Playboy*, *Investor's Business Daily*, *Worldwide Reinsurance Review*, and the *International Tax Planning Association's Yearbook*. He has appeared on all the major networks, including CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN, FOX, CNBC, and C-SPAN.

Dan is also an accomplished public speaker, and has spoken to a wide variety of groups in dozens of cities and more than 50 foreign countries. Audiences have included the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Bermuda International Business Association, the Business Roundtable, the Lithuanian Free Market Institute, the National Federation of Independent Business, the Swiss Bankers Association, the National Association of Manufacturers, and dozens of other groups and organizations.

Dan founded the Center for Freedom and Prosperity, an organization formed to protect international tax competition. He also serves on the editorial board of the *Cayman Financial Review*. Born in Mt. Kisco, NY, Dan Mitchell holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Georgia and holds a Ph.D. in economics from George Mason University.



Ronald Nehring

Director of International Training, Leadership Institute

Ron Nehring, Director of International Training at The Leadership Institute, is a Republican strategist and communications expert who served as National Spokesman in the 2016 Presidential campaign of Senator Ted Cruz.

Prior to stepping onto the national stage in 2016, Ron was elected the Republican nominee for Lt. Governor of California, earning the support of the California Republican Party, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, the National Rifle Association, the California Republican Assembly, and more than 3 million voters.

Ron's parents came to America from Europe as immigrants in 1961. Ron's father traveled the world as a sailor from 1954 to 1960, and of all the countries he saw, he decided along with Ron's mother to move to the United States and raise their new family in freedom. They arrived in New York without knowing a word of English -- they learned the language by watching cartoons and commercials on television.

Ron's mother and father never had the opportunity to attend college, but they insisted he get a college education. Ron attended the State University of New York at Stony Brook and in 1992, he became the first member of his family to earn a university degree.

As a communicator and Republican Party Chairman, Ron Nehring has made the advancement of the principles of effective and limited government, individual liberty and freedom his life's work. These are the principles that produce prosperity wherever they are tried around the world.

A former Chairman of the California Republican Party, Nehring inherited an organization millions of dollars in debt and ensured that upon leaving office all bills were paid, there was no debt, and a substantial cash reserve in the bank. Financial controls were improved and a professional staff put in place.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed him to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in 2005 in the aftermath of the Cedar Fire, the largest and most destructive wildfire in American history. During his tenure, Ron participated in the development of new regulations to improve management of lands and property to reduce wildfire threats to families and communities.

He served as a Trustee for the Grossmont Union High School District in San Diego County – a large district with 11 high schools, 24,000 students at the time and a budget in excess of \$170 million. He chaired the Audit Committee and was a strong proponent of expanding charter schools.

To promote the principles of democracy and liberty around the world, he has served as a volunteer expert lecturer and trainer in the areas of governance and communications for government officials and candidates in regions including Bosnia, Serbia, Morocco, Egypt, Guatemala, and Iraq. He has served as an international election observer in Kenya and Honduras.



John O'Connell

Chief Executive, Taxpayers' Alliance

John O'Connell joined the TPA as an intern in 2009. Since then he has worked at every level of the organisation which made him uniquely qualified to become Chief Executive beginning August 2016.

As a researcher, and later Research Director, he wrote major reports for the TPA on quangos, government capital procurement, regional business policy and local government pensions. He co-authored the influential paper *How to Save £50 Billion: reducing spending for sustainable public finances*, released in conjunction with the Institute of Directors. He also uncovered how local councils were spending Preventing Violent Extremism grants, finding more detailed information than could be gathered by Parliamentary Questions.

John oversaw the work of the 2020 Tax Commission. He also wrote and edited several sections of its final report, *The Single Income Tax*, which won the Templeton Freedom Award from the Atlas Network.

John frequently represents the TPA on television and radio, including prominent appearances on flagship broadcast programmes and documentaries. He also regularly speaks for the TPA at events, delivering speeches on the TPA's campaigns and research. In April 2012 John completed the Think Tank MBA in America, an intensive training course offered by the Atlas Network. He has a BA from Nottingham Trent University and an MSc from University College London.



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.



Anders Ydstedt

Advisor, Scantech Strategy Advisors

Anders Ydstedt is an advisor at Scantech Strategy Advisors to Major Swedish industry and business organizations. He is also an entrepreneur, author and chairman of [Svensk Tidskrift](#), a weekly journal of politics, economics and culture, founded in 1911.

Ydstedt has previously written books about taxation, the importance of free mobility, the importance of private ownership and recently about how high tax Sweden got rid of the inheritance tax (2015).