Speaker Biographies

Ian Adams, associate vice president of state affairs, R Street Institute

Ian Adams is associate vice president of state affairs with the R Street Institute, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, public policy research organization (“think tank”). R Street’s mission is to engage in policy research and outreach to promote free markets and limited, effective government.

An attorney by training, Ian is responsible for coordinating R Street's outreach and engagement at the state and local level. He also is involved in the institute’s insurance research, matters related to next-generation transportation and is a frequent commentator on the disruptive impact of burgeoning technologies on law and regulation.

Curt Augustine, regional vice president of government affairs, Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

Curt Augustine is the Regional Vice President of Government Affairs for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, an association of 12 domestic and foreign vehicle manufacturers which produce 75 percent of the cars sold in the United States. Curt serves as the Alliance’s chief representative before policymakers and is responsible for formulating policy-based strategies to respond to legislative and regulatory issues. Curt has over 25 years of experience around state government in both the public and private sectors. Previously, he served as Deputy Legislative Secretary to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Additionally, Curt served for eight years in the Wilson Administration at the Department of Consumer Affairs and was the head of a non-profit association tasked with workforce development for the construction industry.

David Grow, counsel, State Farm

David Grow is government affairs Counsel for State Farm, where he’s worked for 15 years, handling 10 different states. He’s currently based in Sacramento, California, and has been managing State Farm’s involvement with the California DMV’s draft autonomous vehicles regulations. He is a graduate of Brigham Young University and University of Minnesota Law School.
Dan Mahaffee, senior vice president, director of policy, Center for the Study of the Presidency & Congress

Mr. Mahaffee manages CSPC’s policy programs, and serves as corporate secretary to the 35-member Board of Trustees. Mr. Mahaffee is responsible for the Center’s research and policy prioritization, and develops op-eds, essays, and presentations regarding CSPC’s policy programs—including cybersecurity, technology policy, international relations, government procurement, and political reform initiatives. In addition to his responsibilities at CSPC, he is a director at the Chicago-area Dr. Scholl Foundation.

He holds a MA in Security Studies with a concentration in U.S. Defense Policy from Georgetown University, and a BA in Government, with minors in History and Mandarin Chinese, also from Georgetown. He also studied at the East China Normal University in Shanghai, China. As a 2008-2009 CSPC Presidential Fellow, he examined and compared the ratification efforts of the Versailles and North Atlantic Treaties. Mr. Mahaffee previously served as an intern for Representative Mark Kirk (IL-10).

Adrian Moore, vice president of policy, Reason Foundation

Adrian Moore, Ph.D., is vice president of policy at Reason Foundation, a non-profit think tank advancing free minds and free markets. Moore leads Reason’s policy implementation efforts and conducts his own research on topics such as privatization, government and regulatory reform, air quality, transportation and urban growth, prisons and utilities.

Moore, who has testified before Congress on several occasions, regularly advises federal, state and local officials on ways to streamline government and reduce costs. In 2008 and 2009, Moore served on Congress' National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission.

Mr. Moore earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Irvine. He holds a Master's in Economics from the University of California, Irvine and a Master's in History from California State University, Chico.

Chris Murphy, regional administrator, region 9, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Chris Murphy is the Administrator for the Region 9 Office of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in Sacramento, CA. States and Territories that fall under his responsibility are California, Arizona, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Prior to his Region 9 assignment, Chris was the Region 7 Administrator, where he oversaw highway safety programs for Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, and Arkansas. Murphy serves as the federal representative for the administration in providing numerous services to its States and Territories, as well as other public and private sector customers to include technical assistance, administering the agency's grant fund programs, assisting in coalition building, and delivering training.

Prior to NHTSA, Murphy lead the largest Highway Safety Office in the nation, as he was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2005 and Governor Brown in 2013 to serve as the Governor’s Highway Safety Representative and Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. In this position, he was responsible for the administration and distribution of more than $85 million annually in traffic safety grants.
Glenn Nye, president and chief executive officer, Center for the Study of the Presidency & Congress

Rep. Glenn C Nye III is the President & CEO of the Center for the Study of the Presidency & Congress (CSPC), a nonpartisan think tank aiming to educate future public policy leaders while serving as an honest broker between the White House, Congress and Private Sector.

Nye is a former Member of Congress who bridges the public policy and technology communities. He served Virginia’s Second Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives where he distinguished himself as a bipartisan legislator, ranking among the top-10 most independent voting members.

After serving in Congress, Nye became an advisor to technology companies, acting as liaison between executives and policymakers in the areas of data analysis and the personal data economy. Previous to his career as an elected official, Nye served as a U.S. diplomat in the State Department and USAID in the Balkans, Southeast Asia, Afghanistan and the Middle East.

Ray Traynor, director of operations, San Diego Association of Governments

Ray Traynor serves as Director of Operations of the SANDAG’s toll operations; information technology; intelligent transportation systems; and transportation demand management programs.

Ray is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day activities of SANDAG’s toll operations which includes the South Bay Expressway and the Interstate 15 Express Lanes; and is responsible for directing the activities of the San Diego Autonomous Vehicle Proving Ground.

Prior to joining SANDAG in 2012, Ray, served as Vice President General Manager of Axiom xCell, a software development company, where he managed all aspects of the business. Prior to joining Axiom xCell, Ray served as SANDAG’s Manager of Mobility which included overseeing the Interstate 15 Express Lanes toll operations and intelligent transportation systems programs.

Ray holds a Master’s degree in Business Administration (M.B.A.) from San Diego State University, and a Bachelor’s degree in Landscape Architecture from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Adam Thierer, senior research fellow, Technology and Policy Program, Mercatus Center

Adam Thierer is a Senior Research Fellow with the Technology Policy Program at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. He specializes in technology, media, Internet, and free-speech policies, with a particular focus on online safety and digital privacy.

Thierer has authored or edited eight books on topics ranging from media regulation and child safety issues to the role of federalism in high-technology markets. His latest book is Permissionless Innovation: The Continuing Case for Comprehensive Technological Freedom. He contributes to the Technology Liberation Front, a leading tech policy blog. Thierer has served on several distinguished online safety task forces, including Harvard University’s Internet Safety Technical Task Force and the federal government’s Online Safety Technology Working Group.

Previously, Thierer was president of the Progress & Freedom Foundation, director of telecommunications studies at the Cato Institute, and a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation. Thierer received his MA in international business management and trade theory at the University of Maryland and his BA in journalism and political philosophy from Indiana University.
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