Monday, August 7, 2017
Primary Permutations & Politics: Continuing Legal Education Session
1:30-2:45 p.m., Room 257B

**Moderator: Senator Daniel A. Ivey-Soto, New Mexico**

Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto serves the 15th District in New Mexico, just one of his roles as a lifelong public servant. Besides his legislative duties, Senator Ivey-Soto serves as executive director for New Mexico’s County Clerks and is a professional registered parliamentarian. Earlier in his career he has served as state elections director, prosecutor, and teacher. He is also a successful entrepreneur, having started and grown two small businesses focused on helping others and improving communities. Senator Ivey-Soto brings a uniquely broad set of experiences to the Roundhouse (the name for New Mexico’s legislative building). Over the past few years, he has written over a dozen bills that have passed the Legislature and all legislative work to date has been based on a philosophy of good government and accountability. He received his Masters in Business Administration and Juris Doctorate degree from the University of New Mexico.

**Panelist: Representative Mark A. Pody, Tennessee**

Representative Mark A. Pody is the state representative serving the 46th District in Tennessee. He was first elected in 2010. In this role, he is a member of the House Consumer & Human Resource Subcommittee and the House Insurance and Banking Committee. He is vice chair of the House Consumer and Human Resource Committee. Representative Pody is currently seeking the office of District 17 state senator, which includes serving six counties. The election is in 2018. In private life, he is an insurance agent with Nationwide Insurance with offices in Lebanon, Murfreesboro and Knoxville, Tennessee.

**Panelist: Dr. Charles Bullock III, University of Georgia**

Charles Bullock III is the Richard B. Russell Professor of Political Science and Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor at the University of Georgia. Bullock is the author, co-author, editor or co-editor of more than 30 books and more than 250 articles. Among his books are *Redistricting: The Most Political Activity in America, Georgia’s Three Governors Controversy and The Rise and Fall of the Voting Rights Act*. He is past president of the Georgia and Southern Political Science Associations. He is a frequent source for domestic and foreign journalists. Most recently he has focused his research on primary runoffs—history, politics and results.
Panelist: Elaine Kamarck, Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

Elaine Kamarck is a senior fellow in the Governance Studies program as well as the director of the Center for Effective Public Management at the Brookings Institution. She is an expert on American electoral politics. Additionally, she studies government innovation and reform in the United States, European nations and developing countries. She focuses her research on the presidential nomination system and American politics and has worked in many American presidential campaigns. Kamarck conducts research on 21st century government, the role of the internet in political campaigns, homeland defense, intelligence reorganization and governmental reform and innovation. Kamarck makes regular appearances in the media, including segments on: ABC, CBS, NBC, BBC, CNN, Fox News Now, New England Cable News and National Public Radio.

Panelist: John Opdycke, Open Primaries, New York

John Opdycke is the president of Open Primaries. Prior to that, he served as director of development of Independentvoting.org, a think tank and strategy center for the independent political movement. In 2009, Opdycke launched an effort to focus attention on Independentvoting.org’s legal, legislative and grassroots efforts to enact and protect open and nonpartisan primaries. In 2014, Opdycke partnered with philanthropist John Arnold to expand that effort into a national campaign for more open primary systems. He has appeared on Fox News and NBC, and his written commentaries on independent politics and electoral reform have appeared in USA Today and numerous local publications.