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Speaker Biographies



Christopher Bennett is a partner at Pennsylvania member firm Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, where he focuses his practice on the hospitality and gaming industries. Prior to joining the firm, he spent 16 years at global hotel management company Interstate Hotels & Resorts, which manages more than 450 hotels across North America, Europe, and Asia. Mr. Bennett was chief administrative officer and general counsel of Interstate, overseeing all of Interstate's legal affairs. He also oversaw its human resources department with its 33,000 global associates, served as managing director of the company's international portfolio, and oversaw the company's public relations team. A graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, Mr. Bennett is also a certified public accountant.

Kevin Burke joined Airports Council International – North America in January 2014 as president and chief executive officer. Prior to assuming his current position, he served for 13 years as president and CEO of the American Apparel & Footwear Association, growing its member programs, financial position, and standing on Capitol Hill. With more than 30 years of experience as a government relations professional, Mr. Burke previously led government relations efforts for Food Distributors International, the American Bakers Association, and the National Association of Broadcasters. He also was legislative assistant and later press secretary to Representative Norm Lent (R-NY). He began his career in 1979 at the Republican National Committee and the Reagan-Bush presidential campaign. Mr. Burke received a master's degree in public administration from American University and has a bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Brockport.

Drew Derco is an associate at Pennsylvania member firm Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, where he counsels U.S. and foreign airlines on aviation regulatory and policy matters before a number of federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Transportation Security Administration, the National Transportation Safety Board, and the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. He handles all phases of the airline start-up process and assists foreign airlines with the launch of U.S. service, both for first-time entrants into the U.S. marketplace and for existing carriers already serving the U.S. He also assists U.S. and foreign carrier clients in obtaining permit, exemption, and code-share authority from DOT's Office of International Aviation and negotiates airport lease and use agreements. Mr. Derco specializes in providing practical and creative solutions for clients and offers broad-based experience with DOT's Consumer Protection regime and its regulation prohibiting discrimination against passengers with disabilities in air travel. He is a graduate of The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law.

Brian Frosh is the 46th Attorney General of Maryland. Under his leadership, Maryland became the first state in the nation to issue guidance prohibiting discriminatory profiling by law enforcement. The Attorney General's guidance declares definitively that race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability and religion cannot be factors in routine police activity. Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Frosh served in the Maryland General Assembly for 28 years, including 12 as chairman of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, where he led the effort to pass gun-safety legislation that has been called some of the toughest and most effective in the nation. He also increased protections for victims of domestic violence and expanded the state's DNA database to help police catch criminals. A graduate of Wesleyan University, he received his law degree from Columbia Law School. Prior to being elected Attorney General, he had been in private law practice since 1976.

Greg Garcia is executive vice president of Signal Group Consulting, where he leads its cybersecurity practice. Most recently, he was executive director of the Financial Services Sector Coordinating Council, an official industry partner with the government developing policy and operational strategy for the security and resiliency of the financial system against cyber-attacks and other threats. Prior to FSSCC, Mr. Garcia was a senior executive leading Bank of America's external strategy for cybersecurity and identity management. He was appointed by President George W. Bush as the nation's first assistant secretary for cybersecurity and communications at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Earlier in his career, Mr. Garcia served on the House Science Committee staff, where he shepherded enactment of the Cyber Security Research and Development Act of 2002.

Matthew "Matt" Gardner is of counsel at District of Columbia member firm Wiley Rein, where he focuses his practice on defending criminal and civil government enforcement actions, managing internal investigations regarding data breaches, and providing advice and litigation assistance on cybersecurity issues. As a former federal prosecutor, Mr. Gardner has practical experience in complex investigative and enforcement matters, which allows him to help limit his clients' risk and liability. His experience conducting numerous jury trials allows him to develop an effective litigation strategy to achieve his clients' goals. He previously served as assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia (2012-2015) and the Southern District of California (2004-2006, 2008-2012) and was recognized by *The National Law Journal* in 2015 as one of the nation's top "Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Trailblazers." Mr. Gardner is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center.

Alina Gorokhovskiy is chief marketing officer at District of Columbia member firm Wiley Rein. She has more than 20 years of U.S. and international experience building and leading marketing and business development teams, developing and executing global strategic plans, managing law firm mergers and acquisitions, and designing brand campaigns and marketing programs. As one of the legal industry's first chief strategy officers, Ms. Gorokhovskiy is considered to be a tactical thought leader skilled in identifying opportunities for significant return on investment through new products and services, focused client outreach campaigns, and strategies linked to metrics-driven branding, business development, social media, digital marketing, public relations, and community engagement efforts. Working globally, she has managed large-scale projects, complex client engagements, and facilitated more than 200 corporate and law firm strategy retreats, public policy conferences, and business development events. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Gorokhovskiy was chief strategy officer for McKenna Long & Aldridge. She began her career in the legal industry as a business development director for Baker & McKenzie over 19 years ago.

Ambassador David Gross is a partner at District of Columbia member firm Wiley Rein, where he co-chairs the firm's telecommunications, media and technology practice. He is one of the world's foremost experts on international telecommunications and Internet policies, having addressed the United Nations General Assembly and led more U.S. delegations to major international telecommunications conferences than anyone in modern history. Noted as bringing "innovation and vision to the rapidly changing TMT industry" by *Who's Who Legal*, Ambassador Gross draws on more than 30 years of experience as a lawyer, global policymaker, and corporate executive to assist U.S. companies seeking to enter or expand international businesses. He also advises non-U.S. companies and industry organizations seeking to invest in, monitor, and understand the U.S. and international markets, as well as national governments. Ambassador Gross advises companies and others on international and domestic telecoms, Internet, and high-tech strategy, focusing on specific markets and international organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, as well as many regional organizations. He is a graduate of Columbia Law School.

Andrew "Andy" Harris, M.D. is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Maryland's 1st congressional district. The son of immigrants who fled communist Eastern Europe immediately after World War II, he has spent a lifetime serving his neighbors, country and community. Whether it was as a physician at Johns Hopkins Hospital, as a medical officer in the Naval Reserve, as a hard-working state senator, or now as Congressman, Dr. Harris has made a life of serving others. Born in Brooklyn, he studied medicine at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, where he continued to practice as an anesthesiologist for over three decades. Answering a recruitment call during the Reagan administration to fill a critical need for anesthesiologists in the Naval Reserve, Dr. Harris volunteered to serve in the military as a medical specialist. He went on to establish and command the Johns Hopkins Medical Naval Reserve Unit. In 1990, his unit was called up to active duty in Operation Desert Shield (and later Operation Desert Storm), caring for active duty military, veterans, and POWs at Bethesda Naval Hospital. He ultimately reached the rank of Commander. In Congress, Dr. Harris serves on the Appropriations Committee and its subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; and Homeland Security.

Angela Humphreys is a partner at Tennessee member firm Bass Berry & Sims, where she also chairs its healthcare practice group. With more than 20 years of experience, she has counseled national healthcare organizations on hundreds of transactions in the healthcare industry, including hospitals and health systems, health plans, surgery centers, physician practice management companies, laboratories and healthcare information technology companies, among others. She also leads interdisciplinary teams to provide clients with solutions to the operational and regulatory issues they face while working within an ever-changing, complex regulatory environment. Ms. Humphreys is a Fellow of the Nashville Health Care Council and past director of Leadership Health Care. She also currently serves as chair of the healthcare M&A committee and vice chair of the health law and life sciences committee of the American Bar Association business law section. She received her J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law.

Jeff Markey is managing director of advocacy at Signal Consulting Group, where he is charged with leveraging the complementary expertise of its practices to drive client initiatives from inception to success. Since 2003, Mr. Markey has worked across Signal's client base to advance its growth into a multi-faceted firm with three diverse business units and a collaborative core. In addition to guiding high level strategy for Signal, his hands-on approach makes him a key figure in managing a large number of its transportation, energy and public sector clients. Prior to joining Signal, Mr. Markey's role as deputy chief of staff to former Congressman Doc Hastings (R-WA), legislative director to former Congressman Jack Metcalf (R-WA) and his experience with Senator John Seymour (R-CA) and the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs at the U.S. Department of State helped shape him into the dexterous policy strategist behind many of Signal's clients' successes. Mr. Markey earned his master's degree in international affairs at American University, is a graduate of the United States Air Force Air Command and Staff College and holds a bachelor's degree from The Catholic University of America.

Kirk Nahra is a partner at District of Columbia member firm Wiley Rein, where he specializes in privacy and information security litigation and counseling, along with a variety of healthcare, insurance fraud, and compliance issues. He assists companies in a wide range of industries in analyzing and implementing the requirements of privacy and security laws across the country and internationally. He also works with insurers and healthcare industry participants in developing compliance programs and defending against government investigations into their practices. A long-time member of the board of directors of the International Association of Privacy Professionals, he is the editor of *The Privacy Advisor*, IAPP's monthly newsletter. He was named co-chair of the Confidentiality, Privacy, and Security Workgroup, a panel of government and private sector privacy and security experts advising the American Health Information Community on privacy and security issues arising from health information technology. Mr. Nahra is a graduate of Harvard Law School.

Craig Newman is a partner at New York City member firm Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler and a recognized leader in both complex financial litigation and global cybersecurity. As a seasoned litigation partner and former general counsel at both a multibillion dollar international private equity firm and a Fortune 500-owned media consortium, Mr. Newman is steeped in key issues currently facing global organizations and often fills the role of senior outside advisor to his clients. He also chairs the firm's privacy and data security practice, is a founding contributor to the firm's data security blog, and was recognized by *The National Law Journal* as one of 2015's "Cybersecurity & Data Privacy Trailblazers." His practice focuses on litigation involving sophisticated financial products, including swaps and derivatives, special litigation committee and board investigations, advising boards and organizations on cybersecurity, including data breach preparedness and cyber insurance assessment, and representing public, private and nonprofit institutions victimized by data breaches. Mr. Newman graduated from University of Detroit School of Law.

David Poisson became CEO of SCG Legal in 2011. Previously, he was of counsel to the law firm of Howe Anderson & Steyer in Washington, DC. He was elected in 2005 to the first of two terms in the Virginia General Assembly, where he served as deputy House minority whip. Mr. Poisson was also legislative director and chief counsel to the late Senator Terry Sanford of North Carolina and later served as chief of staff and counsel to then-Representative, now Senate minority whip, Richard Durbin of Illinois. He received his Ph.D. and J.D. from the University of Arizona and his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Alan Price is a partner at District of Columbia member firm Wiley Rein, where he represents clients in high-profile, complex international trade regulatory matters, including trade litigation involving public and government relations issues. In addition to being chair of the firm's international trade practice, he heads the firm's antidumping and countervailing duty practice. He also counsels clients on bilateral and multilateral agreements, trade legislation, customs regulation, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act compliance issues, escape clause investigations, and World Trade Organization dispute resolution. Regularly rated by *Chambers USA* as one of the nation's "leading lawyers" in his field, Mr. Price "gets solid results consistently" (2016) and is a "highly active adviser" (2013), commended for his "big-picture oriented approach" (2014). Clients have described him as "an excellent professional, very knowledgeable, and with vast experience in the field" (*Chambers USA* 2012), and as "a 'go to' lawyer" who is "knowledgeable, efficient and client focused" (*The Legal 500 US* 2013). He is a graduate of The George Washington University Law School.

Bennett Ross is a partner at District of Columbia member firm Wiley Rein. With more than 20 years of experience in the communications industry, Mr. Ross is a trusted advisor to telecommunications carriers, equipment manufacturers, technology companies, and other clients seeking to navigate the complexities of the U.S. communications regulatory regime. He represents clients in litigation matters in the federal courts as well as before the Federal Communications Commission and state public service commissions. His administrative experience includes representing clients in rulemakings, enforcement proceedings, and transactions involving regulated entities. Mr. Ross also prepares and negotiates commercial agreements in the communications industry, providing regulatory, compliance, and commercial advice. He is a graduate of Vanderbilt University Law School.