



# CENTER for DEMOCRACY & ELECTION MANAGEMENT

SCHOOL of PUBLIC AFFAIRS ★ AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

## Biographies of Presenters Election Management Training Institute June 16-26, 2008

### **Ammar Al-Dwaik,**

#### **Former Chief Electoral Officer, Palestinian Central Elections Commission**

Ammar Al-Dwaik is the former Chief Electoral Officer of the Palestinian Central Elections Commission (CEC) from 2004-2006. During his term as a CEO, Al-Dwaik led the CEC executive body during the Palestinian presidential elections of 2005 and the legislative elections of 2006. Al-Dwaik is a lawyer and professional in legal drafting. He drafted and co-drafted many laws, draft laws, and by-laws, including the Palestinian Local Elections Law and a proposed unified elections law. Before the CEC, Al-Dwaik worked in the Human Rights field, where he served as the technical director of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizen's Rights. Al-Dwaik holds a Masters in Law and Government from American University and he is currently perusing a PhD in social policy at Brandeis University.

### **Rafiah Al-Talei**

#### **Journalist**

Rafiah Al-Talei is an experienced Omani journalist, specializing in civil rights, women's issues, and political developments in the Middle East. She has worked as an Editor-in-Chief of Oman's only bilingual women's magazine. Al-Talei is a former candidate for Oman's parliament, the *Majlis Al-Shura* and a frequent spokesperson on civil and women's rights in the region, including Gulf countries. She has been a frequent commentator on different Arabic TVs and Radios and has attended many conferences and workshops related to media and women rights in the Gulf and Yemen. She has been a Leaders for Democracy (MEPI) Fellow, a Reagan-Fascell Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy, and a Fellow at Syracuse University. In 2007, she was also an intern at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Currently, she is a frequent writer for the Arab Reform Bulletin (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace( Washington DC) and columnist for Alshabiba Daily newspaper, Muscat, Oman, she writes about politics in the Middle East with special interest on the political developments in Gulf. Al-Talei has an MA in Arabic Literature and a BA in Mass Communication and Journalism.

### **Dr. Denise Baer**

#### **Adjunct Professor, American University**

Dr. Denise Baer is an Adjunct Professor at the School of Public Affairs at American University. Dr. Baer's areas of specialization include representation and electoral processes; democratic consolidation and political change; campaign finance; legislative strengthening; governance; stakeholder mapping; political party organizations and the unique political development challenges of emerging democracies. She has been a consultant for the United States Information Agency Office of Democracy and Governance, the National Democratic Institute, the National Political Congress of Black Women, the Carbondale Area League of Women Voters and other organizations. Dr. Baer has numerous books and articles that deal with topics such as women's representation,

money in politics, and campaign messages. She holds a PhD from Southern Illinois University – Carbondale.

**Rachel Becker**

**Executive Assistant/Events Coordinator, National Association of Secretaries of State**

Rachel Becker has been a part of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) since September 2006. As the Executive Assistant and Meeting Coordinator, she oversees the logistics for all meetings of NASS and assists with administrative aspects of the association. Ms. Becker came to NASS well acquainted with the association having worked as an Intergovernmental Relations Assistant for the Secretary of State of Minnesota and having assisted with past conferences. Ms. Becker is a graduate of Bemidji State University (Bemidji, MN).

**Eric Bjornlund**

**Co-founder and Principal, Democracy International.**

Eric Bjornlund is co-founder and principal of Democracy International. A lawyer and development professional with nearly two decades of international experience, Mr. Bjornlund has designed and managed democratic development programs in more than 25 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Eurasia, and the Middle East in the areas of international and domestic election monitoring, election systems and administration, political party building, legislative development, constitutional and legal reform, decentralization, women’s political empowerment, civil-military relations, civic and voter education, and civil society advocacy. He currently serves as Senior Technical Advisor for Democracy International’s indefinite quantity contracts for Elections and Political Processes and Democracy and Governance Analytical Services. From 1989 to 2000, Mr. Bjornlund worked for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) in various senior positions in Washington and overseas. As Senior Associate and Asia Director he developed and managed democracy and governance programs in 14 countries in South, Southeast, and East Asia. As NDI Country Director (Chief of Party) in Indonesia, he developed and oversaw a multimillion-dollar USAID-funded program in support of elections, election monitoring, political parties, legislative strengthening and NGO advocacy in the world’s largest predominately Muslim country. He also served as Country Director (Chief of Party) in the West Bank and Gaza, Director of Program Coordination and General Counsel, and Senior Program Officer. From 2000 to 2001, Mr. Bjornlund was a fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. In 2004, he served as Field Office Director for The Carter Center in Indonesia, where he directed a comprehensive international election monitoring program. Mr. Bjornlund has written and spoken extensively about transitional and postconflict elections, democratization, legal reform and international democracy promotion. He is author of *Beyond Free and Fair: Monitoring Elections and Building Democracy*. He has testified on many occasions before Congress and the United Nations and has spoken at conferences and universities throughout the world. Mr. Bjornlund has appeared on television and radio in the U.S. and abroad, including on the BBC, C-SPAN, CNN, National Public Radio, Voice of America and others. He also has recently published book chapters, articles, assessment reports and essays and has served as an expert on election commissions and monitoring for the U.S. State Department. He holds a JD from Columbia University, an MPA from John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a BA magna cum laude from Williams College.

**Jarrett Blanc**

**Senior Policy Analyst, Open Society Institute**

Jarrett Blanc is the senior policy analyst for multilateral affairs at the Open Society Institute/Open Society Policy Center, where he advocates both for enhanced multilateralism in U.S. foreign policy

and for improvements in multilateral institutions. Prior to joining OSI/OSPC, he was a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow and a Visiting Scholar at the U.S. Institute of Peace, where he researched elections conducted during conflict. Blanc has advised senior decision-makers on conflict termination and political transitions and has managed elections in a range of conflict and post-conflict areas, including Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, the Palestinian Authority, Lebanon, and Nepal. Blanc has published a number of articles and book chapters on related issues, including election management, systems of representation, and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He is on the adjunct faculty at George Washington University and has lectured at West Point, Harvard University, Princeton University, and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Pisa, Italy). He holds an A.B. in government from Harvard College and is completing an M.S. in environmental science and policy from Johns Hopkins University.

### **Donna Brazile**

#### **Founder and Managing Director, Brazile and Associates, LLC**

Donna Brazile is Founder and Managing Director of Brazile and Associates, LLC. Brazile, Chair of the Democratic National Committee's Voting Rights Institute (VRI) and an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University, is a senior political strategist and former Campaign Manager for Gore-Lieberman 2000 - the first African American to lead a major presidential campaign. Prior to joining the Gore campaign, Brazile was Chief of Staff and Press Secretary to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia where she helped guide the District's budget and local legislation on Capitol Hill. Brazile is a weekly contributor and political commentator on CNN's Inside Politics and American Morning. In addition, she is a columnist for Roll Call Newspaper and a contributing writer for Ms. Magazine. A veteran of numerous national and statewide campaigns, Brazile has worked on several presidential campaigns for Democratic candidates, including Carter-Mondale in 1976 and 1980, Rev. Jesse Jackson's first historic bid for the presidency in 1984, Mondale-Ferraro in 1984, U.S. Representative Dick Gephardt in 1988, Dukakis-Bentsen in 1988, and Clinton-Gore in 1992 and 1996. In addition to working on political campaigns, Brazile has served as a senior lecturer and adjunct professor at the University of Maryland and a fellow at Harvard's Institute of Politics. Brazile is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including Washingtonian Magazine's 100 Most Powerful Women in Washington, D.C. and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Award for Political Achievement. Brazile, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana earned her undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

### **Dr. Sarah Brewer**

#### **Associate Director, Women & Politics Institute, American University**

Dr. Sarah Brewer is the Associate Director of the Women & Politics Institute and academic advisor for the Institute's Women, Policy, and Political Leadership (WPPL) Graduate and Undergraduate Certificates. Dr. Brewer's publications include, "Women Campaign Consultants: A New Actor in the Campaign Process." in *Women in Politics: Outsiders or Insiders?*, "Women Political Consultants: Who Are They, Where Are They?" in *Campaigns & Elections*, and "Gender-Bias in Elections for County Office in the South: Additions to the Gender Role Hypothesis" in *Social Science Quarterly* (co-authored with David Lublin). She is also the co-editor of the book *Gendering American Politics: Perspectives from the Literature* (with Karen O'Connor and Michael Philip Fisher) and is co-author of the forthcoming book, *Not in the Pipeline and Far from the White House: Exploring Ambition Among Young Women in Politics* (with Deena Fidas, Margie Omero, and Jenifer Sarver). She works with the Women & Politics Institute's bi-partisan Young Women Leaders Board, comprised of 30 women who work in Washington D.C. in a variety of political jobs, on a year-long political leadership training,

WeLEAD: Women bringing women into the power center, for young women ages 21-25 who are interested in careers in politics. In addition, Dr. Brewer has traveled to a number of countries to advance the study of women's political leadership abroad including recent visits to Kuwait, Japan, South Korea, Chile and Peru. Dr. Brewer earned her PhD from American University.

**Dr. Daniel Calingaert**

**Deputy Director of Programs, Freedom House**

Dr. Calingaert oversees Freedom House's wide range of civil society and media programs. He is also Professorial Lecturer at American University, where he teaches courses on democracy. He previously served as Associate Director of American University's Center for Democracy and Election Management and as Associate Director of the Commission on Federal Election Reform, which was co-chaired by Jimmy Carter and James A. Baker, III. Dr. Calingaert has served as Director for Asia and as Deputy Director for Eastern Europe at the International Republican Institute, where he designed and managed a wide range of programs to promote democracy. These programs strengthened civil society, parliaments, governance, political parties, and elections in more than a dozen countries. Dr. Calingaert began his career as a researcher at the RAND Corporation and later directed programs of the Civic Education Project to reform social science education at universities across Eastern Europe and Eurasia. He graduated with highest honors in International Relations from Tufts University and earned his M.Phil. and D.Phil. from Oxford University.

**Eleanor Clift**

**Contributing Editor, Newsweek**

Eleanor Clift writes on the Washington power structure, the influence of women in politics and other issues. She is currently assigned to follow the jockeying over policy and politics in the Republican-controlled Congress, and the emerging contenders for the 2008 presidential nomination in both the Republican and Democratic parties. Formerly Newsweek's White House correspondent, Clift also served as congressional and political correspondent for six years. She was a key member of the magazine's 1992 election team, following the campaign of Bill Clinton from its start to inauguration day. In June 1992 she was named deputy Washington bureau chief. As a reporter in Newsweek's Atlanta bureau, Clift covered Jimmy Carter's bid for the presidency. She followed Carter to Washington to become Newsweek's White House correspondent, a position she held until 1985. Clift began her career as a secretary to Newsweek's National Affairs editor in New York. She was one of the first women at the magazine to move from secretary to reporter. Clift left Newsweek briefly in 1985 to serve as White House correspondent for The Los Angeles Times. She returned to Newsweek the following year to cover the Iran-Contra scandal, which tarnished the Ronald Reagan White House. Clift is a regular panelist on the syndicated talk show, "The McLaughlin Group," and a political analyst for the Fox News Network. She is also co-chair of the board of the International Women's Media Foundation. Clift and her late husband, Tom Brazaitis, who was a columnist for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, wrote two books together, War Without Bloodshed: The Art of Politics (Scribner, 1996), and Madam President: Shattering the Last Glass Ceiling (Scribner, 2000). Madam President is available in paperback (Routledge Press). Clift's most recent book, Founding Sisters is about the passage of the 19th amendment giving women the vote (John Wiley & Sons, 2003).

**Barbara Cockrell**

**Assistant Secretary/Director of Operations, Virginia State Board of Elections**

Barbara Cockrell currently serves as Assistant Secretary/Director of Operations at the Virginia State Board of Elections. She has been in this position since 2003. As Assistant Secretary/Director of Operation, Ms. Cockrell serves as part of the agency's leadership team, with oversight responsibility

for agency divisions handling Election Administration, Voter Services, Electoral Uniformity (Training and Education), Voting Equipment and Campaign Finance. She has also served on the Risk Management and Agency Oversight Committees for development and implementation of a new statewide Virginia Election and Registration Information System as well as implementation of the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Between 1997 and 2003, Ms. Cockrell held various international election assignments in Bosnia, Serbia, Kosovo, Moldova. She has also served as a Field Operations Director (Get Out the Vote) for a candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates and as a General Registrar of Middlesex County, Virginia, where she was responsible for registering voters, maintaining voter records, developing public relations and educational materials, working with a three member local elections board in recruiting and training poll workers, conducting absentee voting and managing all aspects of the voter registration and election process. Ms. Cockrell has also been a Chairman of the Middlesex County Electoral Board. She worked on her first campaign in 1960, at the age of 14, handing out campaign literature, stuffing envelopes, and answering phones. Between 1960 and 1981, she served in a number of capacities – ran for a local office, worked on campaigns, served as an officer of her local and district political party and as a poll worker in her voting precinct.

### **Avery Davis-Roberts**

#### **Program Associate, The Carter Center**

Avery Davis-Roberts is Program Associate in the Democracy Program of The Carter Center. Ms. Davis-Roberts has helped implement Carter Center election observation missions in Indonesia, the Palestinian Territories and Venezuela. She was a member of The Carter Center's team on the inter-organizational, collaborative effort to create the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation. She is currently the manager of the Center's Democratic Election Standards Project, which seeks to articulate criteria for election assessment based on public international law. Ms. Davis-Roberts holds a Masters of Law degree (LL.M) in International Human Rights Law, and a joint honors BA in Arabic and Law, both from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London.

### **Craig Donsanto**

#### **Director, Election Crimes Branch, U.S. Department of Justice**

Craig C. Donsanto has been the Director of the Justice Department's Election Crimes Branch since 1980. In that capacity he manages all federal criminal investigations and prosecutions involving campaign finance and corruption of the election process. Further, he oversees approximately 200 Assistant United States Attorneys who serve as Justice Department "District Election Officers" in the 93 federal judicial district that comprise the federal judicial system in the investigation and prosecution of federal crimes involving voting and the financing of political campaigns. Mr. Donsanto joined the Justice Department's Criminal Division in 1970 and has served over 37 years with the Department. Mr. Donsanto is widely recognized both inside and outside the United States government as an expert on the election administration and financing processes. He has lectured extensively both domestically and internationally on these subjects. He has numerous published works, the most widely-known of which is Federal Prosecution of Election Offenses, the Justice Department's source book for law enforcement in this area of criminal conduct which is currently in its 7th edition. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including Department of Justice's Special Initiative Award in 2005; Outstanding Service Commendations in 1980 and 1983; Special Achievement Awards in 1972, 1985, 1990, 1991 (two), 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2006, and commendations from the FBI Director and the Attorney General, in 1999. In 2006 he was appointed a statutory member of the Election Assistance

Commission's Board of Advisors. Mr. Donsanto has advised foreign governments on the criminal enforcement of election laws, on electoral dispute resolution, and on corruption issues, including most recently Armenia, Mexico, Nigeria, Liberia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Ukraine, the Republic of Georgia, Kenya, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Azerbaijan. In May, 2005, he participated as a panelist at Global Forum IV in Brasilia, Brazil. In 2005 he wrote the campaign finance statute for the Republic of Liberia under the auspices of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. Mr. Donsanto received a BA degree from Boston University in June, 1966 and he obtained his law degree from Boston University School of Law in June, 1969. He has resided in Vienna, Virginia since 1971, and he married Michele J. Ricciardelli on December 30, 2004.

### **Stephenie Foster**

#### **Senior Vice President for Government Affairs, American Legacy Foundation**

Stephenie Foster has twenty years experience as advocate for a wide range of issues relating to women. She has served in senior positions on Capitol Hill as well as the executive branch, the non-profit sector, political campaigns and private law practice. She is currently Senior Vice President for Government Affairs at the American Legacy Foundation. Prior to that, she was a principal at Georgetown Strategies, specializing in lobbying as well as training and advocacy programs both domestically and internationally. Ms. Foster has also served as the Vice President for Public Policy for Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), where she directed the organizations' political and legislative advocacy. Prior to joining PPFA, she was Chief of Staff to two United States Senators (Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and was appointed by President Clinton as General Counsel of the U. S. General Services Administration. In 1996, she served as National Director for Women's Outreach for the Clinton/Gore Re-Election Campaign, and in the 2004 cycle, she served as a Senior Advisor to both Edwards for President and Kerry-Edwards 2004. Ms. Foster has participated in numerous international programs, designing advocacy and training programs and materials for use in a wide variety of political and geographic environments, including Venezuela, Yemen, Oman, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Haiti, Chile, Peru, Mali, South Africa, Morocco, Ukraine and Northern Ireland. She has also trained groups of women who have traveled to the United States for various programs sponsored by Vital Voices Global Partnership, the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), the Women's EDGE Coalition and the Policy Council on Afghan Women. Ms. Foster is an attorney by training and was a litigation partner at Steefel, Levitt & Weiss in San Francisco, California. She received a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.R.P. from Cornell University and a B.A. from the University of California. She is also a Professorial Lecturer at American University in Washington, DC where she teaches courses on legislative and policy advocacy, and has lectured at the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute.

### **Curtis Gans**

#### **Director, Center for the Study of the American Electorate, American University.**

Mr. Curtis Gans is Director of the Center for the Study of the American Electorate at American University. He was the co-founder and the director for nearly 30 years of the non-partisan Committee for the Study of the American Electorate. He is an acknowledged expert on voter turnout and participation. On matters of voting, he has become the primary source of information for most newspapers, wire services, news magazines and columnists. His writings have appeared in a number of major publications and he has appeared on various talk shows, including PBS' NewsHour, Morning Edition, All Things Considered. He has spoken in various capacities on more than 200 college campuses and before political and trade associations. Mr. Gans is a former member of the Democratic National Policy Council and its Foreign Policy Subcommittee. He has served as a

consultant to the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, the National Committee for an Effective Congress, and has managed a number of political campaigns.

**Thomas Garrett**

**Regional Program Director, Middle East and North Africa, International Republican Institute**

Thomas Garrett joined the International Republican Institute (IRI) in November 1994. Garrett first served as IRI's Resident Program Director for Ukraine; he later oversaw programs in Belarus and Moldova as well as in Ukraine. While in Ukraine his focus was on political party building, local government training and women and youth in politics. Garrett also directed a training program for staff and members of Ukraine's parliament. He has also served as IRI's Resident Advisor to the Ikh Hural, Mongolia's parliament, where he trained the three parliamentary parties in campaign techniques assisted the new members of parliament on the responsibilities of the legislature. Garrett has also conducted training for IRI programs in Cambodia and in Thailand for the Burmese democratic opposition in exile. In October 2000, Garrett moved to Jakarta as IRI's Resident Program Director where he oversaw a program of political party building, public opinion research and support to local government. Over the past 10 years, Garrett has worked on election observation missions in Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Mongolia, Russia, the Solomon Islands and Ukraine. Prior to joining IRI, Garrett served as Legislative Assistant for Native American issues to Senator Frank Murkowski (AK). In 1993, Garrett trained first-time candidates from Ukraine's democratic parties in grassroots, voter contact tactics in advance of the 1994 parliamentary and local elections. This effort was part of the National Forum Foundation's American Volunteers for Overseas Development program. In 1989, Garrett served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior. Later, he was appointed as Director of Congressional and Legislative Affairs for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, where he worked on legislative matters affecting American Indians and Alaska Natives in such diverse areas as education, tribal elections and tribal sovereignty. A native Oklahoman, Garrett began his career in Texas and Oklahoma where he worked as a consultant on statewide campaigns.

**Eleana Gordon**

**Director, CLIME**

Eleana Gordon has been working since 2003 to support pro-democracy activists in the Middle East and develop educational programs on democracy in Arabic. She was the editor-in-chief of the "Iraq Democracy Papers", a series of collected writings in Arabic, and has worked particularly with Iraqi women leaders to secure basic rights: She helped organize the Heartland of Iraq Women's Conference (Hilla, October 2003), the Iraqi Women's Leadership Conference (Jordan, April 2005), and a civics education program in 9 Iraqi universities as part of the Ahad al-Iraq campaign, working in partnership with Iraqi NGOs such as the American Islamic Congress, Friends of Democracy and the Iraq Foundation. More recently, she has established a democracy leadership training program in partnership with the Tharwa Institute, led by the Syrian activist Ammar Abdulhamid; and training programs for women in politics in Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait and Morocco. Eleana's diverse career includes ten years in business strategy and private equity finance with firms such as McKinsey & Co and General Atlantic Partners. She has a Masters degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University. Prior to founding the CLIME, Eleana Gordon led strategic communications and democracy programs the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies in Washington D.C.

**Steven Griner****Senior Specialist, Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, Organization of American States**

Steven Griner graduated from Texas A&M University with degrees in Modern Languages and Business Administration. After graduation until 1989, he worked as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala in Appropriate Technology. Upon his return from Guatemala, Mr. Griner studied at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies where he earned his Masters Degree in Latin American Studies and International Economics. From 1990 to 1993, Mr. Griner worked at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), a nongovernmental organization that provides assistance to democratic institutions throughout the world through election observation, training seminars and civic education campaigns. He joined the OAS General Secretariat in 1993 as a Senior Specialist. He has observed more than 30 elections in Latin America and the Caribbean, served as the Coordinator of the Special Program of Support to Guatemala and managed the OAS Inter-American Forum on Political Parties. He edited a comparative study on campaign and political party financing in the 34 member countries of the OAS and has published a number of articles on the subject of political financing.

**Kristin Haffert****Director, Women's Political Participation Programs, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs**

Kristin Haffert is the director of women's political participation programs at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. Her previous campaign and public outreach experience focused on encouraging women's participation in politics. Before joining NDI, Kristin worked as an associate at The Lew Edwards Group, a political consulting firm specializing in grassroots organizing based in Oakland, California where, among other responsibilities, she managed field campaigns throughout the state for several successful women candidates. In 1998, Kristin was a fundraiser for the successful statewide re-election campaign of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin. Kristin has also conducted research on women's voter outreach in the U.S., founded a local chapter of the National Women's Political Caucus, and won an award from the Center for American Women and Politics for her work to increase women's political participation. Kristin earned her B.A. in Political Science and a minor in Women's Studies from Douglass College, Rutgers University; where she was also an undergraduate associate at the Eagleton Institute of Politics. Kristin also spent a semester at the University of Natal in South Africa, during which time she contributed to a publication that educated women about their constitutional rights. She has lived and traveled extensively in South America.

**Dr. Lisa Handley****President, Frontier International Consulting**

Dr. Lisa Handley is the President of Frontier International Consulting, an election consulting firm that specializes in voting rights and electoral boundary delimitation. Dr. Handley has provided electoral assistance in more than a dozen countries, serving as a consultant on issues of democratic governance – including voting rights, electoral system design, electoral boundary delimitation and electoral dispute resolution – for the United Nations, the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), and International IDEA. In the past few years she has participated in election missions in more than a dozen countries, including Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Liberia, Lebanon, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Yemen. In the United States, Dr. Handley's clients have included the U.S. Department of Justice, several civil rights organizations, and scores of state and local jurisdictions. She has also

served as an expert in numerous voting rights and redistricting court cases. Dr. Handley has been actively involved in research, writing and teaching on the subjects of democracy-building and election administration generally and on voting rights and boundary delimitation more specifically. She co-authored a book (Minority Representation and the Quest for Voting Equality), as well as numerous articles, on these subjects and served as the lead writer for Boundary Delimitation for the Administration and Cost of Elections Project (ACE). She has taught political science and methodology courses at several universities, most recently George Washington University. Dr. Handley has also assisted in the development of training curricula and trained election officials in Azerbaijan, Jamaica, Liberia and Sierra Leone. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from George Washington University.

### **Dr. Michael Herb**

#### **Associate Professor of Political Science, Georgia State University**

Dr. Michael Herb studies Gulf politics, monarchies, the effect of oil on politics, and democracy in the Arab world. He is the author of *All in the Family: Absolutism, Revolution and Democracy in the Middle Eastern Monarchies*. His work has appeared in *Comparative Politics*, *The Middle East Journal* and elsewhere. He recently completed a seven-month research trip to Kuwait and is working on a book on parliaments in the Gulf.

### **Brooks Jackson**

#### **Journalist**

Brooks Jackson is a journalist who has covered Washington and national politics for 34 years, reporting in turn for *The Associated Press*, *the Wall Street Journal* and *CNN*. At *CNN* he pioneered the "adwatch" and "factcheck" form of stories debunking false and misleading political statements starting with the Presidential election of 1992. His investigative reporting for *The AP* and *the Journal* won several national awards. He is the author of two books: *Honest Graft: Big Money and the American Political Process* (Knopf, 1988) and *Broken Promise: Why the Federal Election Commission Failed* (Twentieth Century Fund: 1990).

### **Marcia F. Johnson-Blanco**

#### **Senior Counsel, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law**

As Senior Counsel of the Voting Rights Project of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Ms. Johnson-Blanco is responsible for the Emerging Communities Initiative, a program to empower and assist the civic participation efforts of minorities living in communities experiencing dramatic demographic shifts. She has also served as the Deputy Director of the National Commission on the Voting Rights Act organizing ten hearings assessing the degree of discrimination in voting from 1982 to 2005. Additionally, she has advocated for the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act and served on the legal team defending the constitutionality of the Act. Ms. Johnson-Blanco has served as counsel on amicus briefs before the State Supreme Courts in Michigan and Missouri in cases determining the constitutionality of Voter ID laws. She has also served as counsel on the amicus brief before the United States Supreme Court in *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board*. Before joining the Lawyers Committee, Ms. Johnson-Blanco served as the legislative representative for an independent labor union, and spearheaded the legislative and voter education programs for several organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of Caribbean Americans.

Johnson-Blanco received her Juris Doctor from Villanova Law School and a Bachelor's degree in Linguistics from Georgetown University.

**Dr. Charles E. Kiamie, III**  
**Foreign Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of State**

Dr. Charles E. Kiamie, III is a Foreign Affairs Officer in the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, and adjunct professor of Middle Eastern Studies at George Washington University. He is the Middle East Partnership Initiative Office's liaison to the Department's Office of Arabian Peninsula Affairs and manages several political reform programs in the Gulf and beyond. Previously, he worked for Lockheed Martin Information Technology and taught at Georgetown University. Kiamie has spent considerable time abroad, including a year at Oxford University and two years in Jordan at the American Embassy and as a Fulbright Fellow. His professional interests include political reform, nation-building, (de)liberalization, and political retraditionalization. Ph.D., Government, Georgetown University; M.A., Arab Studies, Georgetown University; B.A., Middle Eastern Studies, The George Washington University.

**Jean-Pierre Kingsley**  
**President/CEO, IFES**

Jean-Pierre Kingsley brings to IFES more than three decades of management experience and a proven commitment to ensuring equal rights and opportunities for all citizens. Kingsley joined the IFES board of directors in 1992 and has participated in numerous IFES missions and conferences. His contributions to the field of democracy promotion have been recognized with awards and honors, including the Mexican Order of the Águila Azteca, the highest award the Mexican government bestows on foreign nationals; the 2005 COGEL Award from the Canadian Council on Governmental Ethics Laws; honorary membership in the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians; and a Trudeau Medal from the University of Ottawa Alumni Association. In addition, Kingsley received a President's Award from the Canadian Association for Community Living and the Award of Excellence from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the World Blind Union for promoting the rights of persons with disabilities. Before becoming president of IFES, he was Canada's Chief Electoral Officer for 17 years. In this role, Kingsley managed the country's federal electoral events and increased the transparency, efficiency and accessibility of Canada's electoral process. He established the country's permanent National Register of Electors and led high profile international missions, including election observation and monitoring missions in Iraq and Haiti. Kingsley decided to post virtually everything related to Elections Canada online, including financial records of parties and candidates, contributions, expenditures and election results as they came in on the evening of the election. This greatly augmented knowledge about Canada's electoral system among Canadian citizens and the international community. As Chief Electoral Officer, Kingsley also made concrete recommendations to Parliament on improving Canada's electoral system, which led to significant changes in legislation in critical areas such as electoral financing. His vision and leadership resulted in improved services to Canadians and contributed to Elections Canada's reputation as a world leader in electoral management. Kingsley served in several other government posts including assistant deputy registrar general.

**Daoud Kuttab**  
**Ferris Professor of Journalism, Princeton University**

Daoud Kuttab is presently a Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton University. He is teaching a seminar on new media in the Arab world. Kuttab is a Palestinian journalist and media activists. Born in Jerusalem in 1955, Kuttab studied in the United States and has been working in journalism ever since 1980. He has worked in the Arabic print press (Al Fajr, Al Quds and Assinara) before moving to the audio visual field. He established and presided over the Jerusalem Film Institute in the 90s. In 1995 he helped establish the Arabic Media Internet Network (AMIN) a censorship free Arab web

site. [www.amin.org](http://www.amin.org). He established and has headed since 1996 the Institute of Modern Media at Al Quds University. In 1997 he partially moved to Amman (because of family tragedy and remarriage) and in 2000 established the Arab world's first internet radio station AmmanNet ([www.ammannet.net](http://www.ammannet.net)). Mr. Kuttub is active in media freedom efforts in the Middle East. He is an award winning journalist and TV producer.

**Dr. William M. LeoGrande**

**Dean, School of Public Affairs, American University**

Dean of the School of Public Affairs and a specialist in Latin American politics and U.S. foreign policy toward Latin America, Professor LeoGrande has been a frequent adviser to government and private sector agencies. He has written five books, the latest of which is *Our Own Backyard: The United States in Central America, 1977 - 1992*. Previously, he served on the staffs of the Democratic Policy Committee of the United States Senate, and the Democratic Caucus Task Force on Central America of the United States House of Representatives. Professor LeoGrande has been a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow, and a Pew Faculty Fellow in International Affairs. His articles have appeared in *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *American Political Science Review*, *Latin American Research Review*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Miami Herald*, and other journals and newspapers. Dr. LeoGrande was Acting Dean of the School of Public Affairs from 1997-1999.

**Dr. Peter Lewis**

**Associate Professor; Director of African Studies Program, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University**

Dr. Peter Lewis is Associate Professor and Director of the African Studies Program at Johns Hopkins University. Previously, he was Associate Professor at the School of International Service at American University. His book, *Growing Apart: Politics and Economic Change in Indonesia and Nigeria* (University of Michigan Press) is concerned with the institutional basis of economic development, drawing upon a comparative study of Indonesia and Nigeria. Dr. Lewis has also published four coauthored or edited books, in addition to articles in *World Politics*, *World Development*, *the Journal of Democracy*, *the Journal of Modern African Studies*, *African Affairs and others*, and numerous book chapters. Dr. Lewis has been a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a National Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and Fulbright Fellow in Nigeria. He has received grants from the National Science Foundation, USAID, Princeton University's Center for International Studies, and Senate Research Awards at American University. He is a member of the Research Council of the International Forum for Democratic Studies and a Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He has consulted for the Ford Foundation, the Carter Center, the Council on Foreign Relations, Freedom House, USAID, and the World Bank

**Dr. Allan J. Lichtman**

**Professor of History, American University**

Dr. Allan J. Lichtman is a professor and formerly chair of the Department of History at American University. Dr. Lichtman has provided commentary for all major U.S. television and radio networks, the Voice of America, and many foreign broadcast companies, including BBC and CBC. He has published more than 200 scholarly and popular articles and has been an expert witness in more than 75 federal voting rights and redistricting cases. As an expert for the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights he discovered the vast disparity in rates at which officials rejected ballots cast by blacks and whites in Florida's 2000 presidential election. He has worked on numerous cases for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and has worked for such civil rights organizations as the

NAACP, the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the American Civil Liberties Union, the LDF, and the Southern Poverty Law Center. He has also been a consultant and expert witness for numerous state and local governments. He received the 1992-93 Scholar/Teacher award at American University, the University's highest faculty award. Dr. Lichtman's biography is published in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World. His six books include Your Family History, Prejudice and the Old Politics: The Presidential Election of 1928, Ecological Inference, and The Thirteen Keys to the Presidency. His latest book is The Keys to the White House, 2008 Edition. The Keys system correctly predicted the popular vote outcome in every presidential election from 1984 to 2004. His new book, White Protestant Nation: The Rise of the American Conservative Movement, will be published in June 2008 by Grove/Atlantic Press. Dr. Allan J. Lichtman graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Brandeis and received his PhD from Harvard University.

### **Linda Lindberg**

#### **General Registrar, Arlington County, Virginia**

Linda Lindberg has over 15 years' experience in election administration, first as Deputy Registrar and currently as General Registrar for Arlington County. She currently serves as co-chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Election Officials Technical Committee, a position she has held twice previously. She is active in the Voter Registrars' Association of Virginia and has provided assistance on a number of special projects and task forces for both the Virginia State Board of Elections and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Prior to being employed by Arlington County, Linda worked in arts administration for about 15 years, first as a practitioner and later for a data systems vendor. She holds a bachelor's degree in theater and arts management from Miami University (Ohio) and a Master of Public Administration degree from George Mason University.

### **Dr. Rafael Lopez-Pintor**

#### **Chief of Party, IFES**

Dr. Rafael Lopez-Pintor was born in Spain and is a Spanish national. International Political Consultant; Ph.D. in Political Science by the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and Doctor of Law by the University Complutense of Madrid, Spain. Former tenured professor at the University Autónoma of Madrid, is currently serving as IFES Chief of Party in Nicaragua. Has been UN Director of Elections in El Salvador and Mozambique, and Deputy Chief Observer in EU observation missions in number of countries including Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Ivory Coast, and Nicaragua. Consultant on election organization and monitoring to the UN, EU, OSCE, USAID, IFES, IDEA among other organizations in more than 20 countries of all regions of the world, including Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Cambodia, Egypt, Honduras, Iraq, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, and Yemen. Among his recent publications, Electoral Management Bodies as Institutions of Governance (New York, UNDP, 2000); and (with J. Fischer) Getting to the CORE. A Global Survey on the Cost of Registration and Elections. New York: UNDP, 2006).

### **Amy M. Loprest**

#### **Executive Director, New York City Campaign Finance Board**

Amy M. Loprest was named Executive Director of the New York City Campaign Finance Board in September 2006, succeeding the agency's first Executive Director Nicole A. Gordon. Ms. Loprest has served as the Board's Assistant Executive Director since 2004 and has held increasingly responsible positions at the CFB during her tenure, including Chief of the Candidate Services Unit

and Deputy General Counsel. Ms. Loprest has been a speaker and participant at forums nationally as well as internationally on campaign finance issues and is the author of a report for IFES, an international nonprofit organization that supports the building of democratic societies, titled *Transparent Public Funding in Nigeria*. Ms. Loprest received her B.S. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business and graduated *cum laude* from the Fordham University School of Law where she was a Stein Public Interest Law Scholar and a member of the *Fordham International Law Journal*. Ms. Loprest is a member of the Order of the Coif, clerked for the Honorable Denise Cote, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and is an adjunct professor of Political Science at Fordham University.

### **Linda Maguire**

#### **Electoral Advisor, United Nations Development Program**

Linda Maguire works with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Democratic Governance Group as Electoral Adviser. Linda joined UNDP in 1998 and has worked for BDP on legislative, electoral and democracy and conflict issues, as well as with the Evaluation Office on results-based performance assessment. Before joining UNDP, Linda was a Senior Program Officer for West Africa with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), where she managed the electoral assistance programs in Côte d'Ivoire and Mali, as well as provided support to legislatures and civil society initiatives in the region. She holds a Master of Arts from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

### **Ambassador Clovis Maksoud**

#### **Director, Center for the Global South, American University**

Ambassador Clovis Maksoud is presently Professor of International Law and Organization and Director of the Center for the Global South at American University in Washington, DC. A Lebanese national, Dr. Maksoud was the Chief Representative of the League of Arab States in India from 1961-1966. From 1967-1979, he served as the Senior Editor of Al-Ahram and then Chief Editor of *Al-Nabar Weekly*. Ambassador Maksoud was appointed as the League of Arab States' Chief Representative to the United States and the United Nations on September 1, 1979. On August 15, 1990, he submitted his resignation from the League in the aftermath of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Dr. Maksoud graduated from The American University of Beirut, went on to receive his J.D. from the George Washington University in Washington, DC, and did post-graduate studies at Oxford University in Britain. A lawyer, journalist and diplomat, Dr. Maksoud is the author of several articles and books on the Middle East and the global South, among them: "The Meaning of Non-Alignment," "The Crisis of the Arab Left," "Reflections on Afro-Asianism," "The Arab Image," "The Arabs: A Quest for Direction, and others. Clovis Maksoud was the Chairperson and Convener of many conferences on environment and development, human rights, humanitarian affairs, population, land mines, water conflict prevention, and disarmament. He is currently a member of the Advisory Board of the Arab Human Development Reports, launched by the UNDP, and the President for the Foundation for Arab Policy Studies.

### **Michael Minks**

#### **Outreach Manager, Youth Service America**

Mike Mink is the Outreach Manager for Youth Service America. In this role, he is responsible for managing all of YSA's partnerships (including all national and international partners for Global Youth Service Day) and editing the National Service Briefing. In addition, he manages ServiceVote 2008 and works to connect service and service-learning to other forms of civic engagement including voting & other electoral activities, political voice activities, and civic education. He also

oversees YSA's advocacy and government relations activities. Mike comes to YSA from Minnesota, where he served as an AmeriCorps Promise Fellow with the Minnesota Alliance With Youth. Prior to his two years as a Promise Fellow, he was the Youth Co-Chair of the Alliance with the Lt. Governor of Minnesota. He also completed two internships with the Alliance, one focused on policy & advocacy and one through the Phillips Scholars program. In these roles, he was instrumental in such efforts as starting a statewide Youth Advisory council, developing an advocacy plan, launching a Promise Station website, publishing all online and print publications, and working with Communities of Promise. His academic background includes work on a Masters in Advocacy and Political Leadership at the University of Minnesota – Duluth. He graduated cum laude and with All College Honors with a B.A. in English and Secondary Education from the Saint John's University. Mike has received several awards honoring his work, including the Champion for Children award from America's Promise and the Self-Starter Award from the Minnesota MILE (Motivating and Inspiring Leadership & Excellence.) He was a Regent/Trustees' Scholar and Phillips Scholar while at CSB/SJU.

**Dr. Toby Moore**

**Researcher, Research Triangle Institute**

Dr. Toby Moore is an elections and voting researcher at the Research Triangle Institute. He has served as an international elections monitor and was a project manager at the Center for Democracy and Election Management at American University, where he managed the reform agenda of the Commission on Federal Election Reform chaired by former President Carter and former Secretary of State Baker. Dr. Moore researched the impact of voter identification on minority voters while serving as the geographer of the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice, from 2000 to 2006. Dr. Moore's publications include the forthcoming journal article "The Empirics of Election Reform: A Reply to FEC Commissioner Hans von Spakovsky's Defense of Voter ID."

**Dr. Candice J. Nelson**

**Associate Professor and Chair, American University**

Dr. Candice Nelson is the Chair of the Department of Government in the School of Public Affairs at American University. She is also an associate professor of government and academic director of the Campaign Management Institute. Prior to coming to American University, she was a visiting fellow at The Brookings Institution. She also served as a Special Assistant to former Senate Majority Whip Alan Cranston and as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow. She is the co-author of *The Money Chase: Congressional Campaign Finance Reform* and *The Myth of the Independent Voter*, and co-editor of *Campaigns and Elections American Style*, *Campaign Warriors: Political Consultants in Elections*, and *Crowded Airwaves: Campaign Advertising in Elections*, as well as numerous other articles and books. Dr. Nelson received her M.A. degree from University of California, Los Angeles and her Ph.D. degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

**Dr. Karen O'Connor**

**Jonathan N. Helfat Distinguished Professor**

**Director, Women and Politics Institute, American University**

Founder and Director of the Women & Politics Institute and the Jonathan N. Helfat Distinguished Professor of Political Science at American University. Professor O'Connor has written, co-authored and edited several books, including *Gendering American Politics*, *Women and Congress: Running, Winning and Ruling*, and the most widely used college American government textbook in the country, *American Government: Continuity and Change*, 9th ed. (with Larry Sabato). She is also the

author of over 50 articles in scholarly journals, law reviews and book chapters on women, politics, and the law. She is the past president of the Women's Caucus for Political Science, the Southern Political Science Association, and the National Capitol Area Political Science Association. She currently serves as president of the Women and Politics Research Section of the American Political Science Association and formerly served as the president of that Association's Law and Courts research section. As a nationally recognized expert on various topics, she is routinely interviewed and quoted in major news sources including Newsweek, The Washington Post, and The New York Times. Dr. O'Connor prides herself on her relationship with her students, her dedication to the profession of political science, and her work to advance opportunities for women in politics. Dr. O'Connor holds a J.D and a PhD from SUNY, Buffalo.

**James Oliphant**  
**National Legal Correspondent, Chicago Tribune**

James Oliphant is a National Legal Correspondent for the Chicago Tribune.

**Massie Ritsch**  
**Communications Director, Center for Responsive Politics**

Massie Ritsch is the Communications Director for the Center for Responsive Politics, the premier American research group tracking money in U.S. politics and its effect on elections and public policy. Founded in 1983, the non-governmental organization aims to create a more educated American voter, an involved citizenry and a more responsive government. A former reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* newspaper, Mr. Ritsch, 32, oversees the Center's original journalism and its frequent contact with the news media and others who rely on CRP's computer-based research, non-partisan analysis and its award-winning website, OpenSecrets.org. The site has won four Webby awards from the International Academy for Digital Arts and Sciences for being the world's best website devoted to politics. Mr. Ritsch also frequently represents the Center to international delegations interested in American politics, how U.S. elections are financed and how the money flowing to politicians in their countries can be made more transparent. Before joining the Center in 2006, Mr. Ritsch was a communications strategist for a public affairs firm in Los Angeles, following nearly five years at the *Times*, where he covered the historic 2000 U.S. presidential election, other political news, education and other topics. A native of Richmond, Virginia, he received a bachelor's degree in politics from Princeton University. He and his wife, Merry, live in Washington, D.C.

**Rosemary Rodriguez**  
**Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission**

Rosemary Rodriguez was nominated to the United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) by President Bush last year and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on February 15, 2007. Ms. Rodriguez was elected Vice-Chair of the EAC on April 18, 2007 and Chair on January 17, 2008. The EAC is charged with administering payments to states and developing guidance to meet the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requirements, implementing election administration improvements, adopting voluntary voting system guidelines, accrediting voting system test laboratories and certifying voting equipment and serving as a national clearinghouse and resource of information regarding election administration. Ms. Rodriguez comes to EAC after three years on the Denver, Colorado City Council, where she served as its president from 2005 to 2006. She was director of Boards and Commissions for the mayor's office from 2002 to 2003 and a clerk and recorder for the City and County of Denver from 1997 to 2002. In 1997 she was acting director of the Denver Election Commission where she supervised city elections. She has been active in numerous grass roots civic and voter advocacy organizations, including the Colorado Voter Initiative where she co-chaired a

statewide initiative to allow Election Day voter registration. She was also a co-founder of the Latina Initiative, a voter registration project to register Latino voters and provide non-partisan election information to the Latino community in Colorado.

**Margaret (Maggie) Mitchell Salem**  
**Regional Director, IFES**

Margaret Mitchell Salem has more than 15 years of experience in the field of Middle Eastern affairs. As regional director, Salem is responsible for managing the growth and development of IFES' programs in the Middle East and North Africa. Prior to IFES, Salem worked as an independent communications consultant to leading U.S., European and Middle Eastern companies, nongovernmental organizations and academic groups. She also served as director of communications and external relations at the Middle East Institute where she developed a five-year strategic media plan and placed more than a dozen op-eds and letters to the editor in American newspapers and magazines, including The Washington Post, Boston Globe, San Francisco Chronicle and The New Yorker. For six years, Salem was a foreign service officer for the U.S. State Department where she served as a special assistant to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and as a staff assistant to Ambassador Martin S. Indyk at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, Israel. She provides news analysis to a major U.S. broadcast outlet and was a regular columnist for Dubai's Gulf News. In addition, Salem's articles have been published in the Boston Globe, International Herald Tribune, Knight Ridder and Salon.com, as well as ash-Sharq al-Awsat, Al Hayat, An-Nehar; the Daily Star and Arab News. Salem completed coursework for a master's degree in contemporary Arab studies at Georgetown University and studied as a Fulbright scholar at the Arabic Language Institute in Damascus, Syria. She holds bachelor's degrees from Johns Hopkins University in political science and psychology.

**Heather Smith**  
**Executive Director, Rock the Vote**

Heather Smith is the Executive Director of Rock the Vote. Prior to Rock the Vote, Ms. Smith founded and directed Young Voter Strategies, a nonpartisan project in partnership with The Graduate School of Political Management at The George Washington University with support from The Pew Charitable Trusts, that provided the public, parties, candidates, consultants and nonprofits with data and research on the youth vote as well as best practices to effectively mobilize young people. In 2006, Smith and Young Voter Strategies coordinated the nation's largest non-partisan project to register young voters using innovative and replicable methods of voter outreach. The project registered over 540,000 youth ages 18-30 and played a large role in the young voter turnout increase in 2006. Prior to launching Young Voter Strategies, Smith served as the national field director for the Student PIRGs New Voters Project, the largest nonpartisan grassroots effort ever undertaken to register and mobilize young voters. Across the country, the New Voters Project, under Smith's direction, registered nearly 600,000 voters and conducted an intensive, multi-faceted get-out-the-vote effort to bring these newly registered voters to the polls on Election Day. Youth turnout was 11 percentage points higher than in 2000. Prior to her work at the New Voters Project, Smith was an organizing director for Green Corps' Field School for Environmental Organizing in Boston. Smith received a B.A. with honors in economics and public policy from Duke University. In 2006, Smith was named one of Campaign & Elections magazine's Rising Stars for her work with young voters. She has also been named one of Esquire Magazine's Best and Brightest of 2007.

**Dr. Leonard Steinhorn****Professor, School of Communication, and Director, Public Communication program  
American University**

Dr. Steinhorn has taught at American University since 1995 and is recognized as a leading expert on American politics, culture, and media. He teaches political communication, media studies, public relations strategy, and courses on the modern presidency and recent American history. He is also co-author of *By the Color of Our Skin: The Illusion of Integration and the Reality of Race* (Dutton), and his writings have appeared in various books and journals as well as the *Washington Post*, *Salon.com*, *International Herald Tribune*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Atlanta Constitution*, *Newsday*, *Seattle Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Charlotte Observer*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Insight Magazine*, and *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, among many others. His course on the 2000 presidential election was covered weekly by CNN, and his similar course in 2004 was covered by the NBC affiliate in Washington, DC He regularly speaks at meetings and universities throughout the U.S. and Europe, including the Sorbonne, Prague's historic Charles University, and Slovenia's University of Ljubljana. In 2007 Steinhorn was named Political Analyst for the Washington, DC FOX-5 News, where he appears regularly commenting on political issues and the presidential election. He is quoted and interviewed regularly in both print and broadcast media, with appearances on the CBS Evening News, NBC's Today Show, ABC's 20/20, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, BBC TV, Canadian TV, PBS, NPR, Air America, among others. Before coming to AU, he spent nearly 15 years as a political consultant and speechwriter for various campaigns, non-profit organizations, and members of Congress.

**Dr. James Thurber****Distinguished Professor****Director, Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies**

Dr. James A. Thurber (BS, University of Oregon; MA, Ph.D., Indiana University) is Professor of Government and Director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies. He is the principal investigator of a six year grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts to the Campaign Management Institute to study campaign conduct. Dr. Thurber has been on the faculty at American University since 1974 and was honored as the University Scholar/Teacher of the Year in 1996. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. He is author and co-author of numerous books and more than seventy-five articles and chapters on Congress, congressional-presidential relations, congressional budgeting, congressional reform, interest groups and lobbying, and campaigns and elections. He is author or editor of *Congress and the Internet* (2002) with Colton Campbell, *Rivals for Power: Presidential-Congressional Relations, Second Edition* (2002), *The Battle for Congress: Consultants, Candidates, and Voters* (2001), *Political Advertising in Election Campaigns* (1999), *The Role of Political Consultants in Elections* (1999), *Remaking Congress: The Politics of Congressional Stability and Change* (with Roger Davidson, 1995), *Campaigns and Elections, American Style* (with Candice Nelson, 1995); and *Divided Democracy: Cooperation and Conflict Between Presidents and Congress* (1991). Dr. Thurber earned a BS in political science from the University of Oregon and a Ph.D. in political science from Indiana University and was an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow. He has worked on four reorganization efforts for committees in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate from 1976 to present. He was Director of the Washington, DC based Human Affairs Research Centers of the Battelle Memorial Institute and served as acting Dean of the School of Government and Public Administration at American University.

**Judy Van Rest****Executive Vice President, International Republican Institute**

Judy Van Rest was appointed Executive Vice President for the International Republican Institute (IRI) on August 2, 2004. She also serves on the Board of the United States Institute of Peace. From April 14, 2003, to July 1, 2004, she served as Senior Advisor for Governance for the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), Baghdad, Iraq. She also served as CPA's Director of the Office of Democratic Initiatives, coordinating programs ranging from election administration, civic education, political party building, women's leadership training, and nongovernmental organization development to local government, media infrastructure building, and transparency in government and civil society. Van Rest was appointed to the Peace Corps as Associate Director for Management and Chief Information Officer in September 2001. Prior to the Peace Corps, Van Rest served as Regional Director for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) programs for IRI, one of the core institutes of the National Endowment for Democracy. In that position, she directed nonpartisan democracy-building programs in countries of the former Soviet Union including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia and Azerbaijan. She also participated in observer missions for national and local elections in Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Mongolia and conducted political party seminars in Russia, Kazakhstan and the Kyrgyz Republic. She served as Acting IRI President in summer 2001. In addition, she held management positions at the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Smithsonian Institution and the Republican National Committee. She was Deputy to the Special Assistant to the President for White House Intergovernmental Affairs in 1981. Van Rest graduated from the William Allen White School of Journalism, the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

**Dr. Marcin Walecki****Senior Political Finance Advisor, IFES**

Marcin Walecki designs, develops and implements anti-corruption and political finance programs for IFES. His areas of expertise include political finance and political party development, curriculum and material development, training, project management, logistics, administrative systems design and implementation. Walecki has consulted on or conducted U.S. government-funded programs in several countries in transition including: Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Iraq, Kosovo, Liberia, Lithuania, Nigeria, Poland, Romania, Russia, South Africa and Ukraine. Walecki presents regularly at international conferences and has written for numerous publications on corruption, political financing and political parties. Some of his publications include: "Money and Politics in Poland," "Party Finance and Corruption" and "Campaign Finance in Central Eastern Europe". Walecki holds a doctorate of philosophy in politics from St. Antony's College at Oxford University and a master's in Law (Hons, Class I) from the Department of Law and Administration at the University of Warsaw. He is a board member of the International Political Science Association Research Committee on Political Finance and Political Corruption.

**Ellen Weintraub****Commissioner, Federal Election Commission**

Ellen Weintraub was appointed to the Federal Election Commission on December 6, 2002 and took office on December 9, 2002. She served as Chair of the Commission in 2003, as Vice Chair in 2004, and is currently serving as Vice Chair again in 2008. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Weintraub was Of Counsel to Perkins Coie LLP and a member of its Political Law Group. There, she counseled clients on federal and state campaign finance laws, political ethics, non-profit law, and lobbying regulation. Before joining Perkins Coie, Ms. Weintraub was Counsel to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for the U.S. House of Representatives (the House Ethics Committee). At the

Committee, Ms. Weintraub focused on implementing the Ethics Reform Act of 1989 and subsequent changes to the House Code of Official Conduct. She also served as editor in chief of the House Ethics Manual and as a principal contributor to the first Senate Ethics Manual. Commissioner Weintraub was born in New York and received her B.A., *cum laude*, from Yale College and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.

**Dr. Clyde Wilcox**

**Professor, Georgetown University**

Dr. Clyde Wilcox writes on public opinion and electoral behavior, religion and politics, gender politics, the politics of social issues such as abortion, gay rights, and gun control, interest group politics, campaign finance, and science fiction and politics. He has authored, coauthored, edited, or co-edited more than 20 books. His most recent include *The Politics of Gay Rights*, *Prayers in the Precincts: The Christian Right in the 1998 Elections*, *The Clinton Scandal and the Future of American Government*, *Political Science Fiction*, and *Women in Elected Office, Past, Present, and Future*. Prior to joining the Georgetown faculty, Professor Wilcox worked at the Federal Election Commission and taught at Union College.

**Emad Yousef**

**Programme Manager for the Arab World, Africa & Middle East, International IDEA**

Emad Yousef is an election expert with extensive experience with international organizations. His experience ranges from managing election operations to developing and implementing capacity development programmes for election professionals. Before joining IDEA in June 2006, he has worked as an International Election Expert for the Iraq Out-of-Country Voting Program Lebanon Country Office in 2006, and as chief of training in Denmark 2005. In 2005 he worked for the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Afghanistan as Counting Centre Manager in the Parliamentary and Provincial Council Elections. He also served as the Voter Education Officer for the Afghanistan Out-of-Country Programme led by the International Organization of Migration (IOM) in Pakistan in 2004. In 2006, Emad joined the international team of election experts to develop the BRIDGE project curriculum. He has organized and facilitated BRIDGE training courses in Yemen, Jordan, and Egypt, as well as the first Arab world BRIDGE ‘Train the Facilitators’ course in Amman Nov 2006. Mr. Yousef holds a BS from Jordan University, Amman-Jordan.

**Shireen Zaman**

**Senior Program Officer, Vital Voices**

Shireen Zaman is Senior Program Officer for the Middle East and North Africa at Vital Voices Global Partnership, where she focuses on the development of public-private partnerships, particularly in the Middle East, and other projects in the region. She completed her Masters degree at the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC in 2006 where she focused on democracy issues and the Middle East. Shireen has worked with the Office of Iraq Political Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and with the international non-profit Women Waging Peace. Shireen has also worked with the Moving Ideas Network, doing collaborative communications and legislative strategy with a network of more than 130 organizations. Most recently she worked with the Transnational Broadcast Studies journal in Cairo, Egypt and attended the Arabic Language Institute at the American University based in Cairo. She holds a B.A. in Human Development from Boston College.