



HOW WE HIRE: CAPITOL HILL

*Tuesday, September 27
12:00-1:00pm, Room 101*

Moderator:

Professor Bill Yeomans

Fellow in Law and Government
American University, Washington College of Law

William Yeomans joined the faculty of law in 2009. From 2006 until 2009, he served as Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's Chief Counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee. He has also been Legal Director of the Alliance for Justice and the first Director of Programs for the American Constitution Society, where he spearheaded the launch of its two publications: the Harvard Law and Policy Review and Advance. Prior to that, he spent 26 years at the Department of Justice where he litigated and supervised civil rights cases in the federal courts involving voting rights, school desegregation, employment discrimination, housing discrimination, hate crimes, police misconduct, abortion clinic violence, and human trafficking. He served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Chief of Staff, and acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

Panelists:

Margaret Caravelli

Majority Chief Counsel
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology
Chairman Ralph M. Hall, (TX-04)

Currently, Ms. Caravelli is the chief legal advisor to the Chairman, Congressman Ralph M. Hall (TX-04), and the Republican Members of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. In this role she is responsible for the formulation of policy alternatives for programs and statutes under the Committee's jurisdiction with an emphasis on nuclear, coal, solar, renewable, and fossil energy research and development including environmental standards and scientific issues related to climate change. She coordinates the legislative activities of the Committee and its four subcommittees. She is responsible for the procedural aspects of Committee hearings, markups, and floor consideration of legislation in the sole or shared jurisdiction of the Committee. She works as a liaison to House Leadership Offices, other committees, and the Senate and serves as the main point of contact on the House floor during consideration of legislation reported out by the Committee. Ms. Caravelli oversees all drafting including bills, amendments, motions to recommit, and other legal or legislative materials. She served as the principal negotiator, with an emphasis on energy and environment issues, for the America COMPETES Act of 2007, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, the Farm, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, and the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010.

Previously, Ms. Caravelli served as Counsel to the Committee on Energy and Commerce where she was the lead staffer on Clean Air Act issues involving stationary and mobile sources. She was principal staff negotiator during conference negotiations with the Senate on the coal, vehicles and fuels, climate change, and ethanol titles of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. In addition, she negotiated the Clean Air Act provisions included in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users (SAFETEA-LU).

Earlier in her career, Ms. Caravelli was Director of Government Affairs for the Oxygenated Fuels Association where she managed the federal and state affairs of the major trade association representing the producers of oxygenates used in gasoline. In addition, she served as Senior Counsel for Legislative and Federal Affairs at the National Petrochemical and Refiners Association, a national trade association representing United States refiners and petrochemical manufacturers.

Ms. Caravelli earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from Skidmore College. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa. Ms. Caravelli holds a Juris Doctorate from American University, Washington College of Law. She is a member of the Maryland Bar.

Kai Hirabayashi

Labor Counsel

U.S. Senate HELP Committee

Kai is currently Labor Counsel for the Senate HELP Committee, under Ranking Member, Sen. Michael B. Enzi (R-WY). Previously, Kai was Senior Manager of Labor Law Policy for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Prior to his tenure at the Chamber, Kai served as a political appointee in the Wage and Hour Division at the U.S. Department of Labor under President George W. Bush. Kai's first job after graduating law school was serving as a Professional Staff Member on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce under then Chairman, Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-CA).

Kai graduated from American University Law School in Washington, D.C. with an LL.M. in Administrative and Regulatory Law in 2006. He earned his J.D. from Gonzaga Law School in Spokane, WA in 2005, and his undergraduate degree from the University of Washington in Seattle. A Seattle native, Kai is an avid supporter of the Seattle Mariners and the University of Washington Husky football team and expects the program will return to the Rose Bowl soon.

Bobby Vassar

Minority Chief Counsel

U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security

Bobby Vassar is Chief Counsel for the Minority, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, House Judiciary Committee and is responsible for all legislative assistance to Subcommittee Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott and other Members of the Subcommittee, and to the Full Committee Chairman and other Full Committee Members as assigned. From 2007 to 2010, he served as Chief Counsel for the Majority for the Subcommittee, and for the Minority from 1999 to 2006.

From 1994 to 1999, Mr. Vassar served as Senior Counsel and Legislative Director, Office of Congressman Robert C. Scott; from 1982 - 1994, served as an appointee in the Virginia State government as Acting Secretary for Health and Human Resources (Cabinet position with responsibility for the oversight of 14 state agencies employing over 17,000 workers and administering budgets totaling over \$4 billion); Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Resources (Cabinet position with oversight responsibility of 9 state agencies); Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Services and as Chairman of the Virginia Parole Board.

Prior to 1982, Mr. Vassar served in the non-profit sector as General Counsel and Executive Director, Peninsula Legal Aid Center; Senior Assistant, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Staff Attorney and Virginia Coordinator, Pre-paid Legal Services Plan of the Laborer's District Council of D.C. and Vicinity; and Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellow assigned to the Roanoke Legal Aid Society.

Mr. Vassar received his JD from the University of Virginia School of Law and received his Bachelor of Arts from Norfolk State University.

About the Legislation and Policy Brief

The Legislation and Policy Brief ("LPB") is the legislative-based legal publication of the Washington College of Law.

LPB publishes twice a year and conducts dynamic panel discussions providing non-partisan legal analysis of current legislation and policy issues before federal and state legislatures. LPB articles cover a wide range of legislative areas and tend to be heavy on legislative history and analysis.