



## **Keynote Speaker – Dr. Arthur B. Laffer**

*Founder and Chairman, Laffer Associates*



Arthur B. Laffer is the founder and chairman of Laffer Associates, an institutional economic research and consulting firm, as well as Laffer Investments, an institutional investment management firm utilizing diverse investment strategies. Laffer Associates' research focuses on the interconnecting macroeconomic, political and demographic changes affecting global financial markets. Laffer Investments' investment management strategies utilize some of the economic principles and models pioneered by Dr. Laffer, as well as other unique offerings managed by the firm's portfolio management group. The firms provide research and investment management services to a diverse group of clients, which includes institutions, pension funds, corporations, endowments, foundations, individuals and others.

Dr. Laffer's economic acumen and influence in triggering a world-wide tax-cutting movement in the 1980s have earned him the distinction in many publications as "The Father of Supply-Side Economics." One of his earliest successes in shaping public policy was his involvement in Proposition 13, the groundbreaking California initiative that drastically cut property taxes in the state in 1978.

Dr. Laffer was a member of President Reagan's Economic Policy Advisory Board for both of his two terms (1981-1989). He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Reagan/Bush Finance Committee in 1984 and was a founding member of the Reagan Executive Advisory Committee for the presidential race of 1980. He also advised Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on fiscal policy in the UK during the 1980s.

He was formerly the Distinguished University Professor at Pepperdine University and a member of the Pepperdine Board of Directors. He also held the status as the Charles B. Thornton Professor of Business Economics at the University of Southern California from 1976 to 1984. He was an Associate Professor of Business Economics at the University of Chicago from 1970 to 1976 and a member of the Chicago faculty from 1967 through 1976.

During the years 1972 to 1977, Dr. Laffer was a consultant to Secretary of the Treasury William Simon, Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld and Secretary of the Treasury George Shultz. He was the first to hold the title of Chief Economist at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under Mr. Shultz from October 1970 to July 1972.

Dr. Laffer has been widely acknowledged for his economic achievements. He was noted in TIME magazine's March 29, 1999 cover story "The Century's Greatest Minds" for inventing the Laffer Curve, which it deemed one of "a few of the advances that powered this extraordinary century." He was listed in "A Dozen Who Shaped the '80s," in the LOS ANGELES TIMES on Jan. 1, 1990, and in "A Gallery of the Greatest People Who Influenced Our Daily Business," in *The Wall Street Journal* on June 23, 1989. His creation of the Laffer Curve was deemed a "memorable event" in financial history by the *Institutional Investor* in its July 1992 Silver Anniversary issue, "The Heroes, Villains, Triumphs, Failures and Other Memorable Events." In addition, *Bloomberg Businessweek* selected the Laffer Curve as one of the "85 Most Disruptive Ideas in Our History" for its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue in 2014.

The awards that Dr. Laffer has received for his economic work include: two Graham and Dodd Awards from the Financial Analyst Federation for outstanding feature articles published in the *Financial Analysts Journal*; the Distinguished Service Award by the National Association of Investment Clubs; the Adam Smith Award for his insights and contributions to the Wealth of Nations; and the Daniel Webster Award for public speaking by the International Platform Association. In addition, Dr. Laffer earned the Father of the Year award from the West Coast Father's Day Committee in 1983 and was awarded the Hayek Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016.

Years of experience and success in advising on a governmental level have distinguished Dr. Laffer in the business community as well. He currently sits on the board of directors or board of advisors of a number of private and public companies, including BridgeHealth Medical, BelHealth Investment Partners, GEE Group, Tenth Avenue Holdings, ARK Investment Management, SmartVue, Armor Concepts and NexPoint Residential Trust.

Dr. Laffer is the author of a number of books, including *The End of Prosperity: How Higher Taxes will Doom the Economy- If We Let it Happen*, which was a nominee for the F.A. Hayek book award in 2009, *Return to Prosperity: How America can Regain its Economic Superpower Status*, *Eureka! How to Fix California*, and New York Times Best Seller, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of States*.

Dr. Laffer received a B.A. in economics from Yale University in 1963. He received an M.B.A. and a Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University in 1965 and 1972 respectively.

## **Keynote Speaker – Judge Michael B. Mukasey**

*Of Counsel, Debevoise & Plimpton; Former 81<sup>st</sup> Attorney General of the United States*



Michael B. Mukasey served as the 81<sup>st</sup> Attorney General of the United States, the nation's chief law enforcement officer, from November 2007 to January 2009. During that time, he oversaw the U.S. Justice Department and advised on critical issues of domestic and international law.

From 1988 to 2006, he served as a district judge in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, becoming chief judge in 2000. While on the bench, he handled numerous cases, including the trial of Omar Abdel Rahman, the so-called "blind sheikh," and others, convicted of a wide-ranging conspiracy that included the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center and a later plot to blow up New York landmarks; and the case of Jose Padilla, arrested on a material witness warrant and believed to have returned to the United States to commit terrorist acts.

In February 2009, Judge Mukasey joined the New York office of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, where he is of counsel in the litigation department and focuses his practice primarily on internal investigations, independent board reviews and corporate governance.

He received his LL.B. from Yale Law School in 1967 and his B.A. from Columbia College in 1963.

## **Breakout Session Speaker – Mr. Eric Brown**

*Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute*



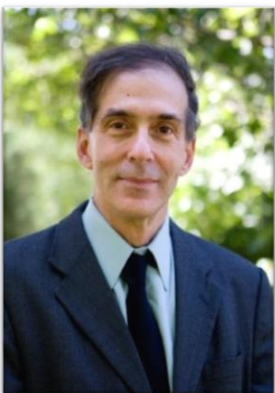
Eric Brown is a senior fellow at Hudson Institute where he studies Asian and Middle Eastern affairs, international security and development, alternative geopolitical futures, and U.S. diplomacy and strategy. He is also the principal editor, with Dr. Hillel Fradkin and Amb. Husain Haqqani, of the journal *Current Trends in Islamist Ideology* and has written for many other publications.

In recent years, his research has delved into the contest over order in the Middle East, the geostrategic implications of growing Trans-Eurasian connectivity, and on U.S. security policy across Eurasia. For the last 15 years, he has crisscrossed Eurasia conducting research in over two dozen countries on strategic, governance and political issues as well as on developing new U.S. "expeditionary diplomacy" and political action capabilities and plans. He has a special interest in the geopolitics of mountains, from the Zagros to the Himalayas. In 2017, he completed a field-work intensive study on U.S. alliances from the Maghreb to India, and on U.S. diplomatic strategies for bolstering allies against state fragility and breakdown and expanding grey zone conflict. At present, his focus is on U.S.-India strategic cooperation.

His graduate work was in Eastern Classics, and as an undergraduate he lived and studied throughout Asia. He is a trustee of the American University of Iraq-Sulaimani (AUIS) and of the AUIS Foundation.

## **Breakout Session Speaker – Dr. James Ceaser**

*Professor and Director of the Program for Constitutionalism and Democracy, University of Virginia*



James W. Ceaser is a Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia, where he has taught since 1976, and a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution. He is the author of several books on American politics and political thought, including *Presidential Selection*, *Liberal Democracy and Political Science*, *Reconstructing America*, and *Nature and History in American Political Development*.

## **Breakout Session Speaker – Dr. Colin Dueck**

*Professor in the Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University*



Colin Dueck is a Professor at George Mason University's School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs. He studied politics at Princeton University and international relations at Oxford under a Rhodes scholarship.

He has published three books on American foreign and national security policies, *The Obama Doctrine: American Grand Strategy Today* (Oxford, 2015), *Hard Line: The Republican Party and U.S. Foreign Policy Since World War II* (Princeton, 2010), and *Reluctant Crusaders: Power, Culture, and Change in American Grand Strategy* (Princeton, 2006). He has provided congressional testimony and published articles on these same subjects in journals such as *International Security*, *Orbis*, *Security Studies*, *Review of International Studies*, *Political Science Quarterly* and *World Policy Journal*, as well as online at *RealClearPolitics*, *National Review*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The National Interest* and *The New York Times*. His current research focus is on the relationship between party politics, presidential leadership, American conservatism and U.S. foreign policy strategies.

He is the faculty adviser for the Alexander Hamilton Society at George Mason University and a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

**Breakout Session Speaker – Ms. Siobhan MacDermott**  
*Global Cybersecurity Public Policy Executive, Bank of America*



Siobhan MacDermott leads the Global Information Security Cybersecurity Public Policy team at Bank of America. She is responsible for GIS Public Policy 2.0 and the bank’s participation in programs dedicated to improving cyber resiliency of the financial system’s core institutions including engagement, real-time threat sharing, risk analysis and contingency planning.

Siobhan joined Bank of America in July 2016 after serving as the Risk and Cybersecurity Principal at EY (formerly Ernst & Young) for almost two years. Prior to EY, she was the Chief Information Security Officer for Utilidata, Inc. and Chief Policy Officer for AVG. Siobhan helped direct strategy, government relations, global policy and issue management for a number of financial services and technical companies across the globe. In addition, she’s an accomplished author, with a fifth book expected in 2017.

Siobhan graduated from Temple University with a Bachelor of Arts in German Language and Literature. She holds a Master of Business Administration from Thunderbird School of Global Management and a Global Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University.

Siobhan serves as Vice Chair of the Fund for Peace and an Associate Fellow for the Global Fellowship Initiative for the Geneva Centre for Security Policy in Switzerland. She speaks English, German and French.

## **Breakout Session Speaker – Ms. Mira Ricardel**

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration*



Under Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security Mira Ricardel is a recognized leader in matters of national security policy and operations with extensive experience in the U.S. Government at the Departments of Defense and State, and on Capitol Hill, as well as in the private sector as a senior executive in the aerospace sector. After the November 2016 Presidential election, Ms. Ricardel led the Department of Defense Transition Team, and following the Inauguration of President Donald Trump was commissioned at the White House as Special Assistant to the President in the Office of Presidential Personnel.

For nearly a decade, Ms. Ricardel headed business development teams focused on current and future markets for missile defense, satellites and cyber security as a Vice President at The Boeing Company. In this capacity, she led the development of strategies to meet short and long term business objectives of the multi-billion dollar Network & Space Systems business unit of Boeing Defense, Space and Security, to include oversight of funding for research and development projects.

Prior to joining The Boeing Company, Mira Ricardel had a distinguished career in the development of U.S. national security programs and policies, serving as Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Eurasia. She was principal adviser to the U.S. Secretary of Defense on matters related to Europe, Eurasia, Russia, and NATO, nuclear forces, missile defense, counter-proliferation and arms control. In the aftermath of 9/11, Ms. Ricardel played a central role building support for U.S. and coalition operations among governments in the Caucasus, Central Asia and the Balkans. On July 14, 2005, she was awarded the Pentagon's highest civilian service award, the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

During her career, Ms. Ricardel served seven years as Legislative Assistant for Foreign Policy and Defense in the Senate Republican Leader's Office and as Foreign and Defense Policy Adviser on the Dole for President Campaign. She also held the position of Vice President of Programs at Freedom House, a non-profit organization.

Ms. Ricardel is a graduate of Georgetown University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Foreign Service, *magna cum laude*. In addition, she completed doctoral course work at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

## **Breakout Session Speaker – Ms. DeNeige Watson**

*Executive Director, RiskDesk at RANE*



DeNeige (Denny) Watson spent most of her career as an intelligence analyst at the CIA. In addition to creating and leading several large, innovative analytic programs at CIA, she served as the President’s Daily Briefer to Vice President Gore and Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, and also served on the Senate Armed Services Committee staff for Senator Nunn. After earning her MBA in 2007, Denny moved to the private sector where she has been delivering analytic solutions to address global risk challenges.

Denny spent the first 27 years of her career as an intelligence analyst and manager of analytic programs at the CIA. Beyond serving as the principle intelligence liaison to key senior policymakers—she is one of only three intelligence officers to have served in more than one Administration—Denny created and led several large, innovative analytic programs there, including the CIA's first performance management and business analytics capability and then the analytic group that led the creation of the CIA's current big data analysis capability. She created the methodology that the CIA still uses to evaluate the quality of its analytic production.

Since moving to the private sector, Ms. Watson has delivered top-notch analysis of global risks, working closely with subject matter experts, data analytics specialists, and cyber security companies. Denny has been the Executive Director of the RiskDesk at RANE (Risk Assistance Network + Exchange) since February 2015, where she leads a team of analysts who are responsible for delivering unique expertise and thought leadership to clients around both known and emerging risks. Prior to that, she worked at The Crumpton Group, Ambassador Crumpton’s boutique risk intelligence company, where she headed up their digital intelligence practice.

Denny is currently an adjunct faculty member at Georgetown University, where she teaches a course in critical thinking in analysis, as well as George Washington University where she has taught a course in data analysis and cyber security. She also currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of International Risk Intelligence Professionals (AIRIP).

Over the course of her career in government, Denny earned two Meritorious Unit Citations to recognize impact of new programs she initiated and the Intelligence Commendation Medal for her service as a President’s Daily Briefer.