ACLI FORUM 500

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FAIRMONT SONOMA MISSION INN & SPA
Sonoma, CA

Speaker Biographies

Andrew J. Beal joined the National Association of Insurance Commissioners in 1999. Mr. Beal served as General Counsel from 2000 until July 2006 when he was promoted to the position of Deputy Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer. He was appointed Chief Operating Officer and Chief Legal Officer in February 2009. In his current role, Mr. Beal's duties include managing the day-to-day operations of the organization. While at the NAIC, Mr. Beal has been directly involved in such projects as creation of the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact and national product standards for life insurance, annuities, disability income and long-term care insurance; development of producer licensing standards pursuant to the reciprocity requirements under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act; development of a global information sharing agreement for state insurance regulators, as well as other modernization initiatives undertaken by the organization over the past few years. Mr. Beal's prior legal experience includes serving as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps and as legal counsel with the Oklahoma Insurance Department. He has also worked in private practice as well as in-house legal counsel for an insurance company. His main areas of focus have been in the areas of corporate, business and insurance regulatory law. Mr. Beal attended the University of Missouri at Kansas City where he received a BA in History and Political Science. He received his Juris Doctor from the Oklahoma City University School of Law. He is licensed to practice in Missouri and Oklahoma.

Bruce Ferguson serves as Senior Vice President, State Relations Department. Bruce oversees the ACLI's legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts in the states and before such organizations as the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, National Conference of Insurance Legislators, National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Governors Association. Bruce also leads the ACLI's efforts to modernize the state-based system of insurance regulation, working with both industry and government stakeholders to enhance the uniformity and efficiency of our nation's insurance regulatory system. Over his career, Bruce covered legislative and regulatory affairs in almost half the states.

Marti Fisher joined the California Chamber of Commerce in January 2006 as a policy advocate. She leads CalChamber advocacy on immigration, unemployment insurance, regulatory reform, insurance, occupational safety and health, and tourism. She has specialized in workers' compensation, small business, and banking and finance issues. From October 2006 to December 2012, she headed CalChamber advocacy on health care issues. Fisher brought to CalChamber more than 15 years of experience in occupational safety and advocacy. She served as director of safety, health and regulatory services with the Associated General Contractors of California (AGC) immediately before joining the CalChamber policy team. Fisher earned a B.A. in public administration from California State University, Chico, and an M.B.A. from California State University, Sacramento.

Dirk Kempthorne was appointed president and CEO of the American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI) in November 2010 after an impressive career in public service. As president and CEO of ACLI, Governor Kempthorne is the chief representative and spokesman for the life insurance industry before Congress, the administration, in all state capitals, and in the international arena. ACLI's more than 300 legal reserve life insurer and fraternal benefit society member companies account for over 90 percent of the assets and premiums of the U.S life insurance and annuity industry. Governor Kempthorne's focus is on the important role life insurers play in providing financial and retirement security to many millions of American families. His efforts help shape public policies that make it easier for families to manage risk and ensure they have protection, long-term savings, and guaranteed income-for-life options in retirement. Governor Kempthorne was born in 1951 in San Diego, California, but has called Idaho his home state for most of his life. He graduated from the University of Idaho in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Governor Kempthorne began his commitment to public service in 1985, when he was elected Mayor of the City of Boise, Idaho. After serving seven years as Mayor, he was elected to the United States Senate in 1993. With Idaho issues close to his heart, he left the Senate after one term and was elected Governor of Idaho in 1998, and was easily re-elected for a second term in 2002. While serving as Governor, Kempthorne made improving education, especially early childhood education, a priority. In 2006, Governor Kempthorne returned to Washington, D.C. to serve President George W. Bush as the 49th Secretary of the Interior, charged with resurrecting the Department's tradition of responsible stewardship of public lands. In this role, Governor Kempthorne managed 20 percent of U.S. lands with an annual budget of $18 billion. Governor Kempthorne has proven himself to be a leader unbound by political affiliation. While in the U.S. Senate, he authored two strong bipartisan bills on state mandates and safe drinking water that were signed into law by President Bill Clinton and remain enacted today. Governor Kempthorne also understands the importance of international partners to U.S. prosperity, and has led numerous trade missions and delegations to key trading nations such as Japan, China, Korea, and Costa Rica.In addition to his accomplishments as a public servant, Governor Kempthorne has served as Chairman of the National Governors Association and the Western Governors Association, and President of the Council of State Governments. Governor Kempthorne and his wife, Patricia, also a University of Idaho graduate, have two adult children, Heather and Jeff. In 2006, Governor Kempthorne returned to Washington, D.C. to serve President George W. Bush as the 49th Secretary of the Interior, charged with resurrecting the Department's tradition of responsible stewardship of public lands. In this role, Governor Kempthorne managed 20 percent of U.S. lands with an annual budget of $18 billion. Governor Kempthorne has proven himself to be a leader unbound by political affiliation. While in the U.S. Senate, he authored two strong bipartisan bills on state mandates and safe drinking water that were signed into law by President Bill Clinton and remain enacted today. Governor Kempthorne also understands the importance of international partners to U.S. prosperity, and has led numerous trade missions and delegations to key trading nations such as Japan, China, Korea, and Costa Rica.

John Mangan joined the ACLI in 2002 and serves as Regional Vice President, State Relations. He is responsible for state legislative and regulatory affairs in the states of California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington. John also leads the ACLI's national issue team on the subject of state-sponsored retirement plans for private workers. He has provided testimony on state-run retirement plan studies and legislation in California, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia and Washington. In 2015, he helped draft and gain approval of a private sector approach to expanding retirement savings in Washington State. John has recently spoken on the topic of retirement security at seminars sponsored by ACLI, the Association of California Life and Health Insurance Companies, NAIFA, LIMRA, BNY Mellon and The Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER), Prior to joining ACLI, John spent 18 years with Oregon's largest life insurer, Standard Insurance Company, where he led the company's public affairs, public relations and lobbying efforts for a decade. From 1993 to 2000, he served on the ACLHIC Board of Directors and chaired Oregon's Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association. John has helped craft legislation ranging from genetic testing privacy protections and early life insurance payouts for AIDS victims, to senior financial protections and an overhaul of Oregon's insurance tax law, one of Oregon's largest revenue sources. John earned his B.A. *magna cum laude* from the University of Notre Dame and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He was awarded a graduate fellowship to Columbia University in New York, where he earned his M.A. in Comparative Literature.

Carlo Mondavi, a 4th generation winter born and raised in Napa Valley, grew up close to his grandfather Robert and father Tim, both of whom influenced him early on. He credits them both as his greatest teachers. After his studies were complete Carlo worked with the winemaking team at Robert mondavi and Opus One. After the sale of his family's name sake winery, Carlo joined his father, aunt and grandfather to initiate Continuum Estate. Along the educational journey in wine Carlo worked in Burgundy at Domaine Dujac. In 2012 Carlo and his brother Dante founded their own winery, RAEN, to produce world class Pinot Noir from the true Sonoma Coast.

Jennifer Quisenberry is Head of Structured Securities. Jennifer joined NEAM, Inc. in 2007. She is responsible for research and trading of the firm's Structured Securities portfolios. She has 29 years of investment experience and is a member of NEAM, Inc.'s Policy Committee. Ms. Quisenberry joined NEAM, Inc. from Conning Asset Management where she was head of the Structured Research Group. Prior to that, she was a Managing Director at Structured Finance Advisors where she represented insurance company investors in private placement asset backed securities transactions. Ms. Quisenberry also held positions as an asset backed securities analyst at The Hartford and bank loan analyst at Fuji Bank. Ms. Quisenberry is a CFA Charterholder and holds a B.A. in Economics and Finance from McGill University and an M.B.A. in Finance from New York University.

Tom Roberts is a member of Groom Law Group's Fiduciary practice group. Mr. Roberts has an extensive background in retirement services and the insurance industry. His expertise focuses on ERISA fiduciary, tax, securities and state insurance laws affecting defined contribution plan product and service offerings. Prior to joining Groom, Mr. Roberts spent over a decade at ING Americas U.S. Financial Services as Chief Counsel of ING U.S. Legal. In that capacity, he supervised a team of attorneys providing legal support to ING's retirement services businesses.

Jim Rousey is President of UTG and Universal Guaranty Life Insurance Company since September 2006, Director of UTG and Universal Guaranty Life Insurance Company since September 2001; Regional CEO and founding member of First Southern National Bank from 1988 to 2001. Board Member with the Illinois Fellowship of Christian Athletes from 2001-2005; Board Member with Contact Ministries from 2007-2011; Board Member with Amigos En Cristo, Inc. from 2007-2009. Board Member with ACLI from 2014 to present. Married to Debbie with three children and two grandchildren. Hobbies include reading books, golf and travel. Actively involved in several ministries and mission work.

Congressman Ed Royce U.S. Representative became the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in January 2013. He is serving his 12th term in Congress, representing Southern California's 39th district. Royce and his wife Marie are longtime residents of Fullerton, CA. As a longtime active member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Royce is known for his knowledge of many different regions of the world and analytical foresight into key U.S. foreign policy issues. Immediately prior to becoming Chairman of the Committee, Royce served as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade and a member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade, Royce was at the forefront of some of the most important issues facing our country. One of the Subcommittee's main focuses was the catastrophic, global threat posed by terrorism, especially the al-Qaeda network. Additionally, the Subcommittee explored issues such as the ideology that inspires terrorism; terrorist financing; terrorist sanctuaries and failed states; and capacity building of foreign forces to fight terrorism. Royce has been a leading voice on Iran sanctions; in 2010 he served on the Conference Committee for the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act. Royce was the original cosponsor of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syrian Human Rights Act of 2012. Royce has been instrumental in strengthening relations between the U.S. and India. In the 107th session of Congress, as its Chairman, Royce built the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans into one of the largest, most active House caucuses. Royce was designated by Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert to be an official member of then-President Clinton's historic delegation to India in 2000. In 2001, Royce led the effort to lift sanctions against India and Pakistan. Royce has long been involved in calling attention to the abysmal human rights conditions in Vietnam. He has worked on several important pieces of legislation to promote religious freedom and democracy, including the Freedom of Information in Vietnam

Act, the Vietnam Human Rights Sanctions Act, and the Vietnam Human Rights Act. As an original co-founder and the current Co-Chairman of the Congressional International Conservation Caucus, Royce is active in efforts to promote global natural resource conservation. Royce led efforts in Congress to authorize the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), which was signed into law in 2004.

Jim Szostek is the Vice President of American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI) Taxes & Retirement Security department. Jim joined ACLI in January 2008. ACLI represents more than 300 legal reserve life insurer and fraternal benefit society member companies operating in the United States. These member companies represent over 90% of the assets and premiums of the U.S. life insurance and annuity industry. ACLI member companies offer insurance contracts and other investment products and services to qualified retirement plans, including both defined benefit pension and 401(k) arrangements, and to individuals through individual retirement arrangements or on a non-qualified basis. ACLI member companies also are employer sponsors of retirement plans for their own employees. Jim helps guide ACLI policy on regulation and legislation affecting the retirement security business of its members. He has more than 27 years of experience consulting on tax and labor laws and rules applicable to employer sponsored retirement plans. He has testified before the Department of Labor as well as the IRS and Treasury at various hearings on rulemaking initiatives affecting retirement plans, most recently at the DOL's hearing on the fiduciary proposal. Prior to joining ACLI, Jim held positions supporting the retirement business of CIGNA and The Hartford. Jim is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University where he earned degrees in economics and business.

Congressman Mike Thompson represents California's 5th Congressional District. The district includes all of Napa and parts of Contra Costa, Lake, Solano and Sonoma Counties. He was first elected in 1998. Prior to serving in Congress, Thompson represented California's 2nd District in the California State Senate where he chaired the powerful Budget Committee. Thompson is a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means where he serves on the Health and Select Revenue subcommittees. Thompson is the co-founder and co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Wine Caucus, which consists of over 215 U.S. Senators and House members. He is a member and was twice co-chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. He is also a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, which is composed of Democrats committed to bipartisan problem solving and fiscal responsibility. In 1990, Thompson was the first Vietnam veteran elected to the California State Senate. He served in combat with the U.S. Army as a staff sergeant/platoon leader with the 173rd Airborne Brigade where he was wounded and received a Purple Heart. He was also an instructor at the Army's Airborne School. Thompson is recognized in Congress and throughout his district as a strong leader for Democratic principles who has built a solid reputation for bipartisan problem solving. Thompson's number one priority in Congress is to create jobs and grow our economy. He has co-authored numerous pieces of legislation to improve our nation's infrastructure, boost our renewable energy economy, and better our education system. As Co-chair of the bipartisan Military Veterans Caucus, he led the effort to improve treatment options for servicemembers suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury. He has authored bills to help veterans find work as they make the transition back to civilian life. And, as someone who went to college on the GI Bill himself, he helped lead the effort in Congress to pass the 21st Century GI Bill. With a national debt of more than $17 trillion, Thompson is working on a balanced approach to get our fiscal house in order that includes creating jobs, cutting spending, asking everyone to pay their fair share, and requiring Congress to pay for the bills it passes. In the wake of the school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, Thompson was named Chair of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. Thompson is a hunter, gun owner and strong supporter of the Second Amendment. He also believes that Congress should do more to reduce gun violence. In February of 2013, Thompson's task force released a comprehensive set of policy principles that will reduce gun violence and respect the Second Amendment, including expanding the criminal background check system to all commercial firearm sales. Thompson is the husband of a family nurse practitioner. He knows firsthand of the challenges that exist in our health care system. That is why he voted to pass the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and is working to build on the reforms made in the ACA to further improve everyone's access to affordable, quality health care. As an avid outdoorsman, Thompson is committed to preserving our district's beautiful lands. Thompson was awarded the Sierra Club's Edgar Wayburn Award for passing legislation that permanently protects 273,000 acres of wilderness in Northern California. The award is given in recognition of service to the environment by a person in government. Thompson was joined by other Sierra Club award winners, including former Vice President Al Gore and author and New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman. Thompson is the co-author of comprehensive immigration reform. He also has worked to ensure equal rights for same sex couples, and has co-authored legislation that gives state and local law enforcement the tools to prosecute hate crimes based on sexual orientation. As a combat veteran, Thompson worked to end the discriminatory policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Thompson is a small vineyard owner and was the maintenance supervisor for the Beringer Winery. He has taught Public Administration and State Government at San Francisco State University and California State University, Chico. He received his Master's of Public Administration from California State University, Chico.

Donald Townswick, CFA, is the Director of Equity Strategies at Conning, where he is responsible for the development and implementation of equity investment strategies. He is a member of the team that manages Conning's dividend equity strategies. Prior to joining Conning, Mr. Townswick was Senior Portfolio Manager at Golden Capital Management managing global equity strategies. Mr. Townswick has 24 years of experience in the investments industry, including as Director of Quantitative Research for ING Investment Management, NA and as a US equity portfolio manager with INVESCO, Aetna, and ING Investment Management. Mr. Townswick is a graduate of the University of Southern California with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and he earned an MBA in Finance from Vanderbilt University. Mr. Townswick is a CFA Charter holder.

Brad Wenger first joined the ACLHIC staff as an intern during the period of January 1975 to May 1976, while in his senior year at Chico State College. He graduated with distinction from Chico State College in June of 1975, receiving a B.A. in Public Administration.Following this internship, he was hired during the summer months to work full time for the Association as a Legislative Assistant. He then entered the University of Santa Clara graduate business program, receiving his M.B.A. in March of 1977. Thereafter, he was employed by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in their management training program.Mr. Wenger returned to the Association of California Life and Health Insurance Companies as Secretary and Assistant Counsel in February of 1978. He attended McGeorge School of Law where he graduated with distinction, Order of the Coif, and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1982.On July 1, 1989, Mr. Wenger was appointed President of the Association, which currently consists of 38 life and health insurance companies whose members provide coverage to millions of Californians.Mr. Wenger is a member of the Association of Life Insurance Counsel, the California State Bar and The Institute of Governmental Advocates. He serves as Co-Chair of the California Coalition for Children's Safety and Health (CCCSH), and on the Western Regional Board of Operation Hope.