

**REDUCING POVERTY AND ECONOMIC DISTRESS  
AFTER THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT CONFERENCE**  
January 15, 2010

**Speaker and Author Biographies**

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**Panel V: States and Localities**

***Margery Austin Turner (Presenter)***

Vice President for Research, Urban Institute

Margery Austin Turner is Vice President for Research at the Urban Institute, where she leads efforts to frame and conduct a forward-looking agenda of policy research. A nationally recognized expert on urban policy and neighborhood issues, Ms. Turner has analyzed issues of residential location, racial and ethnic discrimination and its contribution to neighborhood segregation and inequality, and the role of housing policies in promoting residential mobility and location choice. Much of her recent work has focused on the Washington metropolitan area, investigating conditions and trends in neighborhoods across the region.

Ms. Turner served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development from 1993 through 1996, focusing HUD's research agenda on the problems of racial discrimination, concentrated poverty, and economic opportunity in America's metropolitan areas. During her tenure, HUD's research office launched three major social science demonstration projects to test different strategies for helping families from distressed inner-city neighborhoods gain access to opportunities through employment and education.

***Manuel Pastor (Co-Author)***

Professor of Geography and American Studies and Ethnicity, University of Southern California

Dr. Manuel Pastor is Professor of Geography and American Studies & Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. Founding director of the Center for Justice, Tolerance, and Community at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Pastor currently directs the Program for Environmental and Regional Equity at USC and is co-director, with Dowell Myers, of USC's Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration. He holds an economics Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and has received fellowships from the Danforth, Guggenheim, and Kellogg foundations and grants from the Irvine Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the W.T. Grant Foundation, The California Endowment, the California Air Resources Board, and many others.

Pastor's research has generally focused on issues of environmental justice, regional inclusion, and the economic and social conditions facing low-income urban communities. His most recent book, *This Could Be the Start of Something Big: How Social Movements for Regional Equity are Transforming Metropolitan America* (Cornell University Press 2009; co-authored with Chris Benner and Martha Matsuoka), suggests how regional organizing is charting a new path for progressive politics and policies in America's urban areas. Previous volumes include *Staircases or Treadmills: Labor Market Intermediaries and Economic Opportunity in a Changing Economy* (Russell Sage 2007, co-authored with Chris Benner and Laura Leete), *Searching for the Uncommon Common Ground: New Dimensions on Race in America* (W.W. Norton 2002; co-authored with Angela Glover Blackwell and Stewart Kwoh) and *Regions That Work: How Cities and Suburbs Can Grow Together* (University of Minnesota Press 2000; co-authored with Peter Dreier, Eugene Grigsby, and Marta Lopez-Garza), a book that has become a standard reference for those looking to link neighborhoods and regions.

Dr. Pastor speaks frequently on issues of demographic change, economic inequality, and community empowerment and has contributed opinion pieces to such outlets as the *Los Angeles Times*, the *San Jose Mercury News*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He served as a member of the Commission on Regions appointed by California's Speaker of the State Assembly, and in January 2002 was awarded a Civic Entrepreneur of the Year award from the California Center for Regional Leadership.

***Nicholas Johnson (Presenter)***

Director, State Fiscal Project, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: State Budgets and Federalism

Nick Johnson is Director of the State Fiscal Project at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Since joining the Center in 1996, Johnson's research has included work on the interaction of state and federal fiscal policy, tax and spending limits, trends in tax policy, and state Earned Income Tax Credits, among other topics.

Nick's analysis or commentary has been featured in the Washington Post, New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, and numerous state and regional newspapers, and he has appeared as a guest on such television and radio programs as ABC's Nightline and National Public Radio's All Things Considered and the Diane Rehm Show, as well as Fox News, PBS, and BBC television.

In 2004 Mr. Johnson received the Ian Axford Fellowship in Public Policy, a program financed by the New Zealand government and administered by Fulbright New Zealand. Through this fellowship, he spent six months as an advisor to the New Zealand Treasury and the New Zealand Ministry of Social Development, conducting research on that country's programs of tax relief and cash assistance for low-income families.

He came to the Center from the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry, where he worked on rural development, food stamps, child nutrition, and related budget issues.

Johnson holds a graduate degree from Duke University's Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy.

***Martha Coven (Discussant)***

Special Assistant to the President for Mobility and Opportunity, the White House Domestic Policy Council

Martha Coven joined the staff of the Domestic Policy Council in January 2009, where she serves as Special Assistant to the President for Mobility and Opportunity. Her role includes advising on policy matters relating to job training, safety net programs, work-family balance, responsible fatherhood, and nutrition. She also coordinates the work of federal agencies in these areas.

Before joining the Obama Administration, Coven spent seven years at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. She directed the Center's legislative work on a number of issues, including affordable housing, TANF, Social Security, and climate change. She also regularly provided federal budget training to national and state-based advocates.

Her prior experience includes five years on Capitol Hill. From 1995 to 1998, she served as a staff advisor to the House Democratic leadership, managing a variety of communications projects and domestic policy issues.

Coven holds a B.A. in economics and a law degree from Yale University.

***Anthony Williams (Discussant)***

Mayor of District of Columbia, 1999 – 2007, Director, Arent Fox LLP

Anthony Williams is the director of the firm's state and municipal practice. Mayor Williams provides strategic consultation on state and local operations and development issues, including those related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Mayor Williams served as mayor of Washington, DC, from 1999 to 2007. During his two terms, he stabilized the finances of the District of Columbia and managed resources to improve services, lower taxes, improve the performance of city agencies, invest in infrastructure, and increase human services. This turnaround improved cash management, budget execution, and revenue collections.

From 2004 to 2005, Mayor Williams served as president of the National League of Cities. Prior to serving as mayor, he was the chief financial officer of the District of Columbia from 1995 to 1998. Previously, Mayor Williams was the first CFO for the US Department of Agriculture, appointed by President Bill Clinton and confirmed by the US Senate. He also served as the deputy state comptroller of Connecticut, where he was responsible for the management of 250 separate funds, the state's budget and accounting services, as well as the state's financial information and retirement systems. Mayor Williams served as the executive director of the Community Development Agency in St. Louis, the assistant director of the Boston Redevelopment Authority, and an adjunct professor at Columbia University. He was in the 354th Tactical Fighter wing during his service in the US Air Force.

Upon returning to the private sector in 2007, Mayor Williams founded Primum Public Realty Trust: a real estate entity that partnered with counties, cities, states and not-for-profit corporations to provide alternative funding sources for projects and programs that would otherwise go unfunded.

Mayor Williams is the William H. Bloomberg Lecturer in Public Management at Harvard Kennedy School. Mayor Williams holds JD and MPP degrees from Harvard University (1987) and a BA degree from Yale University (1979).

***Peter Edelman (Panel Chair)***

Faculty Director, Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality and Public Policy

Peter Edelman is a Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center, where he teaches constitutional law and poverty law. On the faculty since 1982, he has also served in all three branches of government. During President Clinton's first term he was Counselor to HHS Secretary Donna Shalala and then Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

Professor Edelman has been Associate Dean of the Law Center, Director of the New York State Division for Youth, and Vice President of the University of Massachusetts. He was a Legislative Assistant to Senator Robert F. Kennedy and Issues Director for Senator Edward Kennedy's 1980 Presidential campaign. Prior to working for RFK, he clerked for Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg and before that for Judge Henry J. Friendly on the U.S. Court of Appeals. He also served as Special Assistant to U.S. Assistant Attorney General John Douglas, and was a partner in the law firm of Foley & Lardner.

Mr. Edelman's book, *Searching for America's Heart: RFK and the Renewal of Hope*, is available in paperback from the Georgetown University Press. He has written extensively on poverty, constitutional law, and children and youth. His article in the *Atlantic Monthly*, entitled "The Worst Thing Bill Clinton Has Done," received the Harry Chapin Media Award. With Harry Holzer and the late Paul Offner, he recently co-authored *Reconnecting Disconnected Young Men*, published by Urban Institute Press.

Professor Edelman has chaired and been a board member of numerous organizations and foundations. He is currently chair of the District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission and recently co-chaired a blue-ribbon

Task Force on Poverty for the Center for American Progress, and is board chair of the Public Welfare Foundation and the National Center for Youth Law.

Mr. Edelman has been a United States-Japan Leadership Program Fellow, was the J. Skelly Wright Memorial Fellow at Yale Law School, and has received numerous honors and awards for his work, including the William J. Brennan, Jr. Award from the D.C. Bar in 2005. He grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School.