

Paul C. Light

Paul C. Light earned his B.A. with highest honors, summa cum laude from Macalester College in 1975, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Michigan in political science in 1980. He has taught at the University of Virginia, George Washington University, Georgetown University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Minnesota, and is currently teaching at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government.



From 1995-1998, he was Director of the Public Policy Program at the Pew Charitable Trusts in Philadelphia where he was responsible for a \$16.5 million yearly grants budget for renewing civic life in the United States. He joined the Brookings Institution in January 1999 as Douglas Dillon Senior Fellow and Vice President and Director of Governmental Studies. Paul continues to serve as Douglas Dillon Senior Fellow and the founding Director of the Center for Public Service.

From 1982-83, Light was an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow serving with Rep. Barber B. Conable, Jr. and the John Glenn presidential campaign. After serving with the Brookings Institution as a Guest Scholar in 1983-84, he joined the National Academy of Public Administration as Director of Studies where he was responsible for strengthening the Academy's research program. In 1987, he returned to Capitol Hill as a senior staffer to the U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. His responsibilities included general oversight of executive branch management, as well as implementation of the federal Inspector General, Ethics in Government, and presidential transitions legislation. After leaving the Senate staff, Light served as Senior Adviser to the National Commission on the Public Service, chaired by former Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker, in 1988. He served in an identical role under the National Commission on the State and Local Public Service, chaired by former Mississippi Governor William Winter, in 1992. Light drafted each commission's final report.

Light has written thirteen books, including *The President's Agenda*, *Vice Presidential Power*, the award-winning *Artful Work: The Politics of Social Security Reform*, *Thickening Government: Federal Hierarchy and the Diffusion of Accountability*, and *The Tides of Reform: Making Government Work, 1945-1995*. His last two books on government reform won the National Academy of Public Administration's Louis Brownlow book award. His thirteenth book, *Making Nonprofits Work* (2000), was one of the Brookings Institution's best selling books of the year.

Light is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and was elected to the Board of the National Academy of Public Administration in 2000.