Inside Washington: Understanding Federal Decision-Making

**November 14 - 16, 2012**  
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace  
1779 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C.

## Agenda

### Wednesday, November 14, 2012

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 – 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Breakfast</td>
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<td><strong>Root Room</strong></td>
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<td>8:30 – 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome, Introductions &amp; Overview</td>
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<td><strong>Root Room</strong></td>
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<td>Bob Carr, Former Congressman (D-MI); Adjunct Faculty, Brookings</td>
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<td>Executive Education</td>
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<td>Marina Augoustidis, Program Manager, Brookings Executive Education</td>
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<td>9:30 – 9:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>9:45 – 10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Decision-making in the West Wing: Perspectives of a Former Senior</td>
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<td><strong>Root Room</strong></td>
<td>Advisor to the President</td>
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<td>How is the West Wing operated? Who are the main players and how much</td>
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<td>influence do they have in decision-making? What is the hierarchy and</td>
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<td>relationship between the senior staff and the Cabinet level appointee?</td>
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<td>Ken Duberstein, Former White House Chief of Staff, Reagan Administration; Chairman &amp; CEO, The Duberstein Group; Trustee, The Brookings Institution</td>
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<td>10:45 – 11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
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11:00 – 12:00 noon
Root Room

Wielding Political Power: The Battle over Federal Budgets and the National Debt: A Glimpse into the Process and the Players

Political power is much more than influencing decisions and outcomes. Even earlier, the ability to shape the national agenda demonstrates political clout. In the last two years some groups have succeeded in pushing the issues of deficits and the national debt to the top of the agenda. How did this happen? What caused the executive and congressional decision processes to freeze in gridlock, forcing the country to buck the task to outside commissions? The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget has been in the middle of the debate, and is actively engaged to press for a solution.

- Alice Rivlin, Member, National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (Bowles-Simpson); Co-Chair, Debt Reduction Task Force (Domenici-Rivlin); former Director, OMB, and Founding Director, Congressional Budget Office; Senior Fellow, Economic Studies and Metropolitan Program, Brookings Institution

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Root Room

Luncheon: Looking Back on the November 2012 Election: What does it all Mean?
The November election was one of the most significant in U.S. history. What should we expect in the lame duck session and the next Congress?

- Amy Walter, Political Director, ABC News

1:30 – 1:45 p.m.
Break

1:45 – 2:45 p.m.
Root Room

The White House is just one component of the Executive Office of the President (EOP). A major element is the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and within OMB, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), which oversees the paperwork and regulatory proposals of the government. An expert on OMB and the regulatory process will explain the role of OIRA, how regulatory policy is decided, and Obama's revisions.

- Sally Katzen, Former Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget; former Administrator, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Executive Office of the President, the White House; Senior Advisor, the Podesta Group

2:45 – 3:00 p.m.
Break

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Root Room

Current US Regulatory Policy: Case Study of Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Education Regulatory Issues

- Sally Katzen
Thursday, November 15, 2012

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
Root Room

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Decision-making in the Obama White House: Communications Policy
Root Room
How is the interaction between the policy offices and Communications? What drives the message of the day? How do decisions get made to give a major address, highlight an issue during the daily briefing, or include an item in the State of the Union? How does the Communications Office fit into the overall structure of the White House?

- Jen Psaki, Former Deputy Assistant to the President; Deputy Director of Communications, the White House; Senior Vice President and Managing Director, Global Strategy Group

9:30 – 9:45 a.m. Break

9:45 – 10:45 a.m. Interagency Coordination and Policy-Making at the Highest Levels: The Operations and Decision-Process in the White House’s Domestic Policy Council
Root Room
The Domestic Policy Council is one of the White House’s major policy institutions in which key policies are originated, debated, recommended and then followed during implementation. Our speaker will shed light on that policy process.

- Douglas McKalip, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Policy Advisor for Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Domestic Policy Council, The White House

10:45 – 11:00 a.m. Break

11:00 – 12:00 noon How Federal Budgets Are Decided in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
Root Room
To govern is to decide and to determine which agencies get the funds to operate programs. OMB plays a critically important role in helping the President decide budgets for federal agencies and programs. 95% of the President’s budget submission to Congress emerges unscathed. Therefore, winning the battle in OMB is vital.

- Matthew Vaeth, Assistant Director of OMB for Legislative Reference; former Chief, Budget Review Branch, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, the White House

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch and Discussion
Choate Room
Thursday, November 15, 2012 (cont.)

1:45 – 3:10 p.m.  
*A Look Inside an Agency: Policy Implications*  
*Root Room*  
How does an agency make policy and use its regulatory authority?  
- The Honorable Carol Browner, Distinguished Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress; former Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (1993-2000) and former Director, White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy (2009 – 2011)

3:10 – 3:25 p.m.  
*Break*  

3:25 – 4:25 p.m.  
*Intelligence Agency Coordination: How Are Key Decisions Made In the Intelligence Community? How Does the DNI Operate?*  
*Root Room*  
In the Post 9/11 era the Office of the Director of National Intelligence was created to coordinate the numerous intelligence agencies. Has it succeeded? How does its decision-making process work?  
- John Negroponte, Former Director of National Intelligence; Deputy Secretary, Department of State; Former United States Ambassador
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| 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. | Covering the White House: A Correspondent’s Perspective             | Root Room              | The White House Press Corps has influenced the Office of the President and how it conducts itself. What role does the 4th estate have on how the White House operates?  
▪ Richard Wolf, White House Correspondent, USA Today |
| 9:30 – 9:45 a.m. | Break                                                                |                        |                                                                                                                                    |
| 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. | The Federal Reserve and Recent U.S. Monetary Policy                  | Root Room              | With congressional gridlock over fiscal policy, the FED has become the key player in combating the Great Recession. Employing innovative tools beyond traditional monetary policy, the FED has become more controversial. How do decisions get made in an Independent Agency and how much Independence do they really have?  
▪ Winthrop Hambley, Senior Advisor, Board of Governors, The Federal Reserve |
| 10:45 – 11:00 a.m. | Break                                                                |                        |                                                                                                                                    |
| 11:00 – 12:00 noon | The President’s Cabinet: How Does it Function and What Role Does It Play | Root Room              | The Cabinet is made up the Vice President and the heads of fifteen executive departments, but how does it function and what role does it play in presidential decision-making?  
▪ Margaret Spellings, Former Secretary of Education |
| 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Luncheon                                                             | Root Room              |                                                                                                                                    |
| 1:15 – 2:15 p.m. | The National Security Council: How Does it Make Decisions and What Role Does the Staff Play? | Root Room              | With ongoing military actions, unrest in the Middle East, and the continued war on terror the NSC has had a large role in foreign policy decisions. How does the NSC process work and what role does staff play?  
▪ Jeffrey Bader, Former Senior Director, National Security Council; Former United States Ambassador; Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Brookings Institution |
| 2:15 – 2:30 p.m. | Break                                                                |                        |                                                                                                                                    |
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Root Room

The Supreme Court: What Are the Key Recent Decisions? What Is their Significance and Implications for the Future?
The highest judicial body in the United States has been making news with recent decisions on such significant issues as corporate campaign contributions, free speech, and private property rights. The current term will continue to make news on a variety of issues. An expert on the Supreme Court will share his insights into the decisions of the Court, what we could expect this term and their importance for the country.

- Neal Katyal, Partner, Hogan Lovells; Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center and Former Acting Solicitor General of the United States

3:30 – 4:15 p.m.
Root Room

Conclusion, and Awarding of Certificates

- Bob Carr, Former Congressman (D-MI); Adjunct Faculty, Brookings Executive Education
- Marina Augoustidis, Program Manager, Brookings Executive Education