

2009

Governmental Research
Association
Annual Policy Conference
July 26-29, 2009
Washington, D.C.



Governmental Research Association Annual Policy Conference
 July 26-29, 2009
Brookings Institution
 1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, D.C.



Agenda	4
Monday, July 27.....	5
Breakfast Session: GRA Organizations Roundup	5
Session 1: Coping with the Effects of Recession in the States.....	6
Marcia Howard.....	7
Donald J. Boyd.....	8
Earl M. Ryan	9
Session 2: Corrections & Public Safety.....	10
Craig Thiel	11
Donald E. Pryor, Ph.D.....	12
Adam Gelb.....	13
Session 3: Municipal Finance in Peril (working lunch).....	14
Richard A. Ciccarone	15
Session 4: Healthcare Reform in the States.....	17
Enrique Martinez-Vidal	18
Fran Weisberg.....	19
Session 5: Federal Healthcare Reform.....	20
Judith Solomon	21
A. Bruce Steinwald	22
Tuesday, July 28.....	23
Session 6: The Future of the Census — Public Finance Statistics (working breakfast).....	23
Christopher Pece.....	24
Session 7: Investing in Infrastructure—Transportation.....	25
Emilia Istrate	26
Janet Oakley	27

Governmental Research Association Annual Policy Conference
July 26-29, 2009
Brookings Institution
1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, D.C.



William Millar.....	28
Session 8: Investing in Infrastructure—Electric Power Transmission.....	29
Mason Emmett.....	30
Sue Gander.....	31
Kent Gardner, Ph.D.	32
Awards Dinner.....	33
Bruce Katz	34
Most Distinguished Research Entries	36
Outstanding Policy Achievement Entries.....	37
Most Effective Education Entries.....	38
Wednesday, July 29	39
Session 9: The American Community Survey and the Decennial Census (working breakfast).....	39
Deborah H. Griffin	40
Session 10: GRA Organizations—Roundtable on Current Challenges	41
2009 GRA Annual Conference Attendees	42



Agenda

Sunday, July 26

- 1:35 p.m.** Washington Nationals vs. San Diego Padres
(Optional: ticket purchase required)
- 5:00 p.m.** Board of Trustees Meeting
- 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.** Reception
- 7:30 p.m.** *Dinner on Your Own*

Monday, July 27

- 7:30 - 9:10 a.m.** Breakfast & GRA Organizations Roundup
- 9:30 - 10:40 a.m.** Session 1: Coping with the Effects of Recession in the States
- 10:45 a.m. - noon** Session 2: Corrections & Public Safety
- 12:15 - 1:45 p.m.** Session 3: Municipal Finance in Peril (working lunch)
- 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.** Session 4: Healthcare Reform in the States
- 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.** Session 5: Federal Healthcare Reform

Tuesday, July 28

- 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.** Session 6: The Future of the Census (Working breakfast)
- 9:00 - 10:40 a.m.** Session 7: Investing in Infrastructure—Transportation
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Session 8: Investing in Infrastructure—Electric Power Transmission
- 12:30 - 6:00 p.m.** *Lunch and Activities on Your Own*
- 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.** Awards Dinner

Wednesday, July 29

- 8:00 - 9:30 a.m.** Session 9: The American Community Survey and the Decennial Census (working breakfast)
- 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.** Session 10: GRA Organizations—Roundtable on Current Challenges
- 11:00 a.m.** Conference Adjourns

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Monday, July 27

Breakfast Session: GRA Organizations Roundup

7:30 – 9:15 a.m.

Steve Kroes, GRA President, Utah Foundation, moderator



Monday, July 27

Session 1: Coping with the Effects of Recession in the States

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

The current recession has had an unusually broad impact on the national economy. Yet some states have been much more seriously affected than others. Panelists will explore the health of state economies, discuss factors that have influenced the differences, and consider how federal stimulus funds and state-level policy proposals are likely to turn the tide.

Speakers

Marcia Howard, Executive Director, Federal Funds Information for States

Donald J. Boyd, Senior Fellow, Rockefeller Institute

Earl Ryan, President, Citizens Research Council of Michigan

Note: Slide presentations will be made available for download at www.graonline.org.

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Marcia Howard is the director of Federal Funds Information for States (FFIS), a service jointly sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislators and the National Governors Association. FFIS provides subscribing states with data and analysis for more than 200 federal grant programs. Over the last 20 years, she also has worked for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) and the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO).

Howard also is the managing editor of *State Policy Reports*, a semi-monthly newsletter that reports on emerging issues of importance to states. She holds a BA from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Applied Economics degree from the University of Michigan.

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Donald J. Boyd is a senior fellow at the Rockefeller Institute of Government where he conducts research on state and local government fiscal issues. Boyd is also the deputy director of the Center for Policy Research at the State University of New York at Albany where his research focuses on education issues and teacher labor markets.

Don has more than 25 years experience analyzing state and local fiscal issues. His past positions include deputy director of the Rockefeller Institute of Government and director of its fiscal studies program; director of the economic and revenue staff for New York State's budget office; and director of the tax staff for the New York State Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Don holds a Ph.D. in Managerial Economics from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York.

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Earl M. Ryan

President

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Earl M. Ryan became the fifth president of the Citizens Research Council of Michigan in November 1994. He had been the first president of the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute, which he headed from 1987 to 1994. Prior to that, he was president of the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana (1984-87).

Ryan began his career with CRC in 1967 in its Lansing office. From 1970 to 1977, he worked in program evaluation for the State of Michigan, both for the executive branch and the legislature. He returned to CRC in 1977, becoming research director in 1979.

From 1985 to 1986, he was president of the Governmental Research Association, the association of organizations across the nation similar to CRC. He has received the Distinguished Achievement Award (1991) and the Distinguished Alumni Award (2009) from the Graduate Program in Public Administration, Department of Political Science, Wayne State University.

Ryan was born in Michigan and received degrees in political science from the University of Michigan and Wayne State University. He is married to the former Jo Ellen Junod and has two sons and two grandchildren. He and his wife live in Northville, Michigan.

Ryan will be retiring from CRC in Autumn 2009.



Monday, July 27

Session 2: Corrections & Public Safety

10:45 a.m. – noon

The United States has the highest incarceration rate of all advanced economies. The 1980s and 1990s were a period of rapid expansion of prisons at all levels of government. Besides being costly, a “just lock ‘em up” policy has been massively disruptive to families and communities and may have increased crime, not reduced it. Panelists will explore the reasons behind and consequences of public decisions to incarcerate so many individuals and examine alternatives to control growth in corrections populations and spending.

Speakers

Craig Thiel, Citizens Research Council of Michigan

Don Pryor, Center for Governmental Research

Adam Gelb, The Pew Center on the States

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Craig Thiel

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Craig Thiel works for the Citizens Research Council of Michigan as the Director of State Affairs in its Lansing office. The CRC is a privately funded, not-for-profit public policy research organization that recently celebrated its 90th birthday. Craig joined the CRC in April of 2006 after working for 10 years for the House and Senate Fiscal Agencies to analyze and develop the annual state budget. Craig began his public service career with the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago in 1991.

As the Director of State Affairs, Craig focuses his research on state governmental fiscal/budgetary and organizational issues. During his time with CRC, Craig has analyzed K-12 education financing, transportation policy, corrections policy, and state taxes. Craig helped lead CRC's project to project the State of Michigan's fiscal future based on its current spending and tax policies. He is currently working to examine issues that may face a constitutional convention, if one is called at the 2010 general election. Also, Craig is engaged in an effort to analyze corrections policy in other Great Lakes states with a focus on how Michigan compares to its neighbors.

Craig holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and political science from Kalamazoo College and a Masters degree in Public Administration from Wayne State University. He holds positions on various professional, non-profit, and local government boards/associations.

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Donald E. Pryor, Ph.D., has served as CGR's Director of Human Services Analysis since 1982. Previously he directed research for the Washington D.C.-based Pretrial Services Resource Center and worked in various capacities for Xerox Corporation and the General Motors Institute. His areas of expertise include human services, criminal justice, children and youth services, community indicators, education, program evaluation.

During his distinguished career Dr. Pryor has directed, consulted on, and critiqued a wide variety of research projects in the public, nonprofit and private sectors at local, state and national levels. His work has led to improved services and millions of dollars in direct savings to taxpayers. Dr. Pryor's expertise encompasses human service delivery, assessments of community needs and resources, criminal justice practices, educational reform, program evaluations, policy analysis, social indicators, and governmental management and organization.

Dr. Pryor has directed 3 studies for which CGR has won the Most Distinguished Research Award from the Governmental Research Association, the national organization of professionals engaged in governmental research. The most recent award was in 2007 for a comprehensive assessment of, and recommendations for, a New York county's criminal justice system. Previous awards involved an assessment of a city's early childhood needs, and a county's youth service needs.

He holds a B.A. in Psychology from Randolph-Macon College and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Industrial Psychology from Purdue University.

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Adam Gelb

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Adam Gelb directs the Public Safety Performance Project of the Pew Center on the States. The project advances sentencing and corrections policies that protect public safety, hold offenders accountable and control costs. Adam has been involved in crime and drug issues for the past 22 years, as a reporter for [The Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#), staff to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, and as a senior state official in Georgia and Maryland. He graduated from the University of Virginia and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.



Monday, July 27

Session 3: Municipal Finance in Peril (working lunch)

12:15 – 1:45 p.m.

Public sector finances are under greater stress than at any time in recent memory, raising the specter of widespread defaults on municipal bond payments. What's the solution? Just as federal stimulus dollars have plugged holes in state and local government budgets, some have suggested a federal guarantee for municipals. Richard Ciccarone, co-founder and past national chairman of the National Federation of Municipal Analysts, will address the perils and pitfalls of federal guarantees.

Speaker

Richard Ciccarone, Managing Director and Chief Research Officer, McDonnell Investment Management

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Richard A. Ciccarone

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Mr. Ciccarone is a Managing Director and Chief Research Officer at McDonnell Investment Management LLC. McDonnell is an institutional fixed income investment management firm located in Oak Brook, IL with responsibility for nearly \$12 billion in fixed income assets. Mr. Ciccarone, who has over thirty years of investment industry experience, is responsible for managing the McDonnell investment research resources, including the management of research analysts and analytical tools to support client portfolios. In addition, he is the President and CEO of Merritt Research Services, LLC -- a municipal bond financial statement database research company serving institutional clients throughout the U.S.. He is also publisher of MuniNetGuide.com, an online information resource and directory related to municipal related web sites.

Prior to September 2001, Mr. Ciccarone served as Senior Vice President and Co-Head of Fixed Income at Van Kampen Investments Inc., where he was primarily responsible for municipal asset management. Prior to that position, he served at Van Kampen as Senior Vice President and Co-Head of Municipal Investments and Director of Research. From 1989 to 1996, Mr. Ciccarone was Executive Vice President at EVEREN Securities Inc (Chicago) and served in various capacities at its predecessor firms (Kemper Securities Inc and Blunt Ellis & Loewi. Inc) as an Executive Vice President and Director of Tax Exempt / Fixed Income Research. From 1983 to 1989, Mr. Ciccarone was a Vice President and Director of Unit Investment Trust Research for Van Kampen Merritt Inc. Prior to 1983, he was manager of municipal research at Harris Bank (Chicago).

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He has received numerous awards and distinctions as the top Buyside research director and top municipal generalist analyst from *Smith's Research & Ratings* and *The Bond Buyer* as well as a first team All American Fixed Income Analyst from *Institutional Investor* magazine.

Mr. Ciccarone is a co-founder and past national chairman of the National Federation of Municipal Analysts and past chairperson of the Standards & Practices Committee. He is a member of the Chicago Municipal Analysts Society. He is also a member and past-president of the Society of Municipal Analysts. During a term in the 1990s, he represented the NFMA as a member of the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Council.

Active in community affairs, Mr. Ciccarone served as an elected trustee of the Hinsdale Village Board (1999-2003) as well as a member of its plan commission (1996-1999). He has also served as a member of the Hinsdale Firefighters Pension Board. He is also as an executive member of the Civic Federation of Chicago Board of Directors and the co-chair of the Civic Federation's State and Local Pension committee. He is also a member of the Hinsdale Public Library Foundation.

He earned his B.A. degree in Political Science at Miami University (Ohio) and his MA degree from The University of Akron in public administration and urban studies with a concentration in public budgeting.

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Monday, July 27

Session 4: Healthcare Reform in the States

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Panelists will share some of the more promising health care reform strategies being implemented at the state level, including coverage expansions, cost containment and initiatives aimed at improving the health care delivery and financing systems.

Jennifer Pike, *Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana*, moderator

Speakers

Enrique Martinez-Vidal, State Coverage Institute, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Fran Weisberg, Executive Director, New York Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency

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Enrique Martinez-Vidal

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Enrique Martinez-Vidal is a Vice President at AcademyHealth and the Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's State Coverage Initiatives (SCI) program. He joined AcademyHealth in February 2005 as the deputy director of SCI.

He is currently also the project director for the State Quality Improvement Institute, a project of the Commonwealth Fund to assist states that are ready to make substantial commitments to quality improvement and to facilitate development of concrete action plans for further progress. In addition, he has worked on various state-related projects under a contract with the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

Previously Mr. Martinez-Vidal was the deputy director for performance and benefits at the Maryland Health Care Commission, an independent state agency. There he was responsible for the oversight of Maryland's small group insurance market reforms; the annual evaluation of Maryland's mandated health insurance benefits; the collection and public dissemination of quality and performance information for hospitals, nursing homes and health plans; providing primary assistance on all legislative issues; and working on numerous other projects related to the affordability of health care, quality improvement, and patient safety.

Mr. Martinez-Vidal was formerly a policy analyst with the Maryland Department of Legislative Services for five years. During that time he staffed the House Economic Matters Committee and was involved with a number of health-care related issues. He has a B.A. in political science and international studies from Dickinson College and a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University.

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Fran Weisberg

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Fran Weisberg has more than 25 years experience in human service, community leadership, administration, policy-making and fundraising within the Rochester community. As FLHSA's Executive Director, she oversees an independent health planning organization that promotes healthier communities in a nine-county region by bringing stakeholders together to solve community health problems, educating people about how to make better healthcare decisions and enabling people to participate in a less-restrictive healthcare environment. The agency's work centers on improving system performance, capacity management and community health.

The only fully functioning health systems agency in New York State, FLHSA is reinvigorating community health planning, by engaging stakeholders, setting performance targets, and measuring and reporting results. Recent successes include the Community Health System 2020 Commission, which will help the Rochester area save millions of dollars in annual operating costs by balancing hospital modernization needs against community resources. Ongoing efforts include reducing unnecessary hospital stays and non-urgent emergency room visits, eliminating health-care disparities among minority communities, combating childhood obesity, planning for long-term health services for the aging, and helping people living with AIDS/HIV.

Ms. Weisberg previously served as President/CEO of Lifespan for more than 10 years, leading the organization to provide direct services to those 55 and older. In addition, she created a statewide model to combat elder abuse and co-chaired the new Statewide Elder Abuse Consortium. Most recently, Ms. Weisberg was the Vice President for External Affairs and Strategic Directions at Catholic Family Center. Her background includes both operational and planning/programming development responsibilities at the institutional, community, and state level. She is a member of numerous local boards and has consistently demonstrated strong leadership and teambuilding abilities. Ms. Weisberg received a bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester.



Monday, July 27

Session 5: Federal Healthcare Reform

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Panelists will discuss the process and progress of health care policy reform negotiations at the federal level, including Medicaid expansions and the current administration's approach to evaluating state applications for rule waivers to enable state-level reform experimentation.

Jennifer Pike, *Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana*, moderator

Speakers

Judith Solomon, Senior Fellow, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities

A. Bruce Steinwald, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office

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Judith Solomon

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Judith Solomon joined the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities in January 2005 as a Senior Fellow specializing in Medicaid and SCHIP with a focus on state level issues.

Before coming to the Center, Solomon was a Senior Policy Fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children and Executive Director of the Children's Health Council where she directed the Council's work on policy analysis, outreach, education and training, and independent oversight of health care services provided through Connecticut's Medicaid managed care program.

She also has worked as a legal services attorney specializing in the area of public benefits and has taught a course on Medicaid and SCHIP at the Yale University School of Medicine (Department of Epidemiology and Public Health).

She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and Rutgers University School of Law in Newark.

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A. Bruce Steinwald

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Bruce Steinwald is a Director in the Health Care Team of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Washington, D.C. He supervises the preparation of health policy analyses, testimony, and reports to the U.S. Congress on Medicare payment systems and on other health care financing issues.

Before joining the GAO in 2002, Mr. Steinwald was an independent consultant specializing in health economics analysis for health care delivery and financing organizations. In the 1990s, Mr. Steinwald was Vice-President of Covance Health Economics and Outcomes Services, Inc. where he directed the company's Outcomes Studies Group division and initiated its European practice. In the 1980s, Mr. Steinwald worked in the Office of the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, and was the Deputy Director of the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission (forerunner to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission).

He received his BA degree from Johns Hopkins University and his MBA majoring in health economics from the University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business. Mr. Steinwald has authored or co-authored numerous publications in health services research and policy since the 1970s.



Tuesday, July 28

Session 6: The Future of the Census — Public Finance Statistics (working breakfast)

7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

GRA organizations depend heavily on statistics gathered and distributed by the Census Bureau. The work of the Government Statistics Division produces a snapshot of the health and welfare of more than 87,000 governmental units across the nation, bodies that employ 1 in 7 workers in the national labor force. Tight budgets put the Division at a crossroads. Panelist from Census and GRA will discuss how the Division plans to improve the accuracy and currency of statistics, while working to improve the efficiency of data collection.

Eric Lupher, *Citizens Research Council of Michigan*, moderator

Speaker

Chris Pece, Chief, Public Finance Analysis, Census Bureau

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Christopher Pece

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Christopher Pece is the Assistant Division Chief for Recurring Programs in the U.S. Census Bureau's Governments Division. Pece began his career with the Census Bureau in 1998 as an analyst on the Monthly Retail Trade Survey where he played a significant role in the development and implementation of the of the Quarterly Retail E-Commerce Report. In 2002 he became a manager over the Advanced Monthly Retail Trade Survey (MARTS) and the Manufacturing, Trade, Inventory, and Sales report (MTIS).

He joined the Governments Division in 2005 as chief if the State Government Finance Survey, the State Government Tax Collections (STC) survey, and the Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenues (Q-Tax). He holds a B.S. in economics from St. John's University and an MA in Philosophy from Bowling Green State University.



Tuesday, July 28

Session 7: Investing in Infrastructure—Transportation

9:00 – 10:45 a.m.

With the debate on the federal stimulus bill behind us, legislative attention on the federal, state and local level will now turn to long range transportation policy and funding. The federal law that drives surface transportation policy expires this year, and a new transportation bill will have to grapple with the nation's deteriorating transportation infrastructure and a depleted Federal Highway Trust Fund. Among the questions that will need to be answered are: Has the gasoline tax outlived its usefulness as a means of financing transportation infrastructure and, if so, what should be its replacement? Are new transportation financing mechanisms such as congestion pricing, specialized tolling and vehicle mileage fees innovative solutions, or political non-starters? Has the arrival of the Obama administration christened a new era of emphasis on rail transit and modern mass transit technologies, or will much of the federal focus continue to be on roads and bridges? Will the federal government continue to call the shots when it comes to setting transportation policy and financing transportation improvements, or will the dollars and policymaking devolve more to the states and local governments? Will public-private partnerships play a larger role in financing transportation infrastructure improvements and, if so, can the public interest be preserved?

Rob Henken, *Public Policy Forum, Milwaukee, WI, moderator*

Speakers

Emilia Istrate, Senior Research Analyst, Brookings Institution

Janet Oakley, Director of Policy and Government Relations, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

William Millar, President, American Public Transit Association (APTA)

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Emilia Istrate

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Emilia C. Istrate is a senior research analyst in the Metro Program's Metropolitan Infrastructure Initiative. Her work focuses on domestic and international metropolitan economic development, infrastructure financing, transportation and housing.

Prior to joining Brookings, Emilia worked as a Graduate Research Associate at the School of Public Policy, George Mason University, on projects such as a spatial analysis of foreclosures and a study of Universal Postal Service and the Postal Monopoly. Ms. Istrate is a PhD Candidate in Public Policy, with specializations in Regional Development and Transportation, at George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.

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Janet Oakley

Director of Policy and Government Relations

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Janet Oakley joined the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) as Director of Policy and Government Relations in July of 1999. In this capacity she is responsible for managing national transportation policy development and advocacy on behalf of the transportation departments in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico as well as overseeing the association's freight, transit, aviation, rail, water, planning, and environmental programs. Ms. Oakley is responsible for directing the association's policy development and advocacy efforts leading to the next reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs.

Prior to joining AASHTO, Ms. Oakley was Director of Government Affairs for the National Association of Regional Councils, and was responsible for the 1994 formation of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO). Ms. Oakley served for five years as AMPO's first director. Ms. Oakley began her career as a transportation planner for the Kentucky department of Transportation. She then moved to Washington, DC where she continued her career as a transportation planner for the U.S. Federal Highway Administration. Ms. Oakley held subsequent positions as a budget analyst for the U.S. House of Representatives' Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee and as director of regional affairs for the American Trucking Association.

Ms. Oakley is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a Bachelors Degree in Regional Planning and a Masters Degree in Planning and Geography.

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William Millar

President

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William Millar is the president of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). Before coming to APTA in 1996, Prior to APTA, Bill served 19 years at the Port Authority of Allegheny County, the principal transit operator serving Pittsburgh, PA. As its executive director from 1983-1996, he oversaw the development and operation of bus, busway, light rail, paratransit and inclined plane service.

From 1973-77, Bill worked for the Pennsylvania DOT where he developed and managed Pennsylvania's Free Transit Program for Senior Citizens and led the Penn DOT's rural public and community transit efforts. He began his career as the county transportation planner in Lancaster, PA.

Mr. Millar is a strong supporter of transportation research and is the recipient of the Founding Father Award for his leadership in establishing the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP). He has been a member of the executive committee of the Transportation Research Board for many years and served as its chair in 1992. He also serves on advisory committees of several university transportation research institutes.

A well-known expert in the field of public transportation and transportation policy, Bill has published numerous articles and has often testified before the U.S. Congress. He is a frequent speaker and lecturer at conferences and seminars and is an adjunct professor in the School of Public Policy at George Mason University. Bill has a BA from Northwestern University and an MA from the University of Iowa majoring in urban transportation planning and policy analysis.



Tuesday, July 28

Session 8: Investing in Infrastructure—Electric Power Transmission

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The system of wires that brings power from dams, power plants and windfarms to homes and businesses is a wonder of investment, maintenance and coordination. Yet the system is in need of expansion and repair. Moreover, new technology can make the power grid significantly more efficient and “smarter,” bringing services to remote locations throughout the nation. Find out the Stimulus Bill is likely to be used to improve the grid and explore “smart grid” opportunities.

Speakers

Mason Emmett, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Energy Policy and Innovation, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Sue Gander, Director, Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Division, National Governors Association - Center for Best Practices

Kent Gardner, Center for Governmental Research, Rochester & Albany, NY

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Mason Emmett is Senior Legal Advisor for the Office of Energy Policy and Innovation at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Policy office was organized in May 2009 to provide leadership in the development and formulation of policies and regulations to address emerging issues affecting wholesale and interstate energy markets, including such areas as climate change, the integration of renewable resources, and the deployment of demand response and distributed resources, smart grid and other advanced technologies. Mason previously served as Senior Legal Advisor in the Commission's Office of General Counsel.

Before joining FERC, Mason represented public utilities appearing before the Commission as an associate at Skadden, Arps in Washington, D.C. Mason is a graduate of the University of Texas and Georgetown University Law Center, where he is also an adjunct professor of law.

Governmental Research Association Annual Policy Conference
July 26-29, 2009
Brookings Institution
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Sue Gander

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Sue Gander directs the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Division of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center). In that capacity she managed the chairman's initiative on *Securing a Clean Energy Future* and is currently managing the chairman's initiative on *Strengthening our Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future*.

Prior to joining the NGA Center, she served as a Program Manager for the US Environmental Protection Agency Clean Energy-Environment State Partnership Program, and as a Senior Policy Analyst and Government Relations Director for the Center for Clean Air Policy, where she covered state, national and international energy, land use and climate change issues. Ms. Gander has worked to advance cost-effective, market-based clean energy solutions involving a range of technologies, from lawn mowers to power plants to aircraft engines. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1995, with a MA in Public Policy and a certificate in Energy Analysis and Policy, and from Brown University in 1989, with a BA in Public Policy. Ms. Gander is a LEED Accredited Professional and serves on the board of the Institute for Building Technology & Safety and the Keystone Energy Board and was a founding board member of GreenHome.

Governmental Research Association Annual Policy Conference
July 26-29, 2009
Brookings Institution
1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, D.C.



Kent Gardner, Ph.D.

President & Chief Economist

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Kent Gardner is the President of the Center for Governmental Research (CGR), a public policy and management consulting organization founded by Kodak's George Eastman in 1915. In addition to his role as chief executive officer, he leads CGR's study of economics and public finance. Clients include New York State's economic development arm, Empire State Development, the Commission on Independent Colleges & Universities, the New York Power Authority, and the New York State Health Foundation.

Dr. Gardner brings extensive experience in state and regional economic analysis, assessing the impacts of major developments, institutional change or public policy. Under Dr. Gardner's supervision, topics addressed by CGR include the economic and social impacts of casino gambling, the role of nonprofits and educational institutions in the New York economy, the contribution of state government to the development and allocation of below-market energy (as staff support to the NYS Commission on Public Power Programs for Economic Development), and the dissemination of broadband Internet in rural areas.

Dr. Gardner holds B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Governmental Research Association Annual Policy Conference
July 26-29, 2009
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Tuesday, July 28

Awards Dinner

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Join GRA members as awards are announced for Most Distinguished Research, Outstanding Policy Achievement, and Most Effective Education.

Speaker

Bruce Katz, VP & Director Metropolitan Studies Program, Brookings Institution

Governmental Research Association Annual Policy Conference
July 26-29, 2009
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Bruce Katz

Vice President, Brookings Institution
Director, Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program
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Bruce Katz is a Vice President at the Brookings Institution and founding Director of the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program. The Metro Program seeks to redefine the challenges facing cities and metropolitan areas by publishing cutting edge research on major demographic, market, development and governance trends.

Mr. Katz regularly advises national, state, regional and municipal leaders on policy reforms that advance the competitiveness of metropolitan areas. He focuses particularly on reforms that promote the revitalization of central cities and older suburbs and enhance the ability of these places to attract, retain and grow the middle class. In 2006, he received the prestigious Heinz Award in Public Policy for his contributions to urban and metropolitan America.

Mr. Katz is a frequent writer and commentator on urban and metropolitan issues. He is the editor or co-editor of several books on transportation, demographics and regionalism, including "Elevate Our Cities," (*The Press Enterprise*, May 13, 2007); "A Nation in Transition: What the Urban Age Means for the United States," (Urban Age Conference, May 4, 2007); "The Sticker Shock of Sprawl: Housing/Transportation Tradeoffs in Metro Kansas City," (April 2007); "Preserving the Vital Center: Renew the Economy of the Industrial Heartland," with John C. Austin and Paul Dimond (Brookings Institution, February 2007); "Rethinking U.S. Rental Housing Policy: Build on State and Local Innovations," with Margery Austin Turner (Brookings Institution, February 2007); "The Next Urban Agenda," opinion by Bruce Katz, *Times Union* (January 28, 2007); "The State of American Cities," with Alan Berube (Brookings Institution, November 2006); "An Urban Agenda for an Urban Age," with Andy Altman and Julie Wagner (Brookings Institution, November 2006); "Redefining Urban & Suburban America: Evidence from Census 2000, Volume III, ed.," (Brookings Institution Press, 2006); "The Economic Potential of American Cities," (Brookings Institution, October 2006); "Housing Families Displaced by Katrina: A Review of the Federal Response to Date," with Amy Liu, Matt Fellowes, and Mia Mabanta (Brookings Institution, November 2005); "Katrina's Window: Confronting Concentrated Poverty Across America," with Alan Berube (Brookings Institution, October 2005); "Taking the High Road, ed.,"

Governmental Research Association Annual Policy Conference
July 26-29, 2009
Brookings Institution
1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, D.C.



(Brookings Institution Press, 2005); "Redefining Urban & Suburban America Volume II, ed.," (Brookings Institution Press, 2005); "A Progressive Agenda for Metropolitan America," *What We Stand For* (Newmarket Press, 2004); "Neighborhoods of Choice and Connection: The Evolution of American Neighborhood Policy and What It Means for the United Kingdom," (Brookings Institution, July 2004); "Smart Growth: The Future of the American Metropolis?" London School of Economics and Political Science CASE Paper (July 2002); "Reinventing the City," co-editor with Jennifer Bradley, *Brookings Review* (Summer 2000); *Reflections on Regionalism*, ed., (Brookings Institution, February 2000); "Who Should Run the Housing Voucher Program? A Reform Proposal," with Margery Austin Turner of the Urban

Institute (Brookings Institution, November 2000); "Beyond City Limits," *Setting National Priorities: The 2000 Election and Beyond*, Robert D. Reischauer and Henry J. Aaron, eds. (Brookings Institution Press, 1999); "Divided We Sprawl," with Jennifer Bradley, *Atlantic Monthly* (December 1999); "A Region Divided: The State of Growth in Greater Washington, D.C.," with Amy Liu (Brookings Institution, 1999); *Community Works: The Revival of Civil Society in America*, edited by E.J. Dionne Jr. (Brookings Institution Press 1998); "The New Metropolitan Agenda," co-editor with Scott Bernstein, *Brookings Review* (Fall 1998)

His op-eds and articles have appeared in a wide range of major national and regional newspapers including *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Baltimore Sun*, *Boston Globe*, *BusinessWeek*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Hartford Courant*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*. Mr. Katz frequently appears on TV and radio, including National Public Radio's Morning Edition, PBS's TheLehrer Newshour, and CNN.

Before joining Brookings, Mr. Katz served as Chief of Staff to Henry G. Cisneros, former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Katz has also served as the staff director of the Senate Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Affairs. He is also a Visiting Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics.

Mr. Katz is a graduate of Brown University and Yale Law School.

Governmental Research Association Annual Policy Conference
July 26-29, 2009
Brookings Institution
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2009 GRA Awards Competition

Most Distinguished Research Entries

Citizens Research Council of Michigan –
“Approaches to Consolidating Local
Government Services”

Economy League of Greater Philadelphia – “The
Philadelphia Gas Works: Challenges and
Solutions”

The North Carolina Center for Public Policy
Research – “Reforming Mental Health Reform:
The History of Mental Health Reform in North
Carolina”

Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana –
“Redistricting 2010: Reforming the Process of
Distributing Political Power”

Worcester Regional Research Bureau, Inc. –
“Public Employee Pensions: Is It Time to Retire
the System?”

Judges

Linda Brookhart, *Chair*, State Universities Annuitants Association

Mary Whittinghill, Montana Taxpayers Association

Rick Yocum, Ohio Public Expenditure Council

Governmental Research Association Annual Policy Conference
July 26-29, 2009
Brookings Institution
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2009 GRA Awards Competition

Outstanding Policy Achievement Entries

North Carolina Center for Public Policy
Research –
“Counting, Preventing, and Providing
Opportunities for Dropouts in North
Carolina”

Bureau of Governmental Research –
“Comprehensive Reform of Land Use
Decision Making in New Orleans”

Judges

Jennifer Pike, *Chair*, Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana (PAR)
Stephen J. Kroes, Utah Foundation
Michele Mariani Vaughn, The Pew Charitable Trusts



2009 GRA Awards Competition

Most Effective Education Entries

Utah Foundation –
“The 2008 Utah Priorities Project”

Public Policy Forum –
“Milwaukee County’s Transit Crisis: How did we get here and what do we do now?”

Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana –
“GulfGov Reports: Study of the Recovery, Role, and Capacity of the States and Localities Damaged by the 2005 Hurricanes”

Citizens Research Council of Michigan –
“Proposal 2008-02: Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research”

Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation –
“A Research and Public Education Campaign on the Consequences of a Ballot Question to Eliminate the State Income Tax”

TTARA Research Foundation –
“Property Tax Symposium”

Bureau of Governmental Research (New Orleans, LA) –
“Street Smarts: Maintaining and Managing New Orleans’ Road Network”

North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research –
“Fraud Against the Elderly in North Carolina”

Center for Governmental Research (Rochester, NY) –
“A Cost of Government Study for Northeast Ohio”

Judges

Lise Valentine, Chair, The Civic Federation
Steve Wray, Economy League of Greater Philadelphia
Mark Haveman, Minnesota Taxpayers Association



Wednesday, July 29

***Session 9: The American Community Survey and the Decennial Census
(working breakfast)***

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

In prior decades, the years ending in 9 were a period of despair for consumers of economic and demographic statistics as the Decennial Census had become a distant memory. The American Community Survey (ACS) has revolutionized socioeconomic analysis by developing a rolling profile of our communities, providing data at an unprecedented level of specificity and geography. Census experts and data consumers from GRA will discuss the future of ACS and implications for the 2010 Decennial Census.

Eric Lupher, *Citizens Research Council of Michigan*, moderator

Speaker

Deborah H. Griffin, American Community Survey Office, US Bureau of the Census

Note: Slide presentations will be made available for download at www.graonline.org.

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Deborah H. Griffin

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Deborah Griffin is a special assistant to the chief of the American Community Survey Office. In this role she serves as a program advisor and is responsible for special projects relating to both program evaluation and implementation. She is a mathematical statistician who has been at the Census Bureau for over 30 years. She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a BS in mathematics.

She worked on the design, implementation, and evaluation of the 1980, 1990, and 2000 decennial censuses, focusing on coverage improvement and evaluation. She was responsible for operational analyses of both data collection and data processing activities. Since 1998 she has been a part of the team responsible for the design and evaluation of the American Community Survey (ACS). She serves as a technical advisor on ACS data collection operations and ACS data processing and data dissemination activities. She has authored several papers and given numerous presentations on all aspects of the ACS. She most recently has been responsible for the design and production of a series of handbooks for ACS data users.

Governmental Research Association Annual Policy Conference
July 26-29, 2009
Brookings Institution
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Wednesday, July 29

Session 10: GRA Organizations—Roundtable on Current Challenges

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

The broad impact of the recession on corporate giving, foundation support, endowments and individual contributions has created unusual challenges for GRA organizations. Join other members to share your experiences and learn how others are coping.

Steve Kroes, GRA President, Utah Foundation, moderator

Governmental Research Association Annual Policy Conference
July 26-29, 2009
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Governmental Research Association Annual Policy Conference
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