



***THE PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY'S 2025 SPRING MEETING:
OUR REVOLUTIONARY FOUNDING: LESSONS FOR TODAY***

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Friday Dinner Fireside Chat: Do We Live in Revolutionary Times?

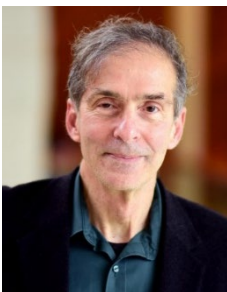


Charles R. Kesler is editor of the *Claremont Review of Books*, the Dengler-Dykema Distinguished Professor of Government at Claremont McKenna College, and author, most recently, of *Crisis of the Two Constitutions: The Rise, Decline, and Recovery of American Greatness*. Dr. Kesler also teaches in the Claremont Institute's Publius Fellows Program and Lincoln Fellows Program. He received his B.A. in Social Studies and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Government from Harvard University. From 1989–2008, Dr. Kesler was director of CMC's Henry Salvatori Center for the Study of Individual Freedom in the Modern World. He is the recipient of the prestigious 2018 Bradley Prize, a high honor bestowed upon distinguished individuals who have influenced American scholarship and debate. He is a distinguished member of The Philadelphia Society.



Bradford P. Wilson the James Wilson Distinguished Visiting Scholar in the Center for Constitutional Studies at Utah Valley University. He recently retired from his long-time position as Executive Director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Lecturer in Politics, and Fellow of Forbes College at Princeton University. He is a Senior Research Fellow in the Witherspoon Institute and is a presidential appointee to the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. His writings have appeared in the *Review of Metaphysics*, the *American Political Science Review*, *Academic Questions*, and law reviews, and as chapters in edited volumes.

Wilson has served as President of the Association for the Study of Free Institutions since 2006, and serves on the Advisory Council of the Great Hearts Institute. He was a Fulbright Senior Scholar at Moscow State University and Moscow's International Juridical Institute in 1994-95, and, from 1984-87, served as Research Associate to two Chief Justices of the United States, Warren E. Burger and William H. Rehnquist. He received his B.A. from North Carolina State University, his M.A. from Northern Illinois University, and his Ph.D. in Politics from The Catholic University of America. Wilson and his wife Elle have three children and countless grandchildren.



James W. Ceaser is Harry F. Byrd Professor of Politics at the University of Virginia, where he has taught since 1976. He has written several books on American politics and political thought, including *Presidential Selection*, *Liberal Democracy and Political Science*, *Reconstructing America*, *Nature and History in American Political Development*, and *Designing a Polity*. Professor Ceaser has held visiting professorships at the University of Florence, the University of Basel, Oxford University, the University of Bordeaux, and the University of Rennes. Professor Ceaser is a frequent contributor to the popular press, and he often comments on American Politics for the Voice of America.

Session 1: The American Revolution Properly Understood



Vincent Phillip Muñoz is the Tocqueville Associate Professor of Religion & Public Life in the Department of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame. He is the founding director of Notre Dame's undergraduate minor in Constitutional Studies and directs Notre Dame's Center for Citizenship & Constitutional Government. Muñoz writes and teaches across the fields of constitutional law, American politics, and political philosophy with a focus on religious liberty and the American Founding. His first book, *God and the Founders: Madison, Washington, and Jefferson* won the Hubert Morken Award from the American Political Science Association for the best publication on religion and politics in 2009 and 2010. His First Amendment church-state case reader, *Religious Liberty and the American Supreme Court: The Essential Cases and Documents* was first published in 2013 (revised edition, 2015) and is being used at Notre Dame and other leading universities.



Anthony A. Peacock is a professor in the Political Science Department at Utah State University. He is also the Director of USU's Center for the Study of American Constitutionalism. Peacock has published numerous books, including most recently *Vindicating the Commercial Republic: The Federalist on Union, Enterprise, and War*, *How to Read The Federalist Papers*, *Freedom and the Rule of Law*, and *Deconstructing the Republic: Voting Rights, the Supreme Court, and the Founders' Republicanism Reconsidered*. Peacock has also published many articles, book chapters, and book reviews on American law, politics, and political thought. He has provided media commentary on national and state politics and has lectured on American politics, law, and political and constitutional theory both nationally and internationally. Peacock served for four years on the Utah Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights and also served on the Advisory Board of the "Coalition of Freedom" for the National Constitution Center. At Utah State Peacock teaches courses on public law, political theory, and national security.



John C. Pinheiro is an historian and Director of Research at Acton Institute. His publications include academic and popular articles on the early American republic, American religious history, and the Catholic Church in outlets such as the *Journal of the Early Republic*, *Fides et Historia*, *Law & Liberty*, *Public Discourse*, *Imaginative Conservative*, *University Bookman*, *National Review*, and *Educatio Catholica*. Dr. Pinheiro's books include the award-winning *Missionaries of Republicanism: A Religious History of the Mexican-American War* (Oxford, 2014), *Manifest Ambition: James K. Polk and Civil-Military Relations during the Mexican War* (Praeger, 2007), Volume 12 of the *Presidential Series of the Papers of George Washington* (Virginia, 2005), and *The American Experiment in Ordered Liberty* (Acton Institute, 2019). His current book project is, *Beyond Burke: the Origins of American Conservatism*. He is on X as @DrJohnPinheiro.

Session 2: The Distortion of Our Principles?



Jeffrey Anderson, Ph.D., is the President and Founder of The American Main Street Initiative. Jeff served as the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) at the U.S. Department of Justice (2017-21). Outside of government, he has had more than 1,000 pieces published in national outlets. Jeff earned a Ph.D. studying America's founding principles at Claremont Graduate University. A former U.S. Air Force Academy professor, he served as the Senior Speechwriter to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, co-founded and ran a successful start-up (The 2017 Project), and was a Hudson Institute Senior Fellow before becoming the Director of BJS. A leader in the Obamacare debate, Jeff authored *The Winning Alternative to Obamacare*. He later developed "The Main Street Tax Plan" to promote economic growth, reduce the national debt, and benefit the median American. Jeff also co-created the Anderson & Hester College Football Computer Rankings, which were part of the Bowl Championship Series throughout its 16-year run.



Andrew E. Busch is Associate Director of the Institute of American Civics. His teaching and research focuses on American political institutions, elections, and public policy. He has authored, co-authored, or edited two dozen books on these topics, most recently *Ronald Reagan and the Firing of the Air Traffic Controllers* (University Press of Kansas, 2024) and *The Elephant in the Room: Donald Trump and the Future of the Republican Party* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2022). Previously, he taught at the University of Denver and at Claremont McKenna College, where he served as associate dean of the faculty and director of the Rose Institute of State and Local Government. Busch received his B.A. from the University of Colorado and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.



John Fonte is a senior fellow and director of the Center for American Common Culture at Hudson Institute. Dr. Fonte is the author of *Sovereignty or Submission: Will Americans Rule Themselves or be Ruled by Others?*, winner of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute's Paolucci-Bagehot book award for 2012 and a number-one rated Amazon best-seller in international law. He is co-editor of *Education for America's Role in World Affairs*, a book on civic and world affairs education used in universities and teacher training institutes. Previously, Dr. Fonte has been a visiting scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, has served as a senior researcher at the US Department of Education, and as program administrator at the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). He is currently on the Board of the American Council for Trustees and Alumni (ACTA). He served on the foreign policy team of presidential candidate Newt Gingrich in 2012. He received his PhD in world history from the University of Chicago, and his MA and BA in history from the University of Arizona.

Session 3: Prosecutorial Indiscretion



Dr. John C. Eastman is Founding Director of the Claremont Institute’s Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence; Senior Fellow of the Claremont Institute; and until January 2021 served as the Henry Salvatori Professor of Law & Community Service at Chapman University’s Dale E. Fowler School of Law. Dr. Eastman is a prolific author. A selection of his scholarly publications include “The Moral Conditions of Liberty” in *Freedom and the Rule of Law* (2009), “The Roberts Court and Federalism,” in the *New York University Journal of Law and Liberty* (2009), and “Full Faith and Republican Guarantees: Gay Marriage, FMPA, and the Courts,” in the *BYU Law Journal* (2006). Dr. Eastman has appeared on ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox News, CNN, BBC World News, and PBS. His writings and commentary on the courts and the constitution have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *National Review*, *Economist*, *Atlantic*, *Slate*, *National Catholic Register*, and *ABA Journal*.



The Honorable Edith Jones sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. She was appointed to the court in 1985 by President Ronald Reagan. She served as chief judge from 2006–12. Prior to taking the federal bench, she was the first female partner at Andrews, Kurth, Campbell & Jones (now Hunton Andrews Kurth) where she practiced various types of litigation and bankruptcy. Judge Jones was a member of the National Bankruptcy Review Commission and also was a member of the Judicial Conference Committee on Bankruptcy Rules. From 2002–08, Judge Jones served as a White House Fellows commissioner by appointment of President George W. Bush. She was a long-time member of the board of the Sam Houston Area Council of the Scouts BSA. She has also been a member of the Garland Walker Inn of Court in Houston for more than 20 years and served as its President for over 10 years. Judge Jones is a graduate of Cornell University and earned her J.D. at the University of Texas Law School, where she was a law review editor and received the Order of the Coif. Judge Jones is a Distinguished Member of The Philadelphia Society.



Zack Smith is a Senior Legal Fellow and Manager of the Supreme Court and Appellate Advocacy Program in the Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at The Heritage Foundation. He previously served for several years as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Florida. Prior to that, he spent two years as an associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, which he joined after clerking for the Hon. Emmett R. Cox on the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Smith received his undergraduate, master’s, and law degrees from the University of Florida. During law school, Smith served as the Editor in Chief of the Florida Law Review and served on the executive boards of several student organizations, including the UF Chapter of the Federalist Society.

Sunday Roundtable: America's New Revolutionary Movement



Vance Ginn is a nationally recognized economist and dedicated advocate for free-market efforts that promote economic growth, opportunity, and fiscal responsibility. As the founder of Ginn Economic Consulting and host of the Let People Prosper Show podcast, Dr. Ginn collaborates with more than 20 influential organizations across America to advance a pro-growth approach that lets people prosper. Dr. Ginn's expertise spans fiscal policy, labor markets, education freedom, and more, helping craft key reforms at local, state, and federal levels. As associate director of economic policy ("chief economist") at the White House's Office of Management and Budget, he worked on critical policy initiatives during the first Trump administration from June 2019–May 2020. Frequently featured in major outlets like Fox News and *The Wall Street Journal*, Dr. Ginn's dynamic insights translate complex economic issues into actionable, practical paths to unlock poverty. Raised in a lower-income, single-mother household in South Houston, Texas, he is a first-generation college graduate who earned his doctorate in economics from Texas Tech University. Residing near Austin, Texas, with his family, he remains committed to fostering prosperity and freedom for all.



Thomas D. Klingenstein is the Chairman of the Claremont Institute, he is also a philanthropist, public speaker, writer, and a playwright. He believes that we are in a cold civil war and that our enemy – what he calls the "Woke regime" – are winning, in large measure because Republican leaders have yet to engage. His essays, speeches and plays all encourage Republicans to do just that— to think, talk, and act as if we are at war. Among his essays are: "Preserving the American Way of Life", "Fighting the Mob", "Winning the Cold Civil War", "Men and the Future of America", and many others. His work has been published at the *Claremont Review of Books*, *Newsweek*, *American Mind*, *American Greatness*, and *Real Clear Politics*.



Robert Lawson is a Clinical Professor, the Jerome M. Fullinwider Centennial Chair in Economic Freedom, and director of the Bridwell Institute for Economic Freedom in the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He is a founding co-author of the Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom of the World annual report, which presents an economic freedom index for over 160 countries. Lawson has authored or co-authored over 100 academic publications and has over 14,000 Google Scholar citations. He is the co-author, with Benjamin Powell, of the Amazon Bestseller, *Socialism Sucks: Two Economists Drink Their Way Through the Unfree World* (Regnery Publishing). He is a senior fellow with the Fraser Institute, a member of the Mont Pelerin Society, and a past president of the Association of Private Enterprise Education (APEE). He was awarded the Distinguished Scholar Award and Adam Smith Award by APEE. Lawson earned his PhD and MS in Economics from Florida State University and his BS in Economics from the Honors Tutorial College at Ohio University.

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Mark T. Mitchell served as Chairman for the Department of Government for many years prior to accepting his current role as the Dean of Academic Affairs at Patrick Henry College. He teaches courses in political theory. He is the author of *The Limits of Liberalism: Tradition, Individualism, and the Crisis of Freedom*, *The Politics of Gratitude: Scale, Place, and Community in a Global Age*, and *Michael Polanyi: The Art of Knowing*. He is co-editor of *Localism in the Mass Age: A Front Porch Republic Manifesto*, *The Humane Vision of Wendell Berry*, and *The Culture of Immodesty in American Life and Politics*. He is the co-founder of the web-zine Front Porch Republic, and author of many articles on topics relating to localism, liberalism, and political philosophy including, "Illiberal Liberalism and the Future of the American Experiment." In 2008-2009, he was a fellow at the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University.
