Speaker & Panelist Brief Biographies

Speakers

Tom Allen
Born: Portland ME, 1945
Education
• B.A. Bowdoin College, 1967
• Rhodes Scholar, Wadham College, Oxford University, 1968
• LL.D. Harvard Law School, 1974
Early Career
• Staff assistant to Gov. Kenneth Curtis, 1968
• Staff assistant to Sen. Edmund S. Muskie, 1970-71
• Elected to Portland City Council, 1989-95
• Mayor of Portland, 1991-92
Congressional Career
• Served on Budget and Energy & Commerce committees
• Recognized for expertise in pharmaceutical industry issues
Some Accomplishments in Congress
• Co-sponsored bi-partisan campaign finance bill to limit soft money contributions and require disclosure by groups spending above certain limits
• Sponsored legislation to require power plants and trash incinerators to cut mercury emissions by 95 percent
• Co-authored Oceans-21 to create a comprehensive national oceans policy
Post-Congressional Career
• President, Association of American Publishers
• Author, Dangerous Convictions: What’s really Wrong with the U.S. Congress? 2013

William S. Cohen
Born: Bangor, ME, 1940
Education
• Bangor H.S. 1958
• B. A. Bowdoin College, 1962
• J.D. Boston University, 1965
Early Career
• Instructor, University of Maine, 1968-72
• County Attorney, Penobscot County, 1968-72
• Member, Bangor City Council, 1969-72
• Mayor of Bangor, 1971-72
Congressional Career
• Elected to U.S. House of Representatives, 1972-1978, representing Maine’s 2nd District
• Served on House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate Investigation
• Elected to U.S. Senate, 1978-1996
• Served on Armed Service, Governmental Affairs, and Intelligence committees
• Helped to draft several laws related to defense matters, such as the Federal Acquisition Reform Act (1996) and the Information Technology Management Reform Act (1996)
Post-Senate Career
• Appointed 20th U.S. Secretary of Defense by President Bill Clinton, 1997-2001
• Recipient, Woodrow Wilson Award for Public Service, Smithsonian Institution, 2002
• Founded the Cohen Group, a business consulting and lobbying firm in Washington DC, focused on international relations and commerce
• Established the William S. Cohen Center for International Policy & Commerce, University of Maine

Kenneth M. Curtis
Born: Curtis Corner, Leeds ME, 1931
Education
• Cony High School, Augusta, 1949
• Maine Maritime Academy, Castine, 1952
• University of Maine School of Law, 1959

Early Career
• U.S. Navy, 1953-55 (rising to rank of LCDR in Naval Reserves)
• Staff Aide, U.S. Congressman James Oliver, ME 1st District, 1959-61
• Maine Field Representative, U.S. Department of Commerce’s Area Redevelopment Administration, 1963-64

Maine Political Career
• Candidate for U.S. Congress, 1964
• Maine Secretary of State, 1964-66
• Maine Governor, 1967-1974

Some Major Accomplishments in 2 terms as Governor, with bipartisan legislative support
• Creation of the University of Maine System, 1968
• Enactment of a state income tax, 1969
• Enactment of Maine’s major environment laws, 1970
• Creation of a cabinet system in the Executive Branch, with commissioners selected by the governor, 1972

Post-Gubernatorial Career
• Chairman, Democratic National Committee, 1977-1978
• U.S. Ambassador to Canada, 1979-1981
• President, Maine Maritime Academy, 1986-1994
• Super-delegate, Democratic National Convention, 2008

Barney Frank
Born: Bayonne NJ, 1940
Education
• Bayonne High School, 1957
• B.A. Harvard University, 1962
• LL.D. Harvard Law School, 1977

Early Political Career
• A volunteer in Mississippi during Freedom Summer, 1964
• Chief of Staff to Boston Mayor Kevin White, 1968-71
• Administrative Assistant to Congressman Michael Harrington (D, MA), 1971-72
• Member, MA House of Representatives, 1972-80

Congressional Career
• Member, U.S. House, representing MA’s 4th District, 1980-2012
• Chair, House Financial Services Committee, 2007-11
• Surveys of Capitol Hill staffers award Frank the title of the “brainiest”, “funniest”, and “most eloquent” member of Congress, 2004 and 2006

Some Major Accomplishments in Congress A leading figure and noted orator throughout this time, Frank:
• Co-authored the Dodd-Frank Act, mandating the most extensive reforms in the banking and financial services industry since the Glass–Steagall Act of 1933, and creating the new Consumer Financial Protection Agency, 2010
• Helped enact the Credit Card Holders’ Bill of Rights, 2008.
• Was chief advocate for the National Housing Trust Fund, created as part of the Housing and Economic Re-
Angus S. King
Born: Alexandria VA, 1944

Education
- Hammond H.S., Alexandria VA, 1962
- B.A., Dartmouth College, 1966
- LL.D., University of Virginia Law School, 1969

Early Career
- Staff attorney, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, Skowhegan ME, 1969-1971
- Legislative Assistant, U.S. Senator William Hathaway, 1973-75
- Private Law Practice, Brunswick, ME
- Host, Maine Public Television's MaineWatch series, 1980s

Maine Political Career
- Governor of Maine, 1994-2003
- Elected U.S. Senator, 2012

Some Accomplishments as Governor
- Launched the Maine Learning Technology Initiative, to provide laptops for all public school middle students.
- Led Maine government’s wide use of the Internet and e-mail to provide citizen access to state agencies.
- Oversaw major improvements in state infrastructure, including the new Cross Office Building in Augusta

U.S. Senate Career
- Elected U.S. Senator in 2012
- Serves on the Armed Services, Budget, and Rules Committees, and the Select Committee on Intelligence

Selected Issues
- A leader on the issue of stabilizing student loan interest rates
- Supports the No Budget, No Pay Act, to prevent members Congress from being paid until a budget is passed
- Supports reform of the Senate filibuster
- Supports the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare)

Peter Mills
Born: Skowhegan, ME, 1943

Education
- Gorham High School, 1961
- B.A. Harvard College, 1965
- J.D. University of Maine Law School, 1973

Public Service Career
- U.S. Navy, 1965-70, including 3 tours to Vietnam and intelligence missions against the Soviet Union
- Attorney in private practice, Portland and Skowhegan, 1973-present
- Founding member of Somerset Economic Development Corporation and the First Park business park in Oakland ME
- Frequent contributor of letters and opinion articles in the Maine press

Political Experience
- Republican leader on the committees on Taxation, Appropriations, Labor, Judiciary, Education, Human Services, and Insurance
- Consistent advocate for pragmatic reforms in tax policy, health care, education, and public pensions
- Candidate for governor in the Republican Party primary, 2006 and 2010

Current Position
• Executive Director, Maine Turnpike Authority, 2011-present

Elizabeth “Libby” Mitchell
Born: Gaffney, South Carolina, 1940, moved to Maine in 1971
Education
• B.A. Furman University, 1962
• LL.D, University of Maine Law School, 1995
Career in Maine Legislature
• Elected to the Maine House of Representatives, 1974-84 and 1990-98
• House Majority Leader, 1983-84
• Speaker of the House, 1997-99
• Elected to the Maine Senate, 2004-10
• Senate Majority Leader, 2007-09
• President of the Senate, 2009-11
Some Notable Career Achievements
• First woman elected Majority Leader in the Maine House
• First woman in the U.S. to preside over both branches of a State Legislature
• Passionate advocate for public education
• Leadership on women’s and children’s issues
• Inductee, Maine Women’s Hall of Fame, University of Maine at Augusta
• Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate (1984) and Maine Governor (2010)
Some Other Public Service Positions
• Director, Maine State Housing Authority
• Chair, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston
• Chair, Maine Community Foundation’s Policy Scholars Program
• Board member, Kennebec Valley Community College
• Maine Court System Mediator
Presently
• Practicing law with husband Jim and daughter Emily at Mitchell and Davis in Augusta ME

George J. Mitchell
Born: Waterville ME, 1933
Education
• Waterville High School, 1950
• B.A. Bowdoin College, 1954
• LL.D. Georgetown University Law Center, 1961
Early Career
• Member, Anti-Trust Division, U.S. Department of Justice, 1960-62
• Executive Assistant, U.S. Sen. Edmund Muskie, 1962-65
• Assistant County Attorney, Cumberland County ME, 1971
• U.S. Attorney for Maine, 1977-79
• U.S. District Court Judge, 1979-1980
U.S. Senate Career: Some Highlights
• United States Senator, 1980-95;
• U.S. Senate Majority Leader, 1989-95
• Led re-authorization of the Clean Air Act of 1990, and passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, both signed into law by President George H.W. Bush
• Guided passage of North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement, 1994
Some Highlights of Post-Senate Career
• U.S. Special Envoy for Northern Ireland, 1995, architect of the Good Friday Agreement, 1998
• Founder of the Mitchell Institute, to encourage young people from every Maine community to aspire to and achieve a college education, 1995
• Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Bill Clinton, 1999
• Chairman, the Walt Disney Company, 2004-07
• Directed the Investigation of Steroid Use in Major League Baseball, 2006-07.
• U.S. Special Envoy for Middle East Peace, 2009

Alan K. Simpson
Born: Denver CO, 1931

Education
• Cody H.S., Cody WY, 1949
• B.S. University of Wyoming, 1954
• J.D. University of Wyoming, 1958

Early Career
• U.S. Army service in Germany, 1955-56
• Member, Wyoming House of Representatives, 1965-77

U.S. Senate Career
• Elected U.S. Senator, 1979-1997
• Assistant Senate Majority Leader, 1985-95
• Chair, Veterans’ Affairs Committee, 1981-85, 1995-97
• Chair, Immigration and Refugee Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee
• Chair, Committee on Aging
• Chair, Subcommittee on Social Security

Selected Post-Senate Career
• Director, Institute of Politics, JFK School of Government, Harvard U., 1997-2000
• Co-chair, National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, 2010
• Member, Iraq Study Group, 2006
• Advisory Board, Common Good
• Bloomberg Markets magazine, “50 Most Influential,” 2012
• Partner, Simpson, Kepler & Edwards of Cody WY and Burg, Simpson, Eldridge, Hersh & Jardine of Denver CO

Panelists

Cynthia Dill
Education
• BA, University of Vermont
• JD, Northeastern University School of Law

Public Service Career
• Member of the Maine House of Representatives and the Maine Senate, 2006-12
• Served on the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary and the House Ethics Committees
• Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate, 2012
• Award-winning civil rights attorney with Portland firm Troubh Heisler

Kenneth Fredette
Education
• BS, University of Maine at Machias
• MPPM, Muskie School of Public Service, USM
• MPA, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
• JD, University of Maine School of Law

Public Service Career
• Republican leader in the Maine House of Representatives (2013-), elected in his second term in the Legislature
• Served on Joint Standing Comm. on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Comm. on Elections
• Member of Maine Air National Guard, serving as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) for 12 years

Amy Fried
Education
• BA, San Francisco State University
• PhD, University of Minnesota

Political Science Career
• Professor of Political Science, University of Maine
• Author, Pathways to Polling (2011), an analysis of the evolution of public opinion research

Public Service Career
• Regular columnist on Maine public affairs, Bangor Daily News