

PARTNERS

John Podesta is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Center for American Progress. Podesta served as Chief of Staff to President William J. Clinton from October 1998 until January 2001, where he was responsible for directing, managing, and overseeing all policy development, daily operations, Congressional relations, and staff activities of the White House. Podesta is currently a Visiting Professor of Law on the faculty of the Georgetown University Law Center, a position he also held from January 1995 to 1997. He has taught courses on technology policy, congressional investigations, legislation, copyright and public interest law. Podesta is considered one of Washington's leading experts in technology policy, and has written a book, several articles and lectured extensively in these areas. Podesta is a 1976 graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, and a 1971 graduate of Knox College.

Ferrel Guillory is Director of the Program on Southern Politics, Media and Public Life, an interdisciplinary program based in the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which connects scholarship to the agenda and leadership in North Carolina and the South. Guillory is a lecturer in the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication as well as a senior fellow at MDC, Inc., a workforce and economic development non-profit research firm in Chapel Hill. Through MDC, he has co-authored *The State of the South*, a series of biennial reports to the region and its leadership (1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, & 2004). Before working in academia, Guillory spent more than 20 years as a reporter, editorial page editor and columnist for *The News and Observer* in Raleigh. He has had freelance articles published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, *The New Republic*, *America*, *Commonweal*, *Southern Cultures* and *The Atlanta Constitution*. He received a bachelor's degree from Loyola University New Orleans and a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He lives in Raleigh with his wife, Kathleen. They have three children – Kristen, Lesley and Justin.

Andy Brack is Co-Founder and President of the new Center for a Better South, which is based in Charleston, S.C. Brack, former Press Secretary and Spokesman for U.S. Sen. Fritz Hollings, edits and publishes S.C. Statehouse Report, a weekly legislative forecast and syndicated newspaper column. He also publishes a daily news service in South Carolina and operates a communications strategy consulting business. Through the years, he has worked as a strategist on projects with America Online, the Commonwealth of Australia's Department of Health and Family Services, the Bertelsmann Foundation, Northpoint Communications, and the states of Delaware and New Mexico. For five years, Brack edited an international online publication that focused on how to use the Internet in politics. In 2001, he served on the Southern Governors' Association Research and Development and Advisory Committee. In 2000, he ran for U.S. Congress in South Carolina. Brack, a graduate of Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, lives in Charleston, S.C., with his wife, daughter and Simon the Wonderdog.

OPENING KEYNOTE CONVERSATION

Hodding Carter III, an award-winning journalist and commentator with a career-long "minor in public affairs," was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of Knight Foundation in September 1997. He assumed those responsibilities and joined the Board of Trustees on Feb. 1, 1998. Carter was President and later Chairman of MainStreet, a TV production company that specializes in public affairs television, from 1985 to 1998. From 1995 to 1997, he held the Knight Chair in Journalism at the University of Maryland College of Journalism, focusing on public affairs reporting. He has won four national Emmy Awards and the Edward R. Murrow Award for his public affairs television documentaries produced for the *Inside Story* media criticism series. He was a regular panelist (1981 to 1994) on *This Week with David Brinkley*, and he has also served as host, anchor, panelist, correspondent and reporter for a variety of other public affairs television shows on PBS, ABC, CBS, BBC and CNN. Hodding Carter III graduated summa cum laude in June 1957 with a bachelor's degree from Princeton University. He has been married since December 1978 to Patricia Derian. Their family includes seven children and 12 grandchildren.

Howard N. Lee was appointed to the State Board of Education by Governor Michael F. Easley on May 15, 2003, to fill an unexpired term. He was unanimously elected Chair of the Board by its members. Lee, the first African American to hold the post, was a former Mayor of Chapel Hill and a former State Senator. During his tenure in the Senate, he gained a reputation as an education advocate and led efforts to improve school safety, school accountability, and teacher quality. Most notably, Lee shepherded legislation through the General Assembly that established the ABCs Accountability Program and the Excellent Schools Act. He received his BA in Sociology from Fort Valley State College and a Master's degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Chairman Lee is active on the Southern Regional Education Board and the Education Commission of the States. In addition to owning several businesses, Lee is also employed part-time with the Jim Hunt Institute.

David H. Pryor is presently a Managing Director of Herrington, Inc. in Little Rock, in addition to acting as a consultant to the Federal Express Corporation in Memphis, Tenn., and serving his second term as an At-Large Director of the Board of Heifer Project International, Inc. In 1960, David was elected to the Arkansas State House of Representatives, where he served three terms. In November of 1966, he was elected to fill the unexpired term of Congressman Harris and served three full terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1974, he was elected Governor of Arkansas, a position he held for four years. In 1979, David was elected to the United States Senate and served until he retired from the Senate in 1996. Since retiring from the Senate, he became a Fulbright Distinguished Fellow of Law and Public Affairs, a lecturer in public policy at the Blair Center of the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and a Distinguished Visiting Lecturer in Politics at Lyon College. He received his B.A. from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and his LL.B from the University of Arkansas School of Law.

Governor William F. Winter served as Governor of Mississippi from 1980 to 1984. He has been a long-time advocate for public education, racial reconciliation, and historic preservation. Governor Winter has served as Chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board, Southern Growth Policies Board, Commission on the Future of the South, National Civic League, Kettering Foundation, Foundation for the Mid South and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. He was a member of President Clinton's National Advisory Board on Race. An attorney in the firm of Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis in Jackson, Mississippi, he is a graduate of the University of Mississippi School of Law. He is married to the former Elise Varner, and they have three daughters and five grandchildren.

Invited: **Elaine Jones** recently served as the President and Director-Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF). Elaine Jones is one of America's foremost civil rights lawyers, and well-known as a fearless crusader in numerous social justice causes. Born and raised in the Jim Crow South of Norfolk, Virginia, Jones grew up conscious of "the realities of racism and the importance of idealism." Rising to every challenge, she became the first African-American woman to graduate from the University of Virginia School of Law, the first woman to head LDF, and the first African-American elected to the American Bar Association's Board of Governors. She helped litigate the case *Furman v. Georgia* before the Supreme Court, which struck down the death penalty in 37 states, and she has lent her enormous energy and talents to issues ranging from education to employment discrimination, and from health care to environmental justice.

MIND OF THE SOUTH: UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Dave Beattie, President of Hamilton Beattie & Staff, combines experience in both public sector research and strategic campaigns. Beattie's experience includes providing strategic research for 2000 Democratic success stories such as Senator Bill Nelson of Florida and Congressman Brad Carson of Oklahoma. He has also conducted coordinated polling research for the Florida cabinet, the Georgia Democratic Party and evaluation studies for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2000, Beattie was named "Pollster of the Year" by the American Association of Political Consultants and a "rising star" by Campaigns & Elections magazine. In 2001, he was named a "Mover & Shaker" by Campaigns & Elections magazine. In addition to campaign work, Beattie trains the next generation of campaign professionals as an instructor on political campaign strategy for the University of Florida's graduate program in Political Campaign Communication. His formal education includes a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Florida and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Communications from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Dave currently lives in Fernandina Beach, Florida, with his wife Robin.

Dr. Susan Howell is Director of the Survey Research Center at the University of New Orleans and Professor of Political Science. Her current research interests are within the general area of public opinion and include race and mayoral approval, racial attitudes, the quality of life in urban areas, and hurricane risk perception. She has published articles in the *Journal of Politics*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *American Politics Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Methodology*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Urban Affairs Review* and other journals and books. The UNO Survey Research Center conducts academic and contracted surveys in Louisiana and metro New Orleans. Most recent are studies of hurricane evacuation behavior funded by FEMA. Dr. Howell is also a political analyst for the New Orleans NBC TV affiliate.

Ruy Teixeira is a Joint Fellow at the Center for American Progress and The Century Foundation. He is the author of five books, over a hundred articles, both scholarly and popular, and a weekly online column, *Public Opinion Watch*. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Institution, where he wrote the book, *The Disappearing American Voter*, now a standard reference work on voter turnout. After the book was published in 1992, he moved to the Progressive Policy Institute, the think tank of the Democratic Leadership Council, to start a political studies program. In 1994, Teixeira moved to the Economic Policy Institute to direct its Politics and Public Opinion Program and stayed until 1999, when he moved to The Century Foundation. In 2000, he published *America's Forgotten Majority: Why the White Working Class Still Matters* (Basic Books), a widely-cited and controversial work credited with being a strong influence on the Gore campaign and selected as one of the best books of the year by the *Washington Post*. Teixeira holds a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Pope “Mac” McCorkle has worked as a policy and research consultant to political candidates, state governments, and various organizations for the past decade. He is now the Principal of McCorkle Policy Consulting in Durham, North Carolina. In his prior capacity as a lawyer with the Raleigh firm founded by former U.S. Senator Terry Sanford, McCorkle served as outside counsel to the North Carolina Association of Educators and also specialized in election law and other administrative legal matters. In 1992 McCorkle joined the Raleigh law firm of Everett, Gaskins, Hancock & Stevens. There he served as a legal and legislative counsel to the Low-Wealth Schools Consortium and continued his litigation and administrative law practice. As a campaign issues consultant, McCorkle most recently worked with the 2000 U.S. Senate campaign of Mel Carnahan, as well as the campaigns of North Carolina Governor Mike Easley and Missouri Governor Bob Holden. In 2002, McCorkle’s clients included the campaigns of Tennessee Governor Phil Bredesen, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano, and Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich. In 2004, McCorkle worked on the North Carolina campaigns of Governor Mike Easley, Lieutenant Governor Beverly Perdue, and Congressman David Price.

Dave “Mudcat” Saunders is a rural political consultant and partner with Steve Jarding in the Rural Renaissance consulting firm. Mudcat has worked on and consulted many political campaigns including those of Virginia governors Doug Wilder (’89) and Mark Warner (’01), Senator John Edwards, as well as Bob Graham’s presidential campaign. He, along with Steve Jarding, first brought NASCAR and the “NASCAR Dad” into Democratic politics during Governor Mark Warner’s campaign for Governor in 2001. In addition to NASCAR, Mudcat is known for using culture as an entrée into politics, including building the largest statewide sportsmen campaign in the history of electoral campaigns (Warner ’01). His unique political talents have been featured in the *New York Times Magazine*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Chicago Tribune*, and other national publications. Mudcat also represents Wood Brothers Racing in sponsorship negotiations. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech University.

KEYNOTE: Remarks by Governor Mike Easley

Under **Governor Michael F. Easley's** leadership, North Carolina's top ranked business climate prospers while the state leads the nation in education progress. Easley has restored fiscal discipline to the state's finances while at the same time increasing investments in education and infrastructure – key components to recruiting and retaining high quality jobs and industry for the state. Easley's actions put North Carolina in the top five states in the country in net job growth for 2004, earned the state a number one ranking for business expansions and locations, and ensured recognition in the top four in the country for the state's financial management.

Easley's inauguration as Governor in 2001 followed nearly two decades of public service spent fighting crime, protecting children and the elderly, and standing up for working families. In 1982, he was elected District Attorney for the 13th judicial district in Brunswick, Bladen and Columbus counties. He was elected as North Carolina's Attorney General in 1992 and re-elected to a second term in 1996. Born in Nash County, North Carolina, in 1950, Easley was raised on a tobacco farm, the second of seven children. Easley received his B.A. in Political Science from the University of North Carolina and his law degree from North Carolina Central University School of Law, where his wife Mary now serves as a professor of law. He and his wife Mary have one child, Michael Jr.

RETHINKING TAX POLICY

Cassandra Q. Butts is Senior Vice President and Coordinator for Economic Policy at the Center for American Progress. Before joining the Center, she was a senior advisor to Representative Richard A. Gephardt and volunteered as the Policy Director on his 2004 presidential campaign. Cassandra coordinated the formulation of policy on Rep. Gephardt's presidential campaign that included a universal health care plan and economic development proposals. Prior to her service with Rep. Gephardt, Cassandra was an Assistant Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, where she worked on civil rights policy and litigated voting rights and school desegregation cases. She also served as Legislative Counsel to Senator Harris L. Wofford of Pennsylvania. Cassandra is a recipient of the Georgetown Women's Law and Public Policy Fellowship and the Stennis Congressional Staff Fellowship. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Iris J. Lav is Deputy Director of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. She maintains a special focus on the Center's state-level work, as well as on federal and state tax policy. She is the Founder of the Center's State Fiscal Project and was the major force in the creation of the State Fiscal Analysis Initiative, a network of state organizations working on state budget and tax issues. In 1999, she received the Steven D. Gold award for contributions to state and local fiscal policy. The award is jointly given by the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, the National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Tax Association. In 1997-98, Lav served as a member of the District of Columbia Tax Revision Commission. Her work on federal and state budget and tax issues often is cited by the press, including *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. She has been interviewed on a number of radio and television programs, including NBC Nightly News, ABC World News Tonight, CBS Sunday Morning, National Public Radio, CNN, and the Jim Lehrer News Hour. She holds an MBA from George Washington University and an AB from the University of Chicago.

Dr. Robert Ebel is a Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute and an economist specializing in intergovernmental relations and public finance. His work with the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center focuses on state and local tax issues. In his position as a lead economist for the World Bank, Dr. Ebel managed numerous fiscal programs, including those for Hungary, Pakistan, Jordan, Palestine, and Yemen. Throughout 2003, he was the World Bank's technical representative to the peace consultations between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Army/Movement. Dr. Ebel has served in a variety of positions at the U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, including Director of Public Finance Research and Scholar-in-Residence. A co-editor with Joseph Cordes and Jane Gravelle of *The Encyclopedia of Taxation and Tax Policy* (Urban Institute Press 1999; revised edition 2005), his publications range from scholarly studies to an economics column for the *Honolulu Advertiser* and *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. Dr. Ebel earned a Ph.D. in economics from Purdue University and was on the faculty of the University of Hawaii (1969-74), the University of the District of Columbia (1978-81), and the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute (1995-96).

Thomas W. Ross is the Director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation located in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The Foundation is a private philanthropic grant-making organization with assets approaching \$400 million. Prior to January 2001, Tom served as the Director of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts from June 1999 to December 2000 and as a North Carolina Superior Court Judge from January 1984 to November 2000. In November 2000, Tom was presented the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence. Before 1984, he served as an Administrative Assistant to former Congressman Robin Britt (D-NC), as a partner in a Greensboro, N.C., law firm and as an Assistant Professor of Law and Government at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Tom received a B.A. degree from Davidson College in 1972 and a J.D. degree with honors from the University of North Carolina in 1975. He is a 1985 graduate of the National Judicial College. He lives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with his wife, Susan, and has two children, Tommy and Mary Kathryn.

Robert "Sid" McAnnally practices at Harris, Caddell & Shanks, one of the largest law firms in North Alabama. His practice areas include commercial litigation, insurance litigation, small business corporations, and government relations. Mr. McAnnally received a B.A. from Auburn University in 1985 and his J.D. from the University of Alabama School of Law in 1990. He is a member of the Alabama State Bar and the Alabama Defense Lawyers Association. He is author of "The Use of Depositions at Trial: Is an Objection to the Form Enough?" 53 *The Alabama Lawyer*, 5, 1992 and "Defending Dram Shop Actions," *Alabama Defense Lawyers Journal*, Volume 9, 1993. In 1994, Mr. McAnnally was a Policy Advisor to the Governor and Alabama Governor's Staff.

Frank Shafroth is the Director of Intergovernmental Relations for Arlington County, an Adjunct Professor at George Mason University, and a weekly columnist, *The Tax Doctor*, for *State Tax Notes*. He is the former Director of Policy and Federal Relations for both the National Governors Association and the National League of Cities.

KEYNOTE: PERSPECTIVES ON GOVERNANCE

State Senator Sam Zamarripa of Atlanta, Georgia, serves on the Senate Economic Development, Insurance and Labor, Science and Technology, and State Institutions and Property Committees. Senator Zamarripa is a Managing Partner of Heritage Capital Advisors, which provides investment banking services and specializes in financial services and media. He is a Co-Founder and Director of United Americas Bank, N.A., where he currently serves as the Chairman of the Marketing Committee. He serves on the corporate boards of Assurance America Corporation, Diaz-Verson Capital Incorporated and Diaz Foods, Incorporated. He is an Advisory Director of Atlanta Medical Center, a Tenet Healthcare hospital located in Atlanta. In 1975, Senator Zamarripa earned his undergraduate degree at New College in Sarasota, Florida, and holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship at Syracuse University. He is a long-standing member and elder of Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. He is married to Robin Dorsey Zamarripa. They have two children, Eva L. Zamarripa and Jane M. Zamarripa.

Congressman Kendrick B. Meek, an experienced legislator who served eight years in the Florida House and Senate, was elected to Congress in 2002 from Florida's 17th Congressional District, which includes Northern Miami-Dade and Southern Broward counties. He serves on the powerful House Committee on Armed Services and the House Select Committee on Homeland Security. He was the first freshman member of the U.S. House of Representatives selected to serve on the Homeland Security committee. He has been honored and recognized by many leading organizations, including the NAACP, the Florida Public Defenders' Association and People for the American Way. Before his service in elective office, Congressman Meek was a Captain in the Florida Highway Patrol and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology from Florida A&M University, where he co-founded Florida A&M University's College Young Democrats. He is married to Leslie Dixon of Brooklyn, New York, and they have two children: Lauren and Kendrick B. Meek Jr.

Introduced by: **Alyssandra Campaigne** is the Senior Vice President for External Affairs at the Center for American Progress. Before joining American Progress, Alys spent three years as the Legislative Director for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a national, non-profit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. In that role she provided strategic guidance and coordination to the organization's work on a broad range of high profile environmental issues before Congress, participating in all aspects of the design and management of legislative campaigns. Before her work at NRDC, Alys was an aide to Sen. Joe Lieberman (CT), handling issues pending before the Environment and Public Works Committee, and before that, on the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee for Ranking Member Congressman Henry A. Waxman (CA). She holds a bachelor's degree with honors from Wesleyan University and a master's degree from New York University's Robert Wagner School of Public Policy, where she also graduated with honors.

RETHINKING THE ROLE OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

Melody Barnes is a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, where she directs the Faith and Progressive Policy project and focuses on domestic policy issues, including civil rights, women's health and gender equity issues, and the judicial confirmation process. From December 1995 until March 2003, Ms. Barnes served as Chief Counsel to Senator Edward M. Kennedy on the Senate Judiciary Committee. As Senator Kennedy's Chief Counsel, she shaped civil rights, women's health and reproductive rights, commercial law, and religious liberties laws, as well as executive branch and judicial appointments. She received her law degree from the University of Michigan and her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she graduated with honors in history.

Congressman David Price currently serves on the House Appropriations Committee, where he was tapped for the new Homeland Security Subcommittee at the start of the 108th Congress. David's appointment to this important position reinforces his ongoing commitment to international issues and the war on terrorism. He also serves on the VA-HUD (Veterans Affairs-Housing and Urban Development) and Legislative subcommittees. Previously, David served on the House Budget Committee; as current Co-Chair of the Democratic Budget Group, he remains actively involved in efforts to pass economic proposals that are fair, effective, and fiscally sound. Before he began serving in Congress in 1986, Price was a Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at Duke University. Price received his undergraduate degree at UNC Chapel Hill and then went on to Yale University for a Bachelor of Divinity Degree and a Ph.D. in Political Science. David Price currently lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, with his wife, Lisa. They have two grown children, Karen and Michael.

Reverend James Evans is pastor of Auburn First Baptist Church. He has served Baptist churches in Alabama for the past 25 years. A graduate of Mobile College, he attended seminary at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC, earning the Master of Divinity degree. He holds a Doctor of Ministry from Beeson Divinity School. He also writes *Faith Matters*, a weekly religion column for the Birmingham Post Herald. Jim has been married to Brenda for the past 31 years. They are presently enjoying life in the empty nest while spending their children's inheritance.

Reverend Dr. Daphne Wiggins is the Associate Pastor and Coordinator of Congregational Ministries at Union Baptist Church, Durham, N.C. Formerly, she was Assistant Professor of Congregational Studies at Duke Divinity School. In her book, *Righteous Content*, Dr. Wiggins takes a contemporary look at the religiosity of black women. Her ethnographic work explores what is behind black women's intense loyalty to the church, bringing to the fore the voices of the female membership of black churches as few have done. Wiggins illuminates the spiritual sustenance the church provides black women, uncovers their critical assessment of the church's ministry, and interprets the consequences of their limited collective activism.

Reverend Maria Teresa Palmer was appointed by Gov. Hunt in 1999 to fill an unexpired term on the North Carolina State Board of Education. Rev. Palmer is the founding pastor of Iglesia Unida de Cristo (United Church of Christ) in Orange County. Palmer is a graduate of Jacksonville State University in Alabama, where she received a degree in education. She also attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Louisville, where she earned a master's in education. Dr. Palmer completed her doctoral degree in education at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her professional experience includes serving as a Spanish teacher, a multi-cultural counselor, and Assistant Director of the Center for Latin American Education at the University of Louisville. She has been actively involved as a parent representative and advocate for the Hispanic community.

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE SOUTH: RETHINKING CULTURE, COMMUNITY, AND POLITICS

John L. S. Simpkins is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and Associate Director of the Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics, and Public Leadership at Furman University in Greenville, S.C. He teaches courses in international law, European Union politics, international organizations, constitutional law, and constitutional design in divided societies. His academic interest is modern constitutional design. He has observed, studied or served as a consultant in constitution-building processes in Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Uganda. Prof. Simpkins also serves as a political analyst with WYFF Channel 4 in Greenville. He is a contributor to the upcoming *Encyclopedia of American Parties and Elections* (Howard Ernst and Larry Sabato, eds.) to be published in 2005 by Facts on File. Prof. Simpkins has published essays on South Africa, Southern politics, and African-American culture in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Republic*, *The Oxford American*, and *The State Newspaper*. Prior to joining the Furman faculty, Prof. Simpkins practiced law in Washington, D.C., with the firm of Baach Robinson & Lewis PLLC. He is a graduate of Harvard College and Duke University School of Law.

Dr. Larry Griffin is the 2004 John Shelton Reed Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. From 1997 to 2002, he was the Director of the American and Southern Studies Program. During his career, Dr. Griffin has been a Professor at University of Minnesota and Indiana University – Bloomington, and a Visiting Professor at Berea College and the College of William and Mary. Other recent honors include Co-Director of the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities Fellows Program, “Memory, Identity, Politics” at Vanderbilt University and “Professor of the Students,” The Athenian and Lotus Eater Honorary Society at Vanderbilt University. He has published numerous articles and served on many editorial boards at publications including *Southern Cultures*, *Social Forces*, and *Sociological Methodology and Work and Occupations*. He received his Ph.D from Johns Hopkins University in 1977.

Jim Clinton serves as Executive Director of the Southern Growth Policies Board, a North Carolina-based think tank providing public policy expertise to thirteen Southern states and Puerto Rico. Southern Growth is a multi-state compact whose mission is to help create economic opportunities throughout the region. Jim previously was President of the Louisiana Partnership for Technology and Innovation and President of Gulf South Research Institute. Jim also served in a variety of state government positions in Louisiana and was lead author of the plan that reorganized Louisiana’s executive branch from more than 250 governmental units into 20 principal departments. He managed the Louisiana Superdome's transition from public to private management. He has been a lead author for a number of Southern Growth Policies Board reports including *The Mercedes and the Magnolia*, *The Globally Competitive South (Under Construction)*, *Reinventing the Wheel*, *The Southern Innovation Index* and *Invented Here: Transforming the Southern Economy*. Jim has written for regional and national publications, including *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *CrossRoads*, *Chattahoochie Review*, *WORD*, and *Coast and Sea*. His book of poetry, *What is Fair*, was published by the Louisiana State University Press.

State Representative Joyce Elliot of Little Rock, Arkansas, is serving her third term for House District 33, a portion of Pulaski County. She is Chair of the ALC-JBC Human Services and House Education Committee and Joint Committee on Educational Facilities. Ms. Elliott earned her bachelor's degree from Southern Arkansas University and her master's degree in education from Quachita Baptist University. Ms. Elliott is a public school teacher.

Mayor Raul L. Martinez, a native of Cuba, arrived in the United States in May 1960 and became a resident of Hialeah in 1969. Mr. Martinez is currently Mayor of the City of Hialeah, the fifth largest city in the state of Florida, with a population of more than 236,000. Because Hialeah has a mayor-council form of government, Martinez is the political and administrative head of the city as well as its Chief Executive Officer. Martinez has received numerous gubernatorial appointments, amongst them the Florida State Commission on Hispanic Affairs from 1979 to 1982, where he was elected Chairman in 1981, and the Governor's Commission on the Statewide Prosecutor's Function from 1984 to 1985. In 1985, he was appointed by then Governor and former U.S. Senator Bob Graham to the Democratic Policy Commission's Roundtable on Defense and Foreign Policy, as well as to the State Comprehensive Planning Committee. The Mayor is a product of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, graduating from Miami Senior High School. He obtained his Associate in Arts Degree from Miami-Dade Community College and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Florida International University.