



Speaker Bios

Morning Plenary

Alan J. Auerbach is the Robert D. Burch professor of economics and law and director of the Burch Center for Tax Policy and Public Finance, as well as former chair of the economics department at the University of California, Berkeley. He is also a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and previously taught at Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania, where he also served as economics department chair. Professor Auerbach was deputy chief of staff of the U.S. Joint Committee on Taxation in 1992 and has been a consultant to several government agencies and institutions in the United States and abroad. A former vice president of the American Economic Association, he was editor of that association's *Journal of Economic Perspectives* and is now editor of its new *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*. Professor Auerbach is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Econometric Society.

Betty T. Yee, chairwoman of the California State Board of Equalization, represents the First Equalization District and its 21 counties in northern and central California, including the entire San Francisco Bay Area. Ms. Yee has over 25 years of experience in public service, specializing in state and local finance. Ms. Yee previously served as chief deputy director for budget with the California Department of Finance, where she led the development of the Governor's Budget and fiscal analyses of legislation on behalf of the Administration, as well as negotiations with the Legislature and key budget stakeholders. Prior to this, she served in senior staff positions for several fiscal and policy committees in both houses of the California State Legislature. A native and resident of San Francisco, Ms. Yee received her bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley, and her master's degree in public administration from Golden Gate University, San Francisco.

Lunch Plenary

J. Bradford DeLong is a professor of economics at the University of California at Berkeley, chair of its political economy major, a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, and was in the Clinton administration as a deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Treasury. His best work extends from business cycle dynamics through economic growth, behavioral finance, political economy, economic history, international finance, to the history of economic thought and other topics.

Afternoon Plenary

Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny was elected to the California State Senate in November 2002, to represent the 40th District. The district incorporates portions of San Diego and Riverside counties and all of Imperial County. Senator Ducheny chairs the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, and is vice chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee. She chairs the Senate Select Committees on California-Mexico Cooperation, the Colorado River, and Oversight of the UC Energy Laboratories, and serves on several other select committees. She served in the California State Assembly from 1994 to 2000 and on the San Diego Community College Board from 1990 to 1994.

Assemblymember Noreen Evans represents the 7th State Assembly District, which includes all of Napa County and portions of Solano and Sonoma counties. Now in her third term of office, Assemblymember Evans serves as chair of the Assembly Budget Committee. In that capacity, she also serves as vice-chair of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and will chair the Budget Conference Committee, which forges compromises leading to the final budget proposal. She will work to support the Speaker's efforts to modernize and reform California's budget process. Ms. Evans is also a member of the Banking and Finance, Governmental Organization, and Judiciary committees.

Workshops

Alissa Anderson currently serves as the deputy director of the California Budget Project (CBP). She initially joined the CBP in 2005 as a labor market policy analyst and continues research on California's economy. Prior to joining the CBP, Ms. Anderson was a research associate in the Education Policy Center at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC. She also held a research internship at the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy and provided research consulting to several organizations, including the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies in Los Angeles. Ms. Anderson received a master's degree in urban planning with a concentration in regional and economic development from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Bryn Mawr College.

Michael Ettlinger is the vice president for economic policy at the Center for American Progress. Before joining the Center he spent six years at the Economic Policy Institute directing the Economic Analysis and Research Network (EARN), working primarily on regional economic development and state-level economic policy issues. Prior to this, he was tax policy director for Citizens for Tax Justice and the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. He has also worked for the New York State Assembly and has served on several nonprofit boards, advisory commissions, and study groups. He holds degrees from Cornell University and The American University.

Cathi Grams earned a bachelor's degree in social welfare and a master's degree in public administration from California State University, Chico, and has spent the past 31 years of her career in the field of social services serving the citizens of Butte County. Ms. Grams has been employed with the Butte County Department of Employment and Social Services for 29 years, including the past four years as director.

Scott Graves has analyzed health, human services, housing, and other issues for the CBP since 2002. Prior to joining the CBP, Mr. Graves worked as a researcher in Austin, Texas, for the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, Consumers Union, and the Public Policy Clinic at the University of Texas, Austin. He also was a California executive fellow and worked as a reporter for newspapers in Arizona and California. Mr. Graves received a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Texas, Austin, and a bachelor's degree in government and journalism from California State University, Sacramento.

Christian Griffith is the chief consultant of the Assembly Budget Committee. As chief consultant, Mr. Griffith is responsible for crafting the state's \$144 billion total annual budget and directing the Assembly's budget process. Previously, Mr. Griffith served as the director of Fiscal and Administrative Services for the Santa Clara County Social Services Agency, where he oversaw the administrative functions for the agency. Prior to that position, Mr. Griffith served as a senior consultant with the Assembly Budget Committee for six years, where he staffed a diverse group of issue areas, including human services, health, child development, labor, military, and veterans affairs. Mr. Griffith also worked as a senior fiscal and policy analyst for the San Francisco Department of Human Services. He received his undergraduate degree from the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University and his master's in public policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy at UC Berkeley.

Jonathan Kaplan joined the CBP as an educational policy analyst in 2006. Prior to joining the CBP, Mr. Kaplan taught law and United States history for seven years in Martinez, California, where he also served as chair of Alhambra High School's Social Science Department. Mr. Kaplan holds a master's degree in education from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and received his bachelor's degree in history from Yale University.

Paul Leonard directs the California office of the Center for Responsible Lending, which he opened in spring 2006. Prior to joining the Center, Paul was a public policy consultant focused on housing and community development, welfare reform, and other anti-poverty issues. His clients included the Brookings Institution's Urban and Metropolitan Program, the MacArthur Foundation, and the Low Income Investment Fund. Prior to 1999, Paul was a political appointee at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, serving as acting assistant secretary for policy development and research, as well as deputy assistant secretary for policy development from 1994 to 1998. He was previously employed as a senior policy analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, focusing on federal budget and low-income housing issues.

John Myers joined KQED in 2003, and has spent more than 15 years as a reporter, anchor, and editor in both television and radio news. His previous work experience includes assignments in commercial and public broadcasting, and includes stints not only in Sacramento, but also the Central Coast of California, the Bay Area, and Virginia. In addition to his duties as Sacramento Bureau Chief for KQED and The California Report, Mr. Myers' reporting work has been featured on a wide variety of national news outlets, from National Public Radio to MSNBC, The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, and beyond. His career highlights include participation in several televised debates, including his selection as one of the journalists in the first televised debate of the 2003 California recall election.

In 2004, John began a daily newsblog, "Capital Notes," which today is the longest running news blog of its kind reporting on California politics. He also hosts a weekly political podcast of the same name. He has received numerous awards for his radio and television reporting, including the California Journalism Award for covering public policy; the Northern California Radio and Television News Directors Association for radio writing; and the Radio and Television News Association of Southern California for television series reporting. Mr. Myers received degrees from Duke University and the University of California, Berkeley. He and his family live in Sacramento.

Edwin Park is a senior fellow in the Health Policy Department of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) focusing on Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, and comprehensive health reform efforts at the federal level. He also analyzes federal tax policies related to health care, state regulation of the private health insurance market, and issues related to prescription drugs. He has testified before Congress, been interviewed on NPR and CNBC, and has been cited in media publications such as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Los Angeles Times*.

Prior to coming to the CBPP in 2001, he served as the health policy advisor for the National Economic Council. He also has worked as a Medicaid professional staff member for the US Senate Finance Committee and as an attorney in

private practice specializing in health law. He has a law degree from Harvard Law School and an A.B. from Princeton University.

Jean Ross is the executive director of the CBP. Her prior professional experience includes serving as principal consultant to the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee; senior consultant to the Assembly Human Services Committee, where she staffed the California Legislature's Joint Select Committee on the Changing Family; and assistant research director of the Service Employees International Union in Washington, DC, where she was responsible for coordinating the union's research on tax, budget, and employment policy issues. Ms. Ross serves on the Board of the Washington, DC-based Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, the Advisory Committee of California's Franchise Tax Board, and the Board of the California Tax Reform Association. Ms. Ross is a frequent speaker on workforce and fiscal policy issues and has published numerous reports and articles on fiscal and economic policy issues. Ms. Ross graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and has a master's degree in city and regional planning with a concentration in regional economics from the University of California, Berkeley. Ms. Ross was selected as a senior fellow of the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Public Policy and Social Research in 2000-01.

Matt Schwartz joined the California Housing Partnership Corporation (CHPC) in 2002. As president, Matt assists local government and nonprofit organizations with the preservation and creation of affordable housing through policy advocacy, technical assistance, training, and financial consulting. Matt has worked in the development, planning, and financing of affordable housing in both the private and public sectors since 1990 and has extensive experience with most government funding programs as well as with syndicating Low Income Housing Tax Credits and issuing tax-exempt bonds. Mr. Schwartz also plays a leadership role in shaping California legislation and regulations to expand the resources available to preserve and create affordable housing in the state.

Prior to joining CHPC, Mr. Schwartz worked as a regional nonprofit developer in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he was responsible for the development and financing of 1,000 affordable apartments. As a redevelopment official in San Francisco, he worked closely with CHPC and its clients to preserve more than 1,000 apartments with project-based Section 8 while also being responsible for planning and financing hundreds of new affordable apartments.

Mr. Schwartz is a member of the Board of Housing California, a participant in the National Preservation Working Group, and was recently appointed by Mayor Gavin Newsom as a commissioner for the San Francisco Housing Authority. He received a master's of public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a bachelor's degree from Stanford University.

Cathy Senderling-McDonald is the senior legislative advocate for the County Welfare Directors Association of California (CWDA). In that role, she works with the Association's executive director and the welfare directors in all 58 of California's counties to promote legislative changes that improve health and human services programs and the delivery of those services. She also serves as CWDA's chief policy analyst on the Medi-Cal Program.

Prior to joining CWDA in August 2000, Ms. Senderling-McDonald served as the California Senate Budget Committee consultant for social services programs and a fiscal and policy analyst for the California Legislative Analyst's Office.

She has a bachelor of journalism degree from the University of Missouri at Columbia and a master's degree from the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management in Pittsburgh, PA.

Dr. Dale Shimasaki has approximately 30 years of experience shaping state, federal, and local education budget policies. Dr. Shimasaki served for three years in the Legislative Analyst's Office, two years as principal consultant for the Assembly Budget Committee, and six years as chief consultant for Educational Policy and Finance for Speaker of

the Assembly Willie L. Brown, Jr. From 1992 through 1996, Dr. Shimasaki served as director of research and director of governmental relations for the City College of San Francisco. He has also served for two and a half years as the executive director of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.

Seren M. Taylor is the staff director for the Senate Republican Fiscal Office. As the staff director, Mr. Taylor is the point person for the Senate Republican Caucus on all state fiscal matters. The Senate Republican Fiscal Office plays a critical role in shaping the state budget and informing the Senators' fiscal policy decisions. The Senate Republican Fiscal Office provides fiscal advice to Republican members of the Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, all the budget subcommittees, and the Appropriations Committee, and is responsible for providing the fiscal analysis of all legislation that may have an economic impact upon the state.

Mr. Taylor began his career in state government as a budget analyst for the California Department of Finance in 1997. After nearly five years with the Department of Finance, where he administered the budgets for several different state departments, including the Department of Corrections and the Department of Fish and Game, Seren was recruited to work for the Assembly Republican Fiscal Office. As the senior consultant for the Assembly Republican Fiscal Office in the health program area, he analyzed all state budget health issues and advised Republican Assembly members regarding the programmatic and policy implications and fiscal impact of those health issues. After several years with the Assembly, Mr. Taylor took over as the principal consultant in the health program area for the Senate Republican Fiscal Office and was ultimately promoted to the position of staff director.

Anthony Wright is the executive director for Health Access California, a statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition working on behalf of the insured and uninsured. With the goal of quality, affordable health care for all, the coalition is made up of 200 organizations representing seniors, children, working families, people with disabilities, immigrants, people of faith, labor, and communities of color.

Wright's background is as a consumer advocate and community organizer, and he has been widely quoted in local and national media on a range of issues. He served as program director for New Jersey Citizen Action. As coordinator of New Jersey's health care consumer coalition, he ran successful campaigns to win HMO patient protections, defeat for-profit takeovers of nonprofit hospitals and Blue Cross Blue Shield, pass a law to govern hospital conversions and acquisitions, and expand coverage for low- and moderate-income children and parents. Wright also worked at the Center for Media Education in Washington, DC, *The Nation* magazine in New York, and in Vice President Gore's office in the White House. Born and raised in the Bronx, Wright graduated from Amherst College magna cum laude in both English and sociology.