



LEGISLATIVE DATA AND TRANSPARENCY CONFERENCE

Speakers and Panelist Biographies

Member Perspective

Congressman Robert "Bob" Latta (R- Bowling Green) is currently serving his fourth term in the United States House of Representatives following his re-election in 2012. Congressman Latta serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has wide jurisdiction on legislative matters, including energy policy, telecommunications, food and drug safety, public health research, and interstate and foreign commerce. He is a member of the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, where he was selected to serve as Vice Chair, as well as a member of the Subcommittees on Energy and Power, and Environment and the Economy. In addition, Congressman Latta serves as an Assistant Majority Whip, Co-Chairman of the Congressional Sportsman Caucus, and the Co-Chair of the Republican New Media Caucus.

Congressman Latta previously served as a member of the Committee on Agriculture, Committee on the Budget, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Before his election to Congress, Latta was a member of the Ohio House of Representatives (2001-2007), Ohio Senate (1997-2000), and Wood County Commissioner (1991-1996). A lifelong resident of northwest Ohio, Congressman Latta graduated from Bowling Green Senior High School in 1974. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Bowling Green State University in 1978, and earned his law degree from the University of Toledo College Of Law in 1981. Congressman Latta and his wife Marcia reside in Bowling Green with their two daughters.

Legislative Process Overview

Kirsten Gullickson is a Senior Systems Analyst with the Office of the Clerk, United States House of Representatives. She is a co-chair of the Legislative Branch XML Working Group, focusing on XML data standards and practices in Congress. For more than fourteen years, Kirsten has worked on XML initiatives in Congress including customizing the U.S. House's XML authoring application for drafting legislation and legislative documents. She has made presentations about federal legislative process and XML initiatives in several forums, including three World e-Parliament Conferences. Prior to joining the Clerk's staff in 1998, she worked for her home state Congressman for five years. Kirsten is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP). When not struggling to enunciate Akoma Ntoso with her American Midwest accent, Kirsten readily shares her knowledge and understanding of government transparency goals and data exchange with anyone who will listen.

Legislative Branch Update

Robert Reeves has served as Deputy Clerk since 2008. He has over 30 years of experience in Information Technology, mostly in the private sector. Robert holds a Master's Degree in Computer Systems Management from the University of Maryland.

Matt Landgraf is a Lead Program Planner in the Office of Programs, Strategy, and Technology at the United States Government Printing Office (GPO). With nearly 13 years of experience at GPO, Mr. Landgraf has played roles on several large programs within the agency, including GPO's collaboration with the Library of Congress on digitization initiatives, GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) www.fdsys.gov, and the Composition System Replacement (CSR) project. Mr. Landgraf earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at Towson University.

Tammie Nelson has worked in the computer industry for 25 years and has been programming and managing database-driven web applications since the early 1990s. Tammie has worked at the Library of Congress since 2009, currently as the Project Manager of Congress.gov and has managed enhancements to THOMAS.gov. Before joining the Library, Tammie worked as a contractor at several different Federal agencies and nonprofits. Her project list has included grant management applications at NSF, NIH, and HHMI; a foreign payscale management system at the State Department; a powerful statistical tool supporting institutional research for NSF; a training tool at the Justice Department; collaborative tools used by various intelligence agencies; a data transformation project for Big Brothers Big Sisters; and along the way even a dating website. Tammie earned her Bachelor's degree in Information Systems from Carnegie Mellon University and holds an M.S. in Computer Science from Boston University.

Official Tools Demo

Michael Baker is currently the Senior Clerk for the Committee on Ways and Means. He joined the Committee back in 2011, at the beginning of the 112th Congress. Prior to his job on the Committee, Mr. Baker worked for four years in the finance industry in New York City. Mr. Baker earned his Bachelor's Degree in Communication from Western Michigan University.

Stephen Dwyer has worked in leadership on Capitol Hill for over a decade. Over that time, his responsibilities have included policy, communications and administration. He has applied his expertise in technology and the internet in each of these areas. He has a degree in Computer Science and Philosophy from the University of Vermont, a JD from Georgetown University Law Center, and is a member of the Maryland Bar.

Kathleen Swiatek is an IT specialist at the Government Printing Office. She works as the project manager on XML projects involving the print and web presentation of Congressional publications including bills, committee prints, and reports. She is an expert on printing styles for a number of Congressional documents and the GPO coding system for printing. She is a key member of the Legislative Branch XML Working Group.

International Update

Gherardo Casini is the Head of the Office of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in Rome and the Secretary to the Board of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament. The Global Centre for ICT in Parliament is a joint initiative of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) launched at the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) in November 2005 to respond to the expressed desire to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, where legislatures are empowered to better fulfill their functions through information and communication technologies (ICT).

Electronic Legislative Archiving

James R. Jacobs is the Federal Government Information Librarian and Web archivist at Stanford University Library and program lead for the LOCKSS-USDOCS program (<http://lockss-usdocs.stanford.edu>). He is very active in the library community, having been a long-time member of the Government Documents Roundtable (GODORT) of the American Library Association and having served a 3 year term (2009 - 2012) on Depository Library Council to the Public Printer, including as DLC Chair from 2011 - 2012. He is the co-founder of Free Government Information and Radical Reference and serves on the board of Question Copyright, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes a better public understanding of the history and effects of copyright, and encourages the development of alternatives to information monopolies.

Lisa LaPlant is a Lead Program Planner within the Office of Programs, Strategy, and Technology at the U.S. Government Printing Office (GPO). She has been with GPO for over 12 years and is currently the Program Manager for GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys). In 2000, she received a Bachelor of Arts in Media Arts and Design from James Madison University.

Marc Levitt has been working with archival records in all formats since he began his Master of Science in Information program at the University of Michigan in 2007. As the Director of Archives at the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, he manages the processing of born-digital records and the migration of analog records to digital format. Marc is actively involved in the Association of Centers for the Study of Congress (ACSC) and is currently working on a proposal to streamline the archiving of the Congressional Constituent Services System (CSS) electronic files. Marc also volunteers at SkyTruth, a nonprofit that uses satellite imagery and data analysis to monitor environmental conditions around the globe.

Improving Access to XML

Daniel Bennett is currently the Chief Technology Officer for the eCitizen Foundation. He is a member of the W3C eGov Interest Group and OASIS/LegalXML LegalDocs TC, and formerly the XML in Parliaments Working Group of the Global Centre for ICT. Daniel has served the Institute for Politics, Democracy & the Internet as a Practitioner-in-Residence. Previously, Daniel Bennett was the Chief Technology Officer of @dvocacy Inc. He co-founded DotGov Communications, the first private webhoster for Members of Congress. He served as president of the House Systems Administrators Association, co-chair of the Legislative Documents Technical Committee of OASIS/LegalXML and the Congressional Organizations Application of XML Conference (COAX) in 2001, and won the Federal Computer Week's Fed 100 Award in 2000. Daniel was Technology Liaison for Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, representative from California's Silicon Valley, for whom he drafted the Government Paperwork Elimination Act and co-drafted the ESIGN Act. He is a writer on technology and politics, including co-writer of "The Net Effect: How Cyberadvocacy is Changing the Political Landscape" and was a columnist for The Cloakroom, a web site for the National Journal. Daniel Bennett received a BA degree from Hampshire College, Amherst, MA.

As director of information policy studies at the Cato Institute, **Jim Harper** works to adapt law and policy to the unique problems of the information age in areas such as privacy, telecommunications, intellectual property, security, and transparency. He has been cited and

quoted by numerous print, Internet, and television media outlets, and his scholarly articles have appeared in the *Administrative Law Review*, the *Minnesota Law Review*, and the *Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly*. Harper wrote the book *Identity Crisis: How Identification Is Overused and Misunderstood*. Harper holds a J.D. from UC Hastings College of Law, and he maintains online federal spending resource WashingtonWatch.com.

Eric Mill works at the Sunlight Foundation building software, writing on tech policy, and helping to manage Sunlight's international program. His projects there include Sunlight's Congress API, its government search and alert system Scout, and a Congress app for Android phones. Eric is also a core contributor to the github.com/unitedstates project, a collection of public domain data and tools for people working with US government information.

Under-Digitized Legislative Data

Anne L. Washington, PhD is an assistant professor in the School of Public Policy at George Mason University. She has professional experience in financial services, the software industry and government. She holds a Bachelors of Arts (BA) in computer science from Brown University, and a Masters in Library & Information Science (MLIS) from Rutgers University. Her PhD is in Information Systems and Technology Management from The George Washington University School of Business. With an expertise in legislative technology, she is interested in how governments manage innovation, create and share knowledge. Her research addresses the policy and technical challenges of digital government. In 2012, she became the first US citizen invited to become a fellow of the Peter Pribilla Foundation and is completing a project on innovation in parliamentary technology. The project investigates the balance between the risk-adverse culture of government and the failure-driven culture of technology. In addition, she is co-primary investigator on a three-year National Science Foundation grant that introduces advanced computational approaches to the study of government and policy. Poli-Informatics uses the analysis of large and unstructured data sets to bring fresh research perspectives to both computational and social sciences. <http://www.poliinformatics.org>.

Grant Vergottini is a founder and co-owner of Xcential Group, a software consulting firm based in San Diego, California focused on legislative solutions. Grant has over 11 years in the Legal Informatics field. He specializes in information modeling, XML schema design, and legislative drafting tools. His current customers include the State of California for which he developed their bill drafting system, the US House of Representatives, the Chilean Library of Congress, and the Hong Kong Department of Justice. He is also an active participant in the OASIS LegalDocumentML Technical Committee working to standardize Akoma Ntoso. Grant's experiences and interest in transparency comes from being developer and operator of the LegisWeb bill tracking service in California.

Joshua Tauberer is the creator of GovTrack.us, a legislative reference and tracking website which was used by more than 5 million individuals in 2012 and which has widgets in use on more than 70 official Member websites. He is also the author of *Open Government Data: The Book* at opengovdata.io, and he holds a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania.