

THE PELICAN INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY PRESENTS

**SOLUTIONS
SUMMIT 2026**
Baton Rouge • March 3

*We Hold
These Truths*



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SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

We Hold These Truths



WELCOME TO THE 2026 SOLUTIONS SUMMIT



Lawmakers in Baton Rouge face a fundamental question, starting next week as the legislature gavels into its 2026 Regular Session: will they sit back and “watch what happens” with the progress that’s already been made? Or will they choose to keep the progress

moving forward and lead our state into a new moment of national leadership and broad opportunity for all of our fellow Louisianans?

Make no mistake: much work remains to be done. Further, other states continue to make progress, so a missed opportunity today could mean falling behind yet again.

This year, we draw inspiration from the celebration of America250. Never has it been more important to reflect on the **Truths** that guided the leaders of our country’s founding. It is a story of dogged perseverance, even in the most challenging of environments. Taking on the world’s superpower to create a land of opportunity and freedom no one ever thought possible.

It’s no hyperbole to say that this could also be our story. We’ve talked over the last several years about what’s required to **Write Louisiana’s Comeback Story**. And, so much progress

has been made – even as the status quo forces have notched some unfortunate victories along the way.

Longism has not yet been vanquished, and we must continue to fight.

That’s why you’re here at the **2026 Solutions Summit**. And that’s why I’m so grateful for you. Thank you for making the time, for giving the energy, and for caring so much about our state and your fellow Louisianan.

At the Pelican Institute, our work is animated every day by the goal that every Louisianan should have the opportunity to flourish. Every person should have equal opportunity, unencumbered by overreaching government, to work, play, pursue dreams, live a healthy life, and achieve his or her goals.

So, today, I invite you to engage, ask questions, share ideas, and be inspired throughout the day as we join together to champion a bold vision to bring jobs and opportunity back to Louisiana.

Onward!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Daniel Erspamer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Daniel Erspamer, CEO
Pelican Institute for Public Policy

AGENDA

TIME	LOCATION	EVENT
8:00 – 9:00 am	Riverview Ballroom	Registration & Breakfast with the Belles
9:00 – 9:30 am	Riverview Ballroom	PELITalk: A Fork in the Digital Road
9:30 – 10:00 am	Riverview Ballroom	Money Matters: 2026 Legislative Leadership Revealed
10:00 – 10:30 am	Riverview Ballroom	Policy Main Stage Event: Pelican Pulse Poll
10:30 – 11:45 am	Riverview Ballroom	PELITalk: School Choice to Fulfill American Promise
10:45 – 11:00 am	Foyer	Networking Break: Check Out the Networking Nest!
11:00 - 12:00 pm	Capitol Room	Silicon Bayou: Lead in Technology So America Can Lead the World
	Governor Room	Ridiculous Regs and How to Stop Them
	King Room	Second Chances for a Safer Louisiana
12:10 – 1:00 pm	Riverview Ballroom	Lunch & Afternoon Policy Main Stage: PELITalk: Reigniting the American Dream
1:00 – 2:00 pm	Riverview Ballroom	Future of Louisiana Energy: Public Service Commission Issue Forum
2:00 – 2:15 pm	Foyer	Networking Break: Check Out the Networking Nest!
2:15 – 3:15 pm	Capitol Room	Louisiana’s Energy Moment: How Permitting & Market Reforms Can Power Growth & Lower Costs
	Governor Room	Not Done Yet, Not Giving Up: Expand Educational Options for Louisiana’s Children
	King Room	Rewrite the Contract: Government Union Reforms that Protect Taxpayers
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Foyer	Networking Break: Check Out the Networking Nest!
3:30 – 3:40 pm	Riverview Ballroom	PELITalk: Practical Federalism in the 21st Century
3:40 – 4:30 pm	Riverview Ballroom	Cocktails & Conversation: The Greatest Sentence Ever Written
4:30 – 6:30 pm	Heidelberg Ballroom	Closing Party: Born to Be Free

9:00 - 9:30 am

Riverview Ballroom

PELITalk: A Fork in the Digital Road: Free Expression, AI, & America's Competitive Edge



Patrick Hedger, Director of Policy, NetChoice

Patrick Hedger is the Director of Policy at NetChoice. He is an expert in antitrust policy, content moderation and free speech issues, data privacy, and economic policy.

Prior to joining NetChoice, Patrick built his career and policy expertise in the free market, limited government movement. Patrick served as Director of Policy at the FreedomWorks Foundation, a Technology and Telecommunications Research Fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, and most recently Vice President of Policy and Executive Director of the Taxpayers Protection Alliance.

Patrick grew up in a small business household, which inspired him to pursue a career advocating for policies that promote innovation and entrepreneurship. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Government and International Politics and Master's Degree in Public Policy, both from George Mason University.

Patrick originally hails from the Tampa Bay area of Florida.

9:30 -10:00 am

Riverview Ballroom

Money Matters: 2026 Legislative Preview



Representative Tony Bacala, Louisiana State Representative

Tony Bacala is a third term State Representative for District 59 in Ascension Parish and currently serves as Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee. He also serves on the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget, and the State Bond Commission, and is an interim member of the House Appropriations Committee. He previously chaired the Capitol Security Council and led the House Retirement Committee. Before entering the Legislature, Bacala served more than 37 years with the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office, retiring as Chief Criminal Deputy with the rank of colonel. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from LSU and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He and his wife, Lisa, have been married nearly 40 years and have three children and six grandchildren.



Senator Mike Reese, Louisiana State Senator

Mike Reese is a Republican member of the Louisiana State Senate representing District 30—which includes Vernon, Beauregard, and parts of Calcasieu Parishes—since January 13, 2020. He was first elected in 2019 and won re-election in 2023; his current term runs through January 10, 2028. A native of Vernon Parish and a graduate of Leesville High School, Reese earned a Bachelor's degree in Finance from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Prior to and alongside his public service, he has been a business leader in logistics, warehousing, and commercial real estate development. He also owns and operates American Moving and Storage. Since 2006, Reese has served as chairman of Fort Polk Progress, an organization dedicated to protecting Fort Johnson (formerly Fort Polk) and supporting military families in the region, giving him extensive engagement with local, state, and federal officials. In the Senate, he serves on several key committees, including as Chair of the Judiciary B Committee, Revenue and Fiscal Affairs, Senate and Governmental Affairs, Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay and Select Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs. Reese is married to Morgan Reese, and they have two children. As a state senator and family man, he champions lower taxes, fewer regulations, and pragmatic reforms in education and economic policy to foster growth and opportunity for Louisiana families and businesses.



Senator Jack McFarland, Louisiana State Senator

Jack McFarland serves in the Louisiana House of Representatives representing District 13, a position he has held since 2016. A business owner and president of McFarland Timber, Inc., he brings private-sector leadership experience to his role in state government. He currently serves as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, overseeing key budget and fiscal matters for the state. McFarland resides in Jonesboro, Louisiana with his family.



Senator Glen Womack, Louisiana State Senator

Senator Womack is currently serving his second term as the Louisiana State Senator of District 32. District 32 covers a massive swath of Central Louisiana including all of Caldwell, Catahoula, Franklin, and LaSalle Parishes, as well as parts of Avoyelles, Concordia, Ouachita, Rapides, Richland, and West Feliciana Parishes. Senator Womack was elected in 2019 in the first primary and was unopposed for re-election. He was born in Fort Necessity Louisiana. He graduated from Ogden High School in 1978. He started G.D. Womack Trenching in 1983. In 1996 he started JCP Management Company (a rural water management company). In 2011, together with his children, they formed Womack and Sons Construction Group. He also runs a commercial cow/calf operation in Catahoula parish. Senator Womack is married to his wife Judy and together they have three children and ten grandchildren. He currently lives in Catahoula Parish where he and his family attend and serve faithfully at Wallace Ridge Pentecostal Church.



Laurie Adams, Director of Government Affairs & Advocacy, Pelican Institute

Laurie White Adams is the Director of Governmental Relations and Advocacy for The Pelican Institute, Louisiana's free market think tank. Prior to joining Pelican, she invested close to 20 years of her career in private education specializing in the creation and maturation of advancement, marketing, and admission programs in private schools. Mrs. Adams has served as Metro Councilwoman for District 11 in East Baton Rouge Parish since 2021. During her service, she has led the charge to reduce crime taking place in hotels and motels, address sources of litter in the community, and establish transparency for the public in the DOJ's potential stormwater suit against the City-Parish.

10:00 -10:30 am

Riverview Ballroom

Pelican Pulse Poll



Dr. Erin Bendily, Senior Vice President, Pelican Institute

Dr. Erin Bendily serves as the Pelican Institute's vice president for policy and strategy. Prior to joining Pelican, Erin led the Louisiana chapter of Propel America, a non-profit organization that trains and supports young adults as they transition from high school to careers. She also served as the Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Governmental Affairs at the Louisiana Department of Education for nearly ten years, served as Governor Jindal's education policy advisor, and was a leader in reforming Louisiana's education system and bringing stakeholders together to help every child receive a quality education.



John Kay, President and CEO, Neutral Ground Solutions

John Kay is a proud native of Shreveport, Louisiana; earning an undergraduate degree from LSU Shreveport. John's political career began locally, where he contributed to several high-profile campaigns, including the Senatorial campaign of John Kennedy and John Fleming's congressional campaign. He spent over ten years managing seven-figure issue advocacy campaigns and achieving policy results at the state capitol. In 2023, John joined Attorney General Jeff Landry's campaign for governor as Deputy Campaign Manager. He became policy director for Governor Landry's office, working on successful high-profile policy changes. With over seventeen years of experience building relationships across the state and navigating difficult policy change, John is prepared to represent you in Baton Rouge.



Gordon Reese, Vice President of Political Affairs, Innovative Politics

Gordon is a strategic political and government affairs leader with Innovative Politics, with more than 25 years of experience leading winning campaigns nationwide, from presidential and United States Senate races to governors' and state legislative contests. Most of his work is national, but his heart is in Louisiana, where he's been deeply involved in nearly every election cycle for almost 20 years. He's worked alongside conservative and free-market donors and organizations on high-stakes races and advocacy efforts across the country.



Julie Emerson, Chief of Staff, Office of Governor Jeff Landry

Julie Emerson was born in Homer, LA and raised in Carencro, LA where she currently resides. She was first elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 2015 (defeating an incumbent Democrat 51%-49%), re-elected in 2019 with 70% of the vote, and re-elected in 2023 for her third and final term with 72% of the vote. During her first term, she was the youngest member of the Louisiana legislature and the youngest Republican woman ever elected to the legislature. Julie has been consistently known as a rock solid conservative always working to protect innocent life, conservative budgeting, lower taxes, our 2nd Amendment rights, and parental choice in education. In 2022, she successfully passed Louisiana's abortion restriction law (SB342) through the House of Representatives. In 2024, she authored and passed HB17 establishing Louisiana's party primary system and authored (HB745) and passed (SB313) Louisiana's GATOR scholarship program establishing universal school choice in Louisiana. Most recently in November 2024, she authored and shepherded the largest tax reform package in Louisiana history through the legislature. She authored bills leading to the largest decreases in personal income (HB1) and corporate income tax rates (HB2) as well as the total elimination of the franchise tax (HB3).



Daniel Erspamer, CEO, Pelican Institute

A nationally recognized free-market leader, Daniel Erspamer has spent his career building and growing effective policy organizations around the country. Over the course of his career, he has mentored hundreds of nonprofit leaders, raised tens of millions of dollars for opportunity policy initiatives, and helped achieve meaningful policy wins across the nation. Since being appointed Pelican Institute CEO in 2017, he has built a team and strategy to address Louisiana's most substantial policy challenges and to create a Louisiana where everyone has the opportunity to flourish. Under Daniel's leadership, the Institute has generated policy victories in the areas of education reform, criminal justice reform, state spending, innovation policy, occupational licensing, and more. For this work, in 2020 Daniel was recognized with a Buckley Award, given annually by America's Future to recognize leaders making strides to advance freedom and prosperity.

10:30 -10:45 am

Riverview Ballroom

PELITalk: School Choice to Fulfill American Promise



Pastor Joshua Robertson, Black Pastors United for Education

Joshua C. Robertson is the Senior Pastor of The Rock Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Along with his wife, Shaniqua Robertson, he established The Rock Church. Under his leadership, the church has been successful in its mission to evangelize the lost, equip believers, and empower disciples—to the glory of God. Pastor Robertson has a deep, intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and lives by his father's motto: "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living will not be in vain." The Lord called him to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ on November 11, 2007. He accepted the call and was recognized as a minister in the Lord's church in the fall of 2009. To God be the glory—his life has never been the same. From that day forward, Pastor Robertson has felt compelled to bring people to Christ through the ministry of the Word. His love for Jesus Christ motivates his concern for his community, his church, and above all, his family. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 2011. In 2021, he earned a master's degree in theology from Evangelical Theology Seminary and aspires to continue his education at the Ph.D. level. During his studies in Minnesota, he met the love of his life, Lady Shaniqua Robertson. Lady Robertson serves alongside her husband in ministry. She assists with pastoral care for women and leads the women of the church by example. From their blessed union, they have two children, Laniyah and Brooklyn, who participate faithfully in the children's ministry.

Second Chances for a Safer Louisiana

**Andrew Hundley, Executive Director, Parole Project**

Andrew carries many titles: husband, father, college graduate, advocate, and nonprofit leader. But it was not that long ago when he carried the label “juvenile lifer.” In June 2016, Andrew became the first juvenile lifer in Louisiana to be paroled following the U.S. Supreme Court’s Miller and Montgomery decisions that prohibited the mandatory sentencing of children to life without parole. It was clear that he was not the same 15-year-old who went to prison in 1997. He co-founded Louisiana Parole Project in August 2016 to provide advocacy and reentry support to men and women deserving of redemption. Under his leadership as executive director, the organization has expanded its scope to promote second chance hiring, offer direct legal representation, and lead prison visits so that members of our community can witness firsthand the humanity, growth, and potential behind prison walls. Parole Project now owns 47 residential properties and operates transitional and post-transitional housing that anchors successful reintegration. To date, the organization has assisted more than 680 people transition from prison to prosperity, with fewer than 3 percent of their clients returning to prison. Andrew earned his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a concentration in Criminology from Louisiana State University and a Master of Criminology and Justice from Loyola University New Orleans, where he is now adjunct faculty.

**Heather Rice-Minus, CEO, Prison Fellowship**

Heather Rice-Minus is the president and CEO of Prison Fellowship. Heather first joined Prison Fellowship in 2013, and in her most recent role of executive vice president, she led teams that build partnerships with churches, help strengthen relationships between incarcerated parents and their children, foster partnerships with donors at every level, and advocate for restorative criminal justice reform. In a previous role as the head of Prison Fellowship’s advocacy team, she was a leading voice behind the passage of the FIRST STEP Act. A sought-after public speaker on the intersection of faith, justice, and incarceration, Heather has addressed audiences at national conferences and events including Wilberforce Weekend, Q Ideas Conference, and more. She has also contributed to Christianity Today, Slate, CBN News, The Marshall Project, PBS’ Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly, and many other media outlets. Previously, Heather managed prison reform advocacy efforts at the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and taught English in East Africa.



Renée DeLouche, Assistant Secretary, Louisiana Department of Corrections

Renee' DeLouche is a dedicated public servant and resident of Lafayette, Louisiana. A proud alumna of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, she earned both her bachelor's and master's (MBA) degrees there. Her passion for public service ignited during her 1999 internship with the Department of Corrections at the Lafayette District Probation & Parole Office. Beginning her career with the Department of Corrections in 2000, Renee' devoted over 21 years to the Lafayette District, taking on various roles, including field officer, supervisor, and reentry program coordinator. In 2021, she was promoted to Assistant Director and later became Deputy Director of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C), Division of Probation & Parole. Having served as Deputy Director, she had oversight of the Divisions Budget, Collections, Reentry Programs, Liaison between Board of Pardons and Committee on Parole, National Crime Information Center (NCIC) operations, Interstate Compact Offender Tracking System (ICOTS), Field operations, Human Resources, Procurement, Fleet, Leases and investigations. Her commitment and leadership led to her appointment as the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections in June 2024. In her current role, she has oversight of ReEntry, Chaplaincy, and Education.



Tyler Lane, Owner and Executive Manager, Gerry Lane Enterprises

Tyler Lane is a Baton Rouge native and third-generation business owner of Gerry Lane Enterprises. Under his leadership in recent years, the company has achieved record-breaking performance, surpassing longstanding benchmarks and consistently meeting strategic growth goals. Most notably, Gerry Lane has earned and maintained the distinction of being the #1 volume dealership in Baton Rouge across all General Motors brands. During his tenure, Tyler has overseen the expansion of the organization with the launch of a new dealership and a dedicated municipal division. In addition to his work with Gerry Lane Enterprises, he is a co-owner of Pro-Charge, an electric vehicle charging company, Sound Union, a sound and lighting business and Whydrate, an IV treatment and wellness spa. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Tyler remains actively engaged in the Baton Rouge community, serving on multiple boards and supporting many local nonprofit organizations. He and his wife, Ananda, are proud parents of three sons. Despite his many responsibilities, Tyler is known for his positive attitude, strong leadership, and commitment to conducting business with integrity and enthusiasm.



Dwight Hudson, Louisiana State Director, Right on Crime

Dwight Hudson serves as the State Director of Right On Crime in Louisiana, bringing extensive experience in public policy and advocating for data driven reform. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Southeastern Louisiana University, where he was recognized as the Outstanding Graduating Senior in Criminal Justice and is a member of Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society. In addition to his role at Right on Crime, Hudson is serving his third term as Metro Councilman for District 9 in East Baton Rouge Parish. With a strong background in public service and campaign management, he is dedicated to advancing smart, conservative criminal justice policies that enhance public safety and reduce recidivism.



Ridiculous Regs and How to Stop Them

**Sarah Harbison, General Counsel, Pelican Institute**

Sarah Harbison joined the Pelican Institute as General Counsel in January 2020. At the Pelican Institute, Sarah serves in the vital role of defending Louisianians' First Amendment rights, as well as their right to earn a living. Prior to joining the Pelican Institute, Sarah's civil defense practice focused on products liability litigation. Because politics is her first love, Sarah left full-time law practice in December 2015 to advise political candidates full time, including candidates for U.S. Senate, treasurer, secretary of state, and governor. A Lafayette, Louisiana native, Sarah is a summa cum laude graduate of Loyola University and LoyolaLaw School, where she served as a member of the Moot Court staff. She and her husband, Medlock, live in the Garden District in New Orleans with their cats, Beau and Jack.

**Kileen Lindgren, Senior State Policy Manager, Pacific Legal Foundation**

Kileen Lindgren serves as a senior state policy manager for Pacific Legal Foundation, where she empowers legislators and others to elevate individuals and protect constitutional rights through legislation, policy reforms, and deregulation. Valuing the law means respecting its intended, limited scope to protect Americans' lives and liberties—not grow government power. Kileen develops and advocates for strategic solutions that reflect this founding principle in states around the country, so that individuals can thrive and achieve the American Dream. Kileen has dedicated her career to protecting individual rights in capitals, courts, and communities around the country. Prior to joining PLF, she was legal and public policy programs manager at the Center for the Rights of Abused Children, where she helped defend the constitutional rights of children in state care, promoted transparency and accountability in the foster care system, and educated the foster care and legal communities about effective advocacy for abused children.



Sal Nuzzo, Executive Director, Consumer Defense

Sal Nuzzo serves as Executive Director of Consumers Defense - a national non-profit dedicated to advancing policy that protects Americans from horrible ideas usually conjured up by wayward politicians and evil special interests. His career in policy spans 25 years in the arenas of healthcare, education, fiscal health, tort reform, technology and innovation, energy/environmental policy, among others. Prior to Consumers Defense, Sal spent 10 years as Senior Vice President at The James Madison Institute. His writing has been featured in the Wall Street Journal, USA Today, National Review, The Hill, and Newsweek, among others. He has also served as a member of several policy work groups that have advised Congressional and White House leaders (both Republican and Democrat), which he blames for his high blood pressure and hypertension. He has testified before the United States Senate, and currently holds the record for most Taylor Swift lyrics incorporated into one segment of Congressional testimony.



Patrick McLaughlin, Research Fellow, Hoover Institution

Patrick A. McLaughlin is a Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution, a Visiting Research Fellow at the Pacific Legal Foundation, and an Affiliated Member of the Frankfurt Competence Center for German and Global Regulation (FCCR) at the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management. His research focuses primarily on regulations and the regulatory process. McLaughlin created and leads the RegData and QuantGov projects, deploying machine learning and other tools of data science to quantify governance indicators found in federal and state regulations, statutes, and other policy documents. The resulting database, freely available at QuantGov.org, has facilitated pioneering empirical research by hundreds of third-party users on the causes and effects of regulation. He has authored over thirty peer-reviewed studies in diverse areas, including regulatory economics, administrative law, industrial organization, and international trade. He is the co-author, with Oliver Sherouse, of *The Impact of Federal Regulation on the Fifty States*. He is an associate editor of the *Journal of Regulatory Economics*. McLaughlin has given expert testimonies before Congress and state legislatures on topics ranging from the economic implications of regulatory accumulation to the potential impacts of regulatory reform. His research and op-eds have been featured in a wide range of media outlets, including *The Economist*, C-SPAN, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *Politico*, and *The Hill*. Before joining Hoover, he was a Senior Research Fellow and Director of Policy Analytics at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. He holds a PhD in economics from Clemson University.



Danny McFadden, Head of Government Affairs and Growth, Vulcan Technologies

Danny McFadden is the Head of Government Affairs and Growth at Vulcan Technologies, an AI startup replacing expensive consultants with intelligent regulatory automation for government. Danny leads Vulcan's government relations and business development across more than a dozen states. Prior to Vulcan, he worked in AI and regulatory policy across 30+ states at the Cicero Institute.



Representative Mark Wright, Louisiana State Representative

Representative Mark Wright has served as Chair of the House Republicans in the Louisiana Legislature since 2023 and prior to that as Chair of the House Transportation Committee since 2020. He was first elected in 2017 to represent District 77 in Covington and has focused on legislation addressing ports, maritime and international trade, as well as tax reform and regulations. He has also authored several bills related to cryptocurrency and blockchain issues, as well as representing Louisiana on the Energy Council since 2020. Mark resides in Covington with his wife, Kimberly, and their five children. He is active at St. Peter Church, Rotary and Scouts, having been an Eagle Scout earlier in life. Mark is President of Strategic Intelligence and Managing Partner of Immaculata Trading & Investment Co. and previously spent 15 years in the barge industry. He earned bachelor and graduate degrees in political philosophy and business at the University of Dallas and focusing on international business and strategy in a doctoral program at the University of South Alabama.

11:00 am-12:00 pm

Capitol Room

Silicon Bayou: Lead in Technology So America Can Lead the World



Patrick Hedger, Director of Policy, NetChoice

Patrick Hedger is the Director of Policy at NetChoice. He is an expert in antitrust policy, content moderation and free speech issues, data privacy, and economic policy. Prior to joining NetChoice, Patrick built his career and policy expertise in the free market, limited government movement. Patrick served as Director of Policy at the FreedomWorks Foundation, a Technology and Telecommunications Research Fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, and most recently Vice President of Policy and Executive Director of the Taxpayers Protection Alliance. Patrick grew up in a small business household, which inspired him to pursue a career advocating for policies that promote innovation and entrepreneurship. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Government and International Politics and Master's Degree in Public Policy, both from George Mason University. Patrick originally hails from the Tampa Bay area of Florida.



Kevin Frazier, Senior Fellow, Abundance Institute

Professor Kevin Frazier leads the AI Innovation and Law Program at the University of Texas School of Law and serves as a Senior Fellow at the Abundance Institute. His research focuses on the nexus of regulatory design, innovation policy, and constitutional law. Frazier has testified before Congress on topics ranging from artificial intelligence to undersea cables; he regularly advises state and federal policymakers on how to accelerate adoption of emerging technologies. You can listen to his two cents on all things tech policy via the Scaling Laws podcast. Born and raised in Beaverton, Oregon, Frazier is a graduate of the University of Oregon, UC Berkeley School of Law, and Harvard Kennedy School. Prior to joining the legal academy, he clerked for the Montana Supreme Court and conducted a research fellowship on AI.



Logan Kolas, Director of Technology Policy, American Consumer Institute

Logan Kolas is the Director of Technology Policy at the American Consumer Institute, where he coordinates and conducts research on technology policy issues. He focuses on artificial intelligence, data privacy, economic modernization, emerging technology taxation, workforce flexibility, and technological federalism. Before joining ACI, Kolas was an economic policy analyst for The Buckeye Institute and a research associate at the Cato Institute. His commentary has appeared in numerous regional and national outlets, including most major Ohio newspapers. He earned his Bachelor of Science in economics and political science from George Washington University and holds a Master of Science in Applied Economics from the University of Maryland.



Heather Curry, President, Policy Edge

Heather Curry is the founder and president of Policy Edge. She has 15 years of experience representing nonprofits and industry, including Fortune 5 companies, in multistate engagement. Most recently, Heather led state advocacy for the Business Software Alliance, representing the enterprise software industry's priorities on artificial intelligence and data privacy. Heather has also directed the state affairs programs for both the Goldwater Institute, where she ran numerous successful legislative efforts, and the Cato Institute.



Vance Ginn, Ginn Economic Consulting and Pelican Senior Economic Fellow

Vance Ginn, Ph.D., is an accomplished economist finding free-market solutions to let people prosper. He is founder and president of Ginn Economic Consulting where he provides high-quality research and trusted insights on how to affect change at the federal, state, and local levels. Ginn's experience includes time in public policy, government, and academia. He is chief economist at Pelican Institute for Public Policy and a senior fellow at several think tanks, including at Americans for Tax Reform, Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF), and Young Americans for Liberty. He previously served as the associate director for economic policy ("chief economist") of the White House's Office of Management and Budget, 2019-20. While there he advised the OMB's senior staff on economic and fiscal policy matters, resulting in \$4.6 trillion in savings over a decade and the need for a fiscal rule in the President's FY 2021 Budget. He is the former chief economist at TPPF and policy director for TPPF's Alliance for Opportunity campaign, a multi-state poverty relief initiative, where collectively he fought and won many free-market reforms to let people prosper during multiple legislative sessions.

12:10 pm-1:00 pm

Riverview Ballroom

Lunch & Afternoon Policy Main Stage: PELITalk: Reigniting the American Dream



Jason Janz, Co-Founder, CrossPurpose

Jason co-founded CrossPurpose with Juan in 2008, influenced greatly by spending his childhood and adolescence in poverty. Jason's passion for social entrepreneurship and serving the poor is satisfied through his role as CEO where he builds our staff team, sets the organizational culture, and raises funds. When he is not working, Jason enjoys bike riding and hanging out with his wife and four boys.



1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Riverview Ballroom

Future of Louisiana Energy: Public Service Commission Issues Forum



Commissioner John Atkins, Candidate, PSC District 5

John E. Atkins serves as a Principal and Partner in Atco Investment Company LLC, a diversified asset management company located in Shreveport, Louisiana. While Mr. Atkins shares responsibility for all aspects of the Atco investment portfolio, his primary areas of focus include Oil & Gas, Timberland, Agriculture and other Alternative Assets. In addition to his responsibilities at Atco, John is also a Co-Founder and Partner in Louisiana Timber Partners LLC, a timberland investment management organization with timberland holdings in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Lastly, John serves on the Board of Directors of two privately-held companies: Aeropres Corporation, a Louisiana-based manufacturer of industrial gases, and Maven Royalty Partners LLC, an acquirer and manager of oil & gas mineral interests. John is involved in a number of civic organizations. He is currently serving his third 4-year term on the Caddo Parish Commission, where he and his fellow Commissioners are responsible for overseeing the management of the assets and services of Caddo Parish, Louisiana. In addition, John is a Civic Leader for the Air Force Global Strike Command, serves as the Chairman of Barksdale Forward, and is a Member of the Board of Trustees of Centenary College of Louisiana. Finally, John is a Past President of the Committee of One Hundred of Shreveport-Bossier and previously served on the Shreveport Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service Board.



Chris Justin, Candidate, PSC District 1

Chris Justin is a licensed professional engineer and Independent candidate for Louisiana Public Service Commission, District 1. With more than 15 years of experience in engineering and energy policy, he has worked to make Louisiana's energy systems more efficient, accountable, and cost-effective. As an Energy Policy Consultant, he advised the PSC on reducing electricity costs through stronger efficiency standards and oversight of utility spending, including efforts to eliminate millions in unnecessary "ghost charges." Earlier, at the Shell Norco Refinery, he focused on improving energy performance and driving measurable savings. Chris is a Louisiana-licensed engineer, Penn State graduate, and father of three living in Lakeview.



Representative Stephanie Hilferty, Candidate, PSC District 1

Eight years ago, Stephanie Hilferty, a commercial realtor, civic association president and yet-to-be-mother was so fired up against the inaction of government, she ran for office. Against all odds and the political elite, Stephanie was elected ... by an impressive margin. She shattered the stereotype that a freshman legislator couldn't exert influence and bring positive change to the chambers when she authored and passed many meaningful laws. She showed backbone against powerful special interests when she redirected unused funds to start a street and road repair program. She fought against bloated bureaucracy. She also fought against senseless income tax hikes. She has been an outspoken advocate who helped fortify our flood protection. And when Sewerage & Water Board faltered, she wasted no time holding them accountable. Stephanie drafted legislation to begin the process of revamping the agency to ensure rapid response and better results when the next storm threatens. She secured funding to alleviate flooding on major roadways in and around Bucktown. Representative Hilferty is the embodiment of positivity while always remaining practical. Her legislative district is complex, straddling the 17th Street Canal, part in Jefferson, part in Orleans. Still, she manages the divergent needs of very different neighborhoods each with unique challenges. Stephanie is a fierce competitor, a trusted colleague, a prepared lawmaker, and her sense of responsibility is strictly for the people she represents. If she has one flaw it's that she's uneasy when change in Baton Rouge comes too slowly. That's a trait we can support as she works to press the pace on changing Louisiana for the better.



John Young, Candidate, PSC District 1

John F. Young is accomplished in strategic organizational development and building collaborative relationships. He is effective in coordinating with government, legislative, and regulatory officials to expedite projects, planning and executing operations, overseeing complex projects, spearheading initiatives, and leading organizational change. John is experienced in organizational management, operational management, organizational audits, public relations and media coordination, project management, and sensitive negotiations. John served as the Parish President in Jefferson Parish from 2010-2016. Prior to serving as the Parish CEO, he served as a Councilman At Large and Assistant District Attorney. In his Civil Law practice, John had been a litigator focused on maritime, personal injury, insurance and corporate litigation.



Representative Mark Wright, Candidate, PSC District 1

Representative Mark Wright has served as Chair of the House Republicans in the Louisiana Legislature since 2023 and prior to that as Chair of the House Transportation Committee since 2020. He was first elected in 2017 to represent District 77 in Covington and has focused on legislation addressing ports, maritime and international trade, as well as tax reform and regulations. He has also authored several bills related to cryptocurrency and blockchain issues, as well as representing Louisiana on the Energy Council since 2020. Mark resides in Covington with his wife, Kimberly, and their five children. He is active at St. Peter Church, Rotary and Scouts, having been an Eagle Scout earlier in life. Mark is President of Strategic Intelligence and Managing Partner of Immaculata Trading & Investment Co. and previously spent 15 years in the barge industry. He earned bachelor and graduate degrees in political philosophy and business at the University of Dallas and focusing on international business and strategy in a doctoral program at the University of South Alabama.



Aiden Joyner, Candidate, PSC District 5

Aiden Joyner is a conservative candidate for the Louisiana Public Service Commission, running to bring accountability, transparency, and consumer-first leadership to utility regulation in Louisiana. As a young conservative, Aiden represents a new generation committed to constitutional principles, limited government, and public service rooted in responsibility and integrity. He is currently a student at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, where he is actively involved in both leadership and academic excellence. Aiden serves as a board member of Turning Point USA at ULM, helping organize and mobilize students around conservative values and civic engagement. He is also a member of the Honors Program and participates in Mock Trial, gaining practical experience in law, regulation, and policy analysis. Additionally, Aiden is a member of Students for Life at ULM and College Republicans at ULM, reflecting his commitment to the pro-life movement and grassroots conservative activism. Aiden Joyner is running for the Public Service Commission to challenge the status quo and ensure the Commission serves the people—not special interests or political insiders. He believes Louisiana families deserve affordable utility rates, reliable service, transparent decision-making, and commissioners who are accountable to voters. Aiden plans to work with utility companies to attain affordable rates for the public, as well as ensure explanations for customers to know exactly what they are paying. Aiden also plans to work with towing companies to come to a compromise that benefits all those involved.



John Mason, Candidate, PSC District 5

John Mason was born in New Orleans and has lived in Metairie for over four decades. He registered as a Republican on his eighteenth birthday when there were few Republicans in the legislature and none in statewide office. He earned a B.S. in computer science from LSU Baton Rouge, and a M.S. and Ph.D from the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now University of Louisiana at Lafayette). He enrolled in law school after Hurricane Katrina with the goal of helping other storm victims. He graduated in the top 10% of his class and is now a practicing attorney. He is a strong conservative with a 100% score on the Louisiana Right to Life candidate exam, lifetime membership, and his law firm is a proud member of the Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce.



2:15 pm-3:15 pm

Capitol Room

Louisiana's Energy Moment: How Permitting & Market Reforms Can Power Growth & Lower Costs



Bryce Chinault, Director of State Government Affairs, Abundance Institute

Bryce Chinault is the Director of State Government Affairs for the Abundance Institute where he takes the organization's mission to ensure emerging technologies reach their full potential and applies it to the state policy making process across the country. Bryce has been published in outlets like the Wall Street Journal, National Review, Connecticut Mirror, and Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. When it comes to energy, his favorite line is "Prosperity is energy intensive." Two inspirations that helped drive his interest in energy policy come from when he built a solar powered car for his 4th grade science fair, and when he toured the Millstone nuclear power plant in Waterford, CT. A native of Cambridge, WI, he currently resides in Newtown, CT with his wife and three young kids.



Paige Lambermont, Research Fellow, Competitive Enterprise Institute

Paige Lambermont is a Research Fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute in the Center for Energy and Environment. In her role, she covers the electrical grid, energy regulation, nuclear power issues, and other free-market energy topics. In 2024, Paige was selected to be a Visiting Fellow for the Independent Women's Forum. Before joining CEI she was a Policy Analyst at the Institute for Energy Research where she wrote on a range of energy issues including grid reliability, nuclear, critical minerals, and energy regulation. Paige has a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from American University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Idaho. She is also a Policy Fellow at Catalyst where she publishes a column.



Cynthia Niemeyer-Tieskoetter, Policy Advisor, American Petroleum Institute

Cynthia Niemeyer-Tieskoetter is a policy advisor for natural gas and trade at the American Petroleum Institute (API). She leads API's initiatives on maritime trade policy and on natural gas and power markets, engaging with federal and local regulators to address load growth and ensure grid reliability. Prior to joining API in 2024, Cynthia was a senior research associate with ClearView Energy Partners and spent more than six years with Chevron as a facilities engineer. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Texas A&M University and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas. Cynthia is also a licensed professional civil engineer in the state of Texas.



Josiah Neeley, Senior Fellow in Energy Policy, R Street Institute

Josiah Neeley is a Senior Fellow in Energy Policy with the R Street Institute. In that role he advises the R Street Institute's Energy team, which works to advance a well-defined and limited role for government in shaping decisions about infrastructure, wholesale and retail electricity, research and development, fuel choice and diversity, and climate adaptation and mitigation. He also leads the institute's work on legislation and issues affecting Texas.



Melissa Landry, Director of Center for Energy, Pelican Institute

Melissa Landry serves as Director of the Pelican Center for Energy at the Pelican Institute for Public Policy. Landry joined Pelican in 2025 as a veteran policy analyst, communication strategist, and fundraiser with nearly 20 years of experience working with Fortune 500 companies, trade associations, and non-profit organizations on a wide range of issues, including energy policy, legal reform, and education freedom. Before joining the private sector, Landry held several high-profile positions in state government, including her work with elected officials on both sides of the aisle to secure billions of dollars from Congress to rebuild Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Landry holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Louisiana State University ('03) and an M.B.A. from Tulane University ('22). Landry resides in Madisonville, LA, with her beautiful daughters. Together, they run a small zoo.



Ben Sebree, Advisor, Project InnerSpace

Ben Sebree is an attorney and well-known governmental relations practitioner in Austin, Texas. Among other clients, Ben currently serves as General Counsel for the Texas Geothermal Energy Alliance, the trade association representing the geothermal energy industry in Texas. He also advises Project InnerSpace and private geothermal energy companies. Additionally, having served as Vice-President and General Counsel for the Texas Oil and Gas Association, having been appointed by Governor Perry to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, having been elected to the Governing Council of the Oil, Gas and Energy Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, and possessing a long and effective career in Austin, Sebree's governmental and legal expertise are well recognized. Ben occupies a highly respected tenure in the Austin legal and lobby communities with a reputation for integrity, intelligence, tenacity, and fairness which have accorded him with an unusual longevity of positive relationships with elected officials. Ben possesses an institutional knowledge of Texas legislative, regulatory, and public policy matters, especially regarding energy, geothermal energy, oil & gas, natural resources, water, tax, and environmental matters. Finally, Ben is a well-published legal author on the subjects of geothermal energy, produced water, oil and gas, natural resources, and Texas Legislation.



2:15 pm-3:15 pm

King Room

Rewrite the Contract: Government Union Reforms that Protect Taxpayers



Vinnie Vernuccio, President and Co-Founder, Institute for the American Worker

As president and co-founder of I4AW, Vinnie is a trusted source and respected thought leader to labor policy experts across the country—he provides intellectual acuity and policy innovation to the worker freedom message. He served on the U.S. Department of Labor Transition Team for both Trump Administrations (2016-2017 and 2024-2025) and served in the George W. Bush Administration's Department of Labor (2008-2009). Additionally, he was a presidential appointee to the Federal Service Impasses Panel (2017-2021). He has advised senators and congressmen on a multitude of labor-related issues, and has testified numerous times before Congress and state legislatures. He has also worked as director of labor policy at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and currently serves as a senior policy advisor. Vernuccio has held advisory roles for a multitude of free market organizations such as the State Policy Network, Competitive Enterprise Institute, and others.



Mailee Smith, Vice President of Policy and Litigation, Illinois Policy Institute

Mailee Smith is the Illinois Policy Institute's vice president of policy and litigation. She oversees the institute's policy work and legal affairs, with a focus on government union labor relations and their impact on Illinois taxpayers. Mailee's expertise has been featured in hundreds of television, radio and podcast appearances, including Fox News, the Cato Institute and multiple Chicago and national stations. Her opinion pieces and legal analyses have appeared in publications such as The Wall Street Journal, National Review and the Chicago Tribune. Mailee earned her law degree from Valparaiso University and her bachelor's degree in history and political science from Greenville University. After law school, Mailee clerked for U.S. District Court Judge Kenneth L. Ryskamp in the Southern District of Florida. Prior to joining the institute, Mailee worked at a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit, where she drafted legislation and served as the organization's primary litigation attorney.



Kyle Wingfield, President and CEO, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

Kyle Wingfield joined the Foundation as president and CEO in April 2018. During his tenure, the Foundation has helped to expand Georgia's school choice programs to include thousands of additional students, to save state taxpayers billions of dollars, and to protect small business owners from abusive lawsuits. The Foundation was chosen by its peers to win the State Policy Network's Bob Williams Award for Outstanding Policy Achievement in 2023 for research that shifted the debate about housing affordability in Georgia, and again in 2024 for a campaign that spurred the most comprehensive reform of Georgia's certificate of need laws in decades. In 2025, the Foundation launched the Georgia Policy School to help educate new lawmakers about the free-market principles that inform sound public policy. Kyle is a native of Dalton, Ga., and graduate of the University of Georgia. He previously spent 17 years writing for the Associated Press, The Wall Street Journal and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. An Eagle Scout, he remains an avid volunteer in Scouting. He lives in Atlanta with his wife and their two sons.



Sarah Harbison, General Counsel, Pelican Institute

Sarah Harbison joined the Pelican Institute as General Counsel in January 2020. At the Pelican Institute, Sarah serves in the vital role of defending Louisianians' First Amendment rights, as well as their right to earn a living. Prior to joining the Pelican Institute, Sarah's civil defense practice focused on products liability litigation. Because politics is her first love, Sarah left full-time law practice in December 2015 to advise political candidates full time, including candidates for U.S. Senate, treasurer, secretary of state, and governor. A Lafayette, Louisiana native, Sarah is a summa cum laude graduate of Loyola University and LoyolaLaw School, where she served as a member of the Moot Court staff. She and her husband, Medlock, live in the Garden District in New Orleans with their cats, Beau and Jack.

2:15 pm-3:15 pm

Governor Room

Not Done Yet, Not Giving Up: Expand Educational Options for Louisiana's Children



Dr. Sabrah Kingham, Senior Education Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Jeff Landry

Dr. Sabrah Kingham serves as Senior Education Policy Advisor to Jeff Landry, advising the Governor on strategic education reforms aimed at improving outcomes for Louisiana students and families from cradle to career. Her portfolio consists of Early Childhood, PK-12, and higher education. Her work focuses on strengthening Louisiana's education system through accountability, transparency, and expanded opportunity. She collaborates with state agencies, legislative leaders, and education stakeholders to develop policies that raise academic standards, empower parents, and improve institutional performance across K–12 and postsecondary systems. Her passion has always centered on being an advocate for every child and helping them obtain a high-quality education. She is a forty-year education veteran serving traditional district systems, nonpublic, and charter school systems in a variety of teaching and leadership positions. With a deep commitment to Louisiana's future, Dr. Kingham brings both scholarly rigor and practical leadership to advancing reforms that prepare students for long-term success while supporting educators and communities statewide.



Nathan Sanders, Policy and Advocacy Director, EdChoice

Nathan joined EdChoice in 2023, serving as Policy and Advocacy Director. Prior to joining EdChoice, Nathan worked with Americans for Prosperity in Louisiana. Active in politics and community, he is a member of his local Chamber of Commerce's Leadership program and serves on his local Kiwanis board of directors. Nathan is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University, earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management. Nathan was born and raised in Walker, LA, where he currently resides. He is passionate about ensuring that families have the opportunities and voice in their child's education, which is foundational in that child's future and the future of the communities that surround them.



Jude Schwalbach, Senior Policy Analyst, Reason Foundation

Jude Schwalbach is a senior policy analyst at Reason Foundation. Schwalbach works extensively on K-12 open enrollment, reviewing state laws, data, and publishing an annual report that ranks, and grads the open enrollment in all 50 states. His writings have appeared in Education Next, The Hill, The 74, National Review, and The Washington Examiner. Before working in policy, Schwalbach taught high school in Phoenix, Arizona. Schwalbach holds a B.A. in philosophy from Thomas Aquinas College and an M.A. in political philosophy from Hillsdale College. He is based in Indiana.



Lily Landry, Legislative Director, Yes. Every. Kid.

Lily is a legislative director at yes. every kid. In this role, she aids the advancement of student-centered policies across 15 states. Prior to joining yes. every kid., Lily served as the advocacy program manager for ExcelinEd. She completed her undergraduate degree in Child and Family Studies and a master's degree in Public Administration, focusing on public policy and nonprofit advocacy from Louisiana State University. Lily has previously worked in U.S. Senate congressional offices as an intern and a staff assistant in Washington, D.C. Throughout her time in graduate school, she worked as a graduate assistant at the Student Financial Management Center and at the Louisiana Board of Regents.



Dr. Erin Bendily, Senior Vice President, Pelican Institute

Dr. Erin Bendily serves as the Pelican Institute's vice president for policy and strategy. Prior to joining Pelican, Erin led the Louisiana chapter of Propel America, a non-profit organization that trains and supports young adults as they transition from high school to careers. She also served as the Assistant Superintendent for Policy and Governmental Affairs at the Louisiana Department of Education for nearly ten years, served as Governor Jindal's education policy advisor, and was a leader in reforming Louisiana's education system and bringing stakeholders together to help every child receive a quality education.

3:30 pm-3:40 pm

Riverview Ballroom

PELITalk: Practical Federalism in the 21st Century



Jennifer Butler, Senior Policy Advisor, State Policy Network

Jennifer Butler is a Senior Policy Advisor with the State Policy Network's Center for Practical Federalism, where she works at the intersection of state and federal policy. For two decades, she has helped principled state leaders navigate federal actions, strengthen state authority, and advance practical approaches to federalism. She holds an undergraduate degree from Florida State University and a graduate degree from Portland State University. Based in the Washington, D.C. area, she dreams of the day she can retire far away from the "belly of the beast."



3:40 pm-4:30 pm

Riverview Ballroom

Cocktails & Conversation: The Greatest Sentence Ever Written



Walter Isaacson, Inaugural Leonard Professor, Tulane University

Walter Isaacson is the bestselling author of biographies of Benjamin Franklin, Albert Einstein, Leonardo da Vinci, Steve Jobs, Jennifer Doudna, and Elon Musk. He is a professor of history at Tulane and was CEO of the Aspen Institute, chair of CNN, and editor of Time. He was awarded the National Humanities Medal in 2023. His latest book is *The Greatest Sentence Ever Written*. Visit him at <https://isaacson.tulane.edu/>.



Lawson Bader, President and CEO, DonorTrust

Lawson R. Bader is president and CEO of DonorsTrust, a public charity protecting the intent of donors who seek to enhance civil society without increasing the size and scope of government. DonorsTrust accountholders have recommended over \$2.5 billion to nonprofits in academia, the arts, civics, medical and scientific research, religion, and education, with a special emphasis on public policy groups advancing free enterprise, limited government and personal responsibility. He is the former president of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, and senior vice president of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. He began his career as special assistant at the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, as legislative analyst with Pierson, Semmes & Finley, and government relations manager at SRI International. A former columnist with Human Events, and former member of the Forbes Nonprofit Council, Lawson is a current contributor to Kiplinger. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Wheaton College (IL) and The Johns Hopkins University, and is a member of the Mont Pelerin Society. He is the former president of Universidad Francisco Marroquín's Antigua Forum, and is the current Chairman of the Board of the State Policy Network, and former Vice-Chairman of the Atlas Network. He also serves on the governing boards of Reason Foundation, Our America, Free Society Coalition, and Grassroot Institute of Hawaii. In 2024 he was awarded the State Policy Network's Thomas A. Roe Award – honoring those whose achievements have greatly advanced free-market philosophy and policy solutions.



Nathalie Simon, Free Society Coalition

Nathalie Simon serves as Special Counsel to the CEO & Director of Public Policy Initiatives at Laitram, LLC. In this capacity, Nathalie works on local, regional, state, and federal policy issues that enable Louisiana to be a better place to live, work, and prosper. She works closely with numerous external and stakeholders and holds several leadership positions guiding city and state-wide reform. Nathalie is also engaged in the company's Corporate Social Responsibility work and leads the Global Community Engagement Team.

A self-proclaimed “recovering big-firm lawyer”, Nathalie is a good government and civil liberties champion. Nathalie is a former board member and officer of BGR and current board member and Executive Committee member of the Public Affairs Research Council. She is engaged on various other boards, including the BCM Foundation and Ogden Museum of Southern Art.

4:30 pm-6:00 pm

Riverview Ballroom

Closing Reception: Born to Be Free Toast to America's 250th and Pelican's 18th



Hon. Rodolphe Sambou, Consul General, French Republic

After studies in Languages, Political science, Philosophy and History, Mr. Rodolphe SAMBOU joined the French Ministry For Foreign Affairs in 2005. He was assigned to the Asia and Oceania division, before joining the United Nations and Human Rights office of the Ministry from 2008 to 2010. He then was appointed as First Secretary at the Embassy of France in Port au Prince (Haïti), where he stayed until 2013, covering political, Human rights and humanitarian issues. In 2013, Mr. Sambou joined the French Embassy in Bangkok (Thailand) as a political officer, covering as well political issues, Human rights, and relations with civil society. In 2016, he served as Deputy Head of mission in the Embassy of France in Wellington (New Zealand), supervising the whole work of the Embassy in political, cultural, consular, economic and military aspects as well as crisis management. Back in Paris in 2020, he was appointed at the Division of Asia and Oceania as an Advisor to the Director, covering cross cutting and regional issues. Mr. Sambou is married and has two children.

Toast to Freedom at our
Closing Cocktail Reception

BORN TO BE FREE

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF AMERICA
& 18 YEARS OF PELICAN INSTITUTE

10TH FLOOR | HEIDELBERG ROOM



SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

We Hold These Truths

A stylized illustration of a pelican with brown and white feathers, standing and holding a torch with a yellow flame in its beak.

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