

Speaker Bios

Thomas C. Goldstein is the presiding co-leader of the firmwide litigation management committee at the law firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. In addition to his practice, which focuses on Supreme Court litigation, Mr. Goldstein teaches Supreme Court litigation at both Stanford Law School and Harvard Law School. Since 2003 he has been principally responsible for the management of SCOTUSblog (www.scotusblog.com), which is devoted to coverage of the Court, and is widely recognized as one of the nation's leading legal blogs. Mr. Goldstein, who serves on the WLF Legal Policy Advisory Board, will act as moderator for the program.

Lisa S. Blatt heads the Appellate and Supreme Court practice at the law firm Arnold & Porter LLP. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Blatt held a number of senior positions in the U.S. government. Most recently, she spent 13 years with the Department of Justice (DOJ) where she served as an Assistant to the Solicitor General. She also was Assistant General Counsel at the Department of Energy and clerked for Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

Viet D. Dinh is a Professor of Law and Co-Director of Asian Law & Policy Studies at the Georgetown University Law Center. He specializes in constitutional law, corporate governance, and the law and economics of development. Mr. Dinh was U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Legal Policy from 2001 to 2003 in the Department of Justice. He clerked for Judge Laurence H. Silberman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Mr. Dinh is the founder and principal of Bancroft Associates and serves on WLF's Legal Policy Advisory Board.

Paul M. Smith is a partner with the law firm Jenner & Block LLP where he Chairs the Appellate and Supreme Court Practice, and Co-Chairs the Creative Content, Media and First Amendment, and the Election Law and Redistricting Practices. Mr. Smith was a law clerk to Judge James L. Oakes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. From 1980-81, Mr. Smith was a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr. He is a former board member and former Chair of the National Board of Directors of The American Constitution Society, Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of Lambda Legal, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs.