

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022



FOR OVERSIGHT  
AND DEMOCRACY





Report issued February 13, 2023

Carl Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy  
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*Good government  
requires good  
oversight.*

*-- Senator Carl Levin*

## Reflecting on 2022



One of the Levin Center's most impactful new initiatives in 2022 was the "Portraits in Oversight" series that profiles historic congressional investigations and the lawmakers who led them. In 2022, another significant chapter in that history unfolded as the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6, 2021 Attack on the U.S. Capitol held a series of hearings that captured the attention of many Americans and issued a final report that provided the most definitive account yet of what caused a group of Americans to attempt an armed insurrection aimed at blocking the peaceful transfer of power.

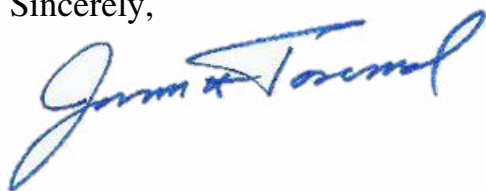
We do not know what the full impact of the Select Committee's work will be, but the Portraits series encourages us to look beyond its immediate effect on public opinion or bills passed in its wake and also consider it how it might shape history. While keeping our attention on the Levin Center's current efforts and outcomes, my colleagues and I are mindful that helping strengthen oversight and civic discourse as instruments of democracy is the work of many years. Eugene Driker knew this and as our Advisory Board chair for seven years devoted much energy to helping the Levin Center become an institution capable of sustaining that work as long as it takes.

We lost Eugene on September 30, 2022, but every day we draw inspiration from how he kept a keen and optimistic eye on the important details of the present, because Eugene knew that doing so was the only way to create change that would live up to the future.

In June of 2022 Paul Hillegonds, long an active member of our Advisory Board, became its chair. We could not be more fortunate. Paul's passion for good government and democracy and the respect he enjoys across Michigan and beyond make him the ideal leader to help guide the Levin Center.

Looking ahead to 2023, the Levin Center will unveil our Congressional Oversight Records Database (CORD) to advance empirical understanding of oversight, debut our new high school curriculum, and launch the new State Oversight Academy to expand our impact on state legislatures – all with an eye toward learning from the past while helping Americans of all ages contribute to our democracy.

Sincerely,



Jim Townsend

Director

February 2023



# Our Year in Numbers

Legal Extern  
Clerk Oversight  
Workshop  
Scholarship Award

1

Newsletters

Oversight Boot Camps

2

Career Panels

Oversight Fellows

3

Legal Summer Interns

State Workshops

Civic Education  
Curriculum Modules

Op-eds

Grants Received

4

Conference  
Presentations

5

Panels Sponsored

10

6

Podcast  
Episodes

20

Portraits in  
Oversight  
Released

# 2022 Timeline



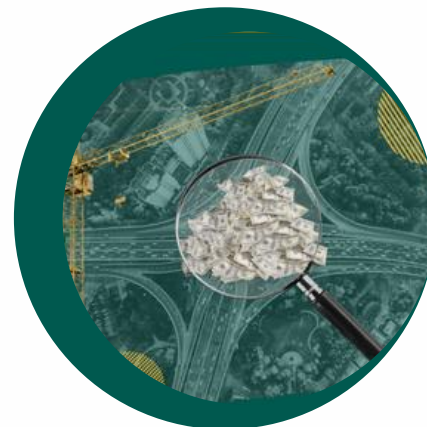
**January**

Launched "Portraits in Oversight"



**February**

Provided State Oversight Training in California and Michigan



**March**

Co-Hosted the Wayne Law Review Symposium on Infrastructure Oversight



**April**

Held Model Oversight Hearing Sessions in Two Youth & Government Programs



**May**

Kicked Off Our "Pursuing Factual Consensus" Panel Series



**June**

Launched Our New Name and Opened Our New Headquarters



### July

Joined NCOIL's  
Summer Meeting



### August

Held Our Bi-Annual  
Congressional Oversight  
Boot Camp



### September

Kyle Goedert Joined the  
Team as Research and  
Communication Specialist



### October

Presented at CSG West's  
Legislative Exchange  
Series



### November

Co-Hosted a Panel  
Discussion for State  
Auditors and  
Comptrollers with  
NASACT



### December

Announced Professor  
Rapallo of Georgetown  
Law as the 2022 Research  
Award Winner.

[Click here to find out more](#)





# New Name, New Look

# New Name, New Look

In 2022, we unveiled our new name, "**Carl Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy**," alongside many other exciting developments:



Exterior Signage



New Logo



Display Case



Introduction Video



New Office



# Awards



**Dave Rapallo**

## Award for Excellence in Oversight Research

The Levin Center Award for Excellence in Oversight Research, which carries a cash prize of \$2,500, honors scholarly papers that examine important oversight issues at the national, state, tribal, local, or international levels and that contribute to efforts to improve public policy.

The Levin Center is delighted to announce the winning paper for 2022 entitled "House Rules: Congress and the Attorney-Client Privilege" by Dave Rapallo, Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Federal Legislation Clinic at Georgetown University Law Center. Published in the *Washington University Law Review* in October 2022, Professor Rapallo's paper offered a compelling and timely defense of the right of Congress to determine whether, when, and how to recognize the attorney-client privilege and other judicially created common law privileges when seeking information in the course of an oversight investigation. The Committee found the paper was well sourced and well written, presented persuasive historical and judicial precedents, and offered an engaging alternative reading of Supreme Court dicta on this issue in the 2020 *Trump v. Mazars USA, LLP* opinion.

**Levin Center Award for Excellence in Oversight Research**



# Oversight Fellows

2022 saw the second year of our annual Oversight Fellowship Program which provides funding for one or more non-resident Oversight Fellows to promote and advance research in oversight. The fellowship offers between \$10,000 and \$20,000 and requires a scholarly paper on issues related to congressional or state-level oversight. The Fellows present the resulting research paper at an event sponsored by the Levin Center, and the papers may also be published in a law review or journal sponsored by Wayne State University Law School. In 2022, we were delighted to sponsor two Oversight Fellows:



Christina Kinane

**Christina Kinane** is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Yale University and a Research Fellow at the Institution of Social and Policy Studies. Professor Kinane's fellowship research will explore the institutional and political conditions that influence congressional oversight of presidential appointees. Specifically, she will combine novel datasets on witness testimony at congressional hearings and political appointments in executive agencies to assess empirical patterns in congressional monitoring of acting and confirmed appointees. Her project sheds light on how Congress asserts its constitutional authority to oversee the executive branch when presidents sidestep the confirmation process.



Josh McCrain

**Josh McCrain** is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Utah. Professor McCrain's fellowship research will explore the connection between congressional oversight and human capital. Building on research that examines labor markets within Congress, he will explore the relationship between oversight activity and committee spending on personnel. His project provides insight into how Congress can effectively manage its scarce resources.





# Oversight Workshops

# Oversight Workshops

## Congressional Boot Camp

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The Levin Center along with the Project on Government Oversight and the Lugar Center hosted two boot camps on how to conduct bipartisan, fact-based, effective congressional oversight. These are two-day intensive sessions conducted on a bipartisan basis with instructors experienced in oversight. The virtual session in February was attended by 25 congressional staff from the House and Senate and both parties; the in-person session in August was attended by 35 staffers. To date these boot camps have trained over 350 congressional staff members on valuable oversight techniques. Participant evaluations strongly praise the sessions' instructors, the quality of the materials presented, and the bipartisan atmosphere.

## Committee Clerk Workshop

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The Levin Center also hosted its fourth annual workshop for committee clerks on how to assist and organize a committee doing an oversight investigation. The January 21 virtual workshop had 17 attendees, and again, evaluations were very positive and appreciative.



## California State Assembly

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Ben Eikey and Elise Bean joined the California State Assembly on February 8, 2022 for a virtual oversight workshop. Organized by State Assemblyman Ken Cooley, the workshop focused on California's oversight capacity, gave recommendations to strengthen legislative oversight in the state, and provided attendees with a practical exercise to develop a mock investigative plan.

## CSG West - Legislative Exchange Series

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In partnership with the Council of State Governments (CSG) West, the Levin Center on October 21, 2022 hosted a virtual legislative exchange focused on oversight of infrastructure investments. This session offered policymakers and legislative staff an opportunity to gain insights from our recent infrastructure oversight symposium and the recommendations made to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency of U.S. infrastructure investments.



## Michigan GOP Caucus Training

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In February 2022, the Levin Center conducted an oversight workshop for the Michigan House of Representatives Republican Caucus in Lansing. Best practices for finding oversight topics and charting the course of an investigation were shared, followed by an interactive exercise where participants built an oversight agenda for the upcoming legislative session.



## Pandemic Response and Oversight

During Sunshine Week in March 2022, we hosted a webinar in collaboration with the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee to discuss the states' pandemic response, data transparency, oversight, and lessons learned for the future.

## Audit Recommendations for a Legislative Audience

In November 2022, we co-hosted a panel discussion with the National Association of State Auditors, Treasurers, and Comptrollers to discuss how auditors can better share their expertise to foster effective legislator responses.



## Washington, D.C. Council Boot Camp

On November 28 and 29, Elise Bean and Linda Gustitus of the Levin Center's Washington, D.C. Office trained three members of the Washington, D.C. Council in a hands-on, interactive oversight Boot Camp. Council members learned about creating a hearing plan, developing the final report, and planning a successful communication strategy to share important oversight findings.



Click here for more





# New Initiatives

# Portraits in Oversight

In January 2022, we launched our new "Portraits in Oversight" series - short profiles of congressional oversight investigations that have shaped American history and democracy and the lawmakers who led them. Throughout the year, our gallery has grown to a total of 20 portraits from Congress' first investigation in 1792 to the oversight work by U.S. Representative Elijah J. Cummings, who passed away in 2019.



The Portraits in Oversight series has proven an invaluable resource to history and social science teachers, academics, writers, journalists, high school students, and the public at large. The series' launch was accompanied by a panel discussion featuring distinguished congressional historians, and individual portrait releases have inspired podcast episodes interviewing key staff members involved in the investigations.

## Related Events & Podcast Episodes

- **January 13** - Congressional Investigations: Making History and Shaping our Understanding of the American Story - Historian Panel launching the Portrait series
- **February 18** - Portraits in Oversight: The Work of U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings



To watch our Portrait events,  
click on the tiles!

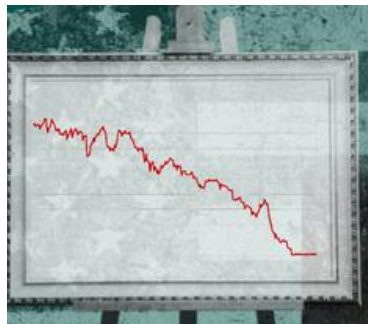
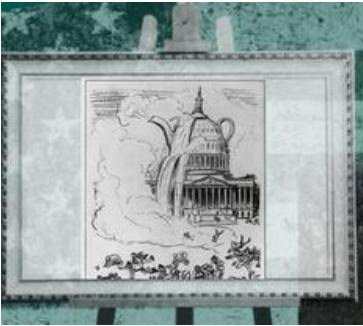


- **June 21** - Podcast Episode with Rufus Edmisten on the Watergate Investigation
- **September 21** - Podcast Episode with Pablo Carrillo on the Abramoff Investigation
- **October 12** - Podcast Episode with Phil Barnett on U.S. Representative Henry Waxman and the Big Tobacco Investigation



# Portrait Gallery

[Click here for more](#)



# Learning by Hearings

Meet "Learning by Hearings" - our civic education program covering our existing afterschool collaboration with the YMCA's Youth & Government program and our new high school curriculum for social studies and history teachers!



## High School Curriculum

Based on the success of our afterschool model oversight hearings with the YMCA's Youth & Government program, we have developed three curriculum modules for high school social studies and history classes. Our curriculum brings history to life allowing students to role-play pivotal oversight investigations conducted by Congress. These C3 Standards lesson plans complete with a teacher's guide, character cards, guided notes, and quiz questions immerse students in American history while teaching fact-finding, civil discourse, democratic principles, and critical thinking. Get in touch to use our curriculum in your classroom!

## Afterschool: YMCA's Youth & Government

In 2022, we have continued our afterschool program in partnership with the YMCA's Youth & Government offering model oversight hearings to students in Michigan, Florida, and North Carolina.



# People-Centered Oversight

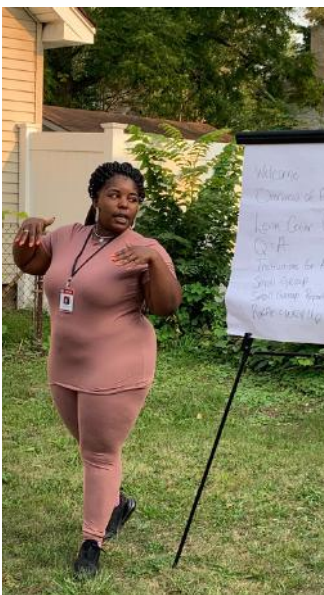
In 2022, we launched an innovative approach to bringing community voices into the process of legislative oversight: meet People-Centered Oversight (PCO)!

Oversight of government actors, federal or state programs, and the private sector can bring important benefits to local communities if conducted with a focus on facts and problem-solving. However, community voices, especially those from underrepresented groups, rarely get the chance to help shape oversight agendas or be heard in oversight hearings. People-Centered Oversight wants to close that gap!

Throughout the summer 2022, we held four cookouts in the City of Flint inviting civic leaders, faith leaders, and members of the community to discuss their most pressing issues. The cookouts were designed to provide space to identify concerns and elevate the power of individual storytelling, offering those from marginalized communities the opportunity to be heard and have their voices amplified.

The next phase will see a collaboration with Flint-based digital news outlets, FlintSide and FlintBeat, to gather and elevate citizens' stories and to ensure community voices reach the right levels of government. Stay tuned for more updates in 2023!

Join the PCO Facebook  
Group





# Events

# Event Overview



**January 13**

Historian panel launching our Portraits in Oversight series:  
*Congressional Investigations: Making History and Shaping our Understanding of the American Story*

**February 17**

Portraits in Oversight panel discussion on the oversight work of U.S. Representative Elijah Cummings (Black History Month)



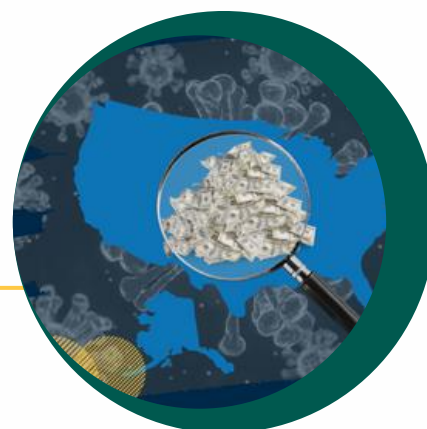
**February 22**

*Oversight Riders* - Presentation by the 2021 Research Award winners Professors Kevin Stack and Michael Vandenberg (Vanderbilt University)



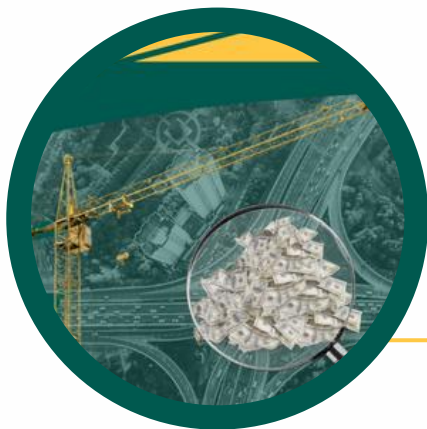
**March 15**

Panel discussion co-hosted with PRAC - *Pandemic Response and Oversight: Data Transparency, Finding Facts, Lessons Learned*



**March 25**

Wayne Law Review Symposium - *Oversight, Infrastructure, and Federalism: Ensuring Transparency, Accountability, and Effectiveness of U.S. Infrastructure Investments*





**April 14**

Panel discussion co-hosted with the Election Law and Voting Rights Student Group: *Best Practices in Election Audits*

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**May 19**

Launch of our Pursuing Factual Consensus Series with the panel discussion: *What Does "Truth" Mean in the Public Square?*

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**May 25**

Academic presentation of our 2021 Oversight Fellows: *"Oversight Overlooked" Again? Emerging Research in Legislative Oversight*

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**July 21**

Second panel in our Pursuing Factual Consensus series: *The Role of Congress*

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**October 12**

Fall 2022 Career Panel for Wayne Law Students: *Legal Careers in Congress*

**October 27**

Third panel in our Pursuing Factual Consensus series: *The Role of the Media*



**November 10**

Post-election analysis panel discussion with U.S. Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and John Moolenaar (R-MI)

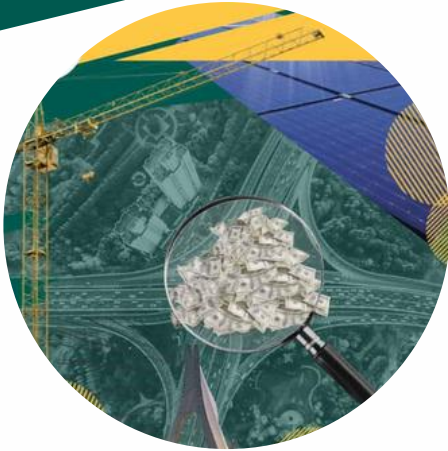
**November 15**

Panel discussion co-sponsored with NASACT: *Audit Recommendations for a Legislative Audience*



Check our website for more





## Oversight of Infrastructure Spending

*Wayne Law Review Symposium*

*March 25, 2022*

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 is sending billions of taxpayer dollars from the nation's capital through the states to local communities to improve our roads, bridges, dams, broadband networks, electric vehicle charging stations, mass transit systems, and more. To ensure the success of these historic infrastructure investments, action must be taken to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

On March 25, 2022, we held a one-day online symposium in partnership with the Wayne Law Review focused on meeting our infrastructure investment challenges and opportunities.

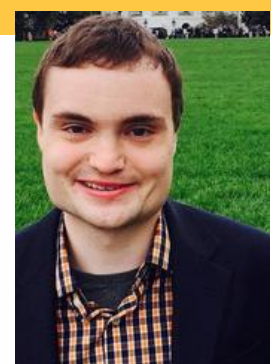


### Panel 1: Establishing Mechanisms for Oversight of Infrastructure

Welcome Comments by U.S. Senator Gary Peters (D-MI)

Moderated by Beth Osborne, Director, Transportation for America

- Shruti Shah – President & CEO, Coalition for Integrity
- Lawrence Goldenhersh – President, Center for Sustainable Energy
- Alexander Beckmann – Senior Policy Advisor on Transportation and Infrastructure Issues, Congressman Jesús “Chuy” García (D-IL)





## Panel 2: Exercising Oversight of Infrastructure Performance

Moderated by Portia Bamiduro, Technical Advisor, Amazon

- Elizabeth Repko – Director for Physical Infrastructure, GAO
- Andrew Doctoroff – Michigan Lead, Gordie Howe International Bridge Project & Adjunct Professor, University of Michigan Law School
- Joseph Colaianne – General Counsel, Four Lakes Task Force
- John Sylvia – Director Performance Evaluation & Research Division, West Virginia State Legislature



Visit our symposium webpage  
for bios, panel recordings,  
and the panelists'  
recommendations!





# Advancing Wayne Law Students

# Summer Internships

This is the seventh year the Levin Center has sponsored summer legal internships with oversight committees in the U.S. Congress. With our three interns in 2022, the Levin Center has now given 28 Wayne State University law students the opportunity to work in Washington, D.C. on a congressional (sub)committee.

The legal interns work with congressional staff under the supervision of an experienced attorney engaged in conducting oversight on behalf of a congressional committee. While we use the term “interns,” these budding attorneys-to-be are given significant responsibilities, similar to that of a committee counsel. Their duties include legal research, memos for staff and Members, question preparation for both hearings and interviews, report preparation, and document review. The experiences are exceptional, and an added benefit is developing connections and relationships with congressional staff who can support them on their career paths. The legal internships also expose our students to broader elements of the federal government, public policy, lobbying, and the role of the press.

*"I loved my internship experience...I am so grateful to have been selected for this internship because a door of opportunities that I did not know existed has now opened for me."*

**Kay El-Moussaoui**

*"My internship gave me the opportunity to make great connections and work within areas of law which I likely never would have considered before."*

**Bahar Haste**

# 2022 Levin Center Interns



**Bahar Haste** – Emerging Threats Subcommittee of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

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**Kawkab (Kay) El-Moussaoui** – Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

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**Yesenia Jimenez** – Senate Committee on Finance.

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# Student Opportunities

## Career Panels

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- Careers in Financial Regulation and Enforcement (Spring 2022)
- Legal Careers in Congress (Fall 2022)

## Lawyering in the Nation's Capital - Externship Program

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In 2022, we sent our first Levin Center "Lawyering in the Nation's Capital" extern to Washington, D.C. to work for 15 weeks in a congressional oversight committee while attending a colloquium course and earning academic credit toward their law degree.



Yara Gayar was our 2022 extern continuing the excellent work she started during her 2021 Levin Center summer internship with the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services. For the winter semester 2023, we have selected two Levin Center externs - stay tuned to find out more!

## Youth and Government Volunteers

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Every year, Wayne Law students join our Youth and Government model oversight hearing experience as volunteers doing legal research and drawing up role summaries for the witnesses participating in the model hearing.





# Outlook 2023

# Meet Kyle Goedert



**Kyle Goedert**

Research and Communications Specialist

Kyle joined the Levin Center in June 2021 as a Research Assistant. She was and is the main researcher and writer behind our Portraits in Oversight. In August 2022, Kyle joined us fulltime as our new Research and Communications Specialist. While she is still working on the Portraits alongside many other research and communication projects, she has also become the new voice of our social media accounts. Kyle earned her Masters in Library and Information Sciences from Wayne State University and obtained her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan in Near Eastern Studies.





## State Oversight Academy

Throughout 2022 we developed the concept for our State Oversight Academy (SOA) - the first and only national institute dedicated to promoting effective oversight by state legislatures and elevating bipartisan fact-finding as an essential legislative function. Stay tuned for our SOA launch in Spring 2023!



## Oversight Reports Database

In 2021, we launched a data collection effort to create the first-ever repository of congressional oversight reports. We plan to make the collection available to the public in 2023.



## "Learning by Hearings" high school curriculum

Based on the success of our afterschool model oversight hearings with the YMCA's Youth & Government program, we have developed three high school curriculum modules to bring legislative oversight to the classroom. Our curriculum modules combine historic investigations with experiential learning and role plays and are a great tool for teaching research skills, critical thinking, and civic discourse. We hope that the curriculum will begin impacting Michigan classrooms in 2023!



# Thanking our Supporters

## Wayne Law Leadership

We warmly thank the Law School's leadership including **Dean Richard Bierschbach**, **Associate Dean Rachel Settlege**, and **Associate Dean Chris Lund** for their ongoing support of our mission and programs.

**Dean Bierschbach**



## Faculty Advisory Committee

**Professor John Mogk**

Faculty Advisory Committee Chair



Professor Linda Beale

Professor Hillel Nadler

Professor Rachael Kohl

Professor Brad Roth



## Our Funders

We kindly thank our foundation funders and many generous individual donors whose support in 2022 made our work possible.



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# Advisory Board



**Paul Hillegonds**  
Chair

Paul Hillegonds became the Center's second Advisory Board Chair in June 2022, following Eugene Driker who had served as Chair since the Center's establishment in 2015. A native of Holland, MI, Paul's distinguished career includes serving as Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, Member of the Wayne State University Board of Governors, Executive Vice President of DTE Energy, and President of the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. Paul also serves on several philanthropic and nonprofit boards. Paul's breadth of experience and record of bipartisan leadership make him the ideal leader to help guide the Levin Center into the future.



**Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson**  
Vice-Chair

N. Peter Antone  
Portia Bamiduro  
U.S. Senator Thomas Daschle (ret.)  
Cynthia Ford  
George A. Franklin  
Elizabeth Hardy  
Eleanor J. Hill  
Daniel Levin  
Arthur Liebler

Cyril Moscow  
James B. Nicholson  
U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller (ret.)  
U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe (ret.)  
Gary Torgow  
U.S. Rep. David Trott (ret.)  
Reginald M. Turner  
Peter Walters  
Rhonda Welburn



## Tribute to Eugene Driker

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In 2022, the Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy lost a wise, passionate, and unwavering leader, Eugene Driker. Eugene was not only instrumental in the founding of the Levin Center, but he played an enormously valuable role in our development and growth. Serving as the Chair of our Advisory Board for seven years, Eugene guided our program choices, helped integrate the Levin Center into the Wayne State community, led our fundraising, and touched us all with his kindness, humor, candor, and warmth.

Eugene's boundless energy, extraordinary skill with words, and deep commitment to public accountability and democracy were an inspiration to the Levin Center community. While in June of 2022 he had stepped down from chairing the Center's Advisory Board, Eugene continued counseling and supporting the Center right up to the last few weeks of his life.

We will not forget his suggestion that, as part of a gathering of visiting scholars from across the nation in 2018, we provide a tour of Detroit. Serving as the official tour bus guide, Eugene proudly showed off both the improvements and challenges facing his beloved hometown. Many of the scholars thought it was the best part of our conference. Eugene was a long-time valued adviser and close friend of the late Senator Carl Levin. We are grateful for Eugene's help in ensuring that the Levin Center fully honors the senator's legacy.

# Invest in our Work

Your contribution will help the Levin Center reach its goal of building a \$10 million Endowment, enabling us to continue advancing oversight and strengthening democracy.

**Wire transfers** may be made out to:

Comerica Bank  
PO Box 75000  
Detroit, MI 48275-3266  
Routing Number: 072000096  
Account Number:  
1840109191

**Stock gifts** may be made to:

Corey Sanborn  
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Account number 35946105  
DTC 0725

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*(Choose "Levin Center" as the designation in the drop-down menu)*

**Mail the below filled form in the enclosed envelope to:**

Carl Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy  
Attention: Lynne Geller  
Wayne State University Law School  
471 W. Palmer St.  
Detroit, MI 48202

*We are deeply grateful for your philanthropic support.*

**Donation Amount:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Donor Contact Information**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (preferred – home, cell, office): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks may be made payable to:** Levin Center at Wayne Law

**Credit card:** ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Master Card

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Levin Center Staff



Jim Townsend



Elise Bean



Ben Eikey



Lynne Geller



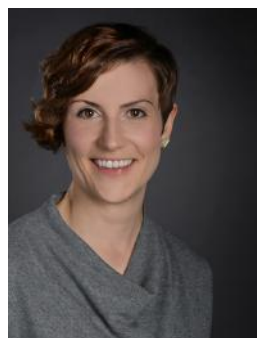
Kyle Goedert



Linda Gustitus



Bahar Haste



Margaux Laspeyres



Jasmine McKenney



Grace Moore



Chia Morgan



Trevor Skrebe



  
**WAYNE STATE**  
Law School

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Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy  
February 2023

