

## Speaker Bios

In order of appearance



**Matthew Dickinson** previously taught at Harvard University, where he also received his Ph.D., working under supervision of presidential scholar Richard Neustadt, and was a Fellow in the Governmental Studies Program at the Brookings Institution. Matthew Dickinson is the author of the Bitter Harvest: FDR, Presidential Power, and the Growth of the Presidential Branch (Cambridge University Press) and co-editor of Guardian of the Presidency: The Legacy of Richard E. Neustadt (The Brookings Institution). He has also published numerous articles on the presidency, Congress, presidential decision making, and presidential advisers. His current book project, titled The President and the White House Staff: People, Positions and Processes, 1945-2016, examines the growth of presidential staff in the post-World War II era.



**Neil Lavesque** has long-held leadership roles in politics and governance across the state, currently serving as the executive director at the nationally known New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College.

Lavesque joined the Institute as its executive director in July of 2009. He has since hosted a variety of state and national productions, including four Presidential Primary debates and numerous distinguished speakers such as Hillary Clinton, Mitt Romney, Donald Trump, and Kamala Harris.

The Institute's scope and exposure have grown substantially under the direction of Lavesque, who regularly appears on news broadcasts and partners with national media outlets on political programs. Most notably, he helped the Institute capture an earned media value of over \$39 million during the presidential primary election cycle in 2016 and \$54 million in 2020.

In addition to his roles in politics, finance, and higher education, Lavesque has served on numerous nonprofit boards. He was the chairman of the New Hampshire Presidential Primary Centennial Anniversary Commission, and served as the vice-chair on Catholic Medical Center's Board of Trustees. Currently, Neil Lavesque serves as vice chairman of the Board of Directors at Pease Development Authority, which oversees New Hampshire's ports and harbors as well as the Pease International Airport.

Lavesque grew up in Nashua, New Hampshire and earned his B.A. in political science at Wheaton College.

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**Maura Collins** became Executive Director of the Vermont Housing Finance Agency in January 2019. She joined VHFA in 2002, and through progressively increased responsibilities she worked in all but one department prior to becoming the Agency's director. Collins has her Master's in Public Administration from the University of Vermont and Bachelors from the University at Buffalo. She served on UVM's faculty for a decade, teaching graduate-level housing policy courses. In her personal capacity, Collins serves on the Boards of VELCO, Pathways Vermont, and the Vermont Community Development Program Advisory Board.

In her role at VHFA, Collins sits on the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Vermont Council on Homelessness and Housing, the National Council of State Housing Agencies Board, the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston Advisory Council, and the Vermont Treasurer's Local Investment Advisory Committee.

In 2012, Maura was named as one of the top 40 professionals under 40 years old by Vermont Business Magazine. Prior to joining VHFA, Maura worked at the Technical Assistance Collaborative in Boston, MA, as a housing consultant dedicated to the needs of people with disabilities and/or those without homes.



**Rob Dapice** is the Executive Director/CEO of New Hampshire Housing. He joined New Hampshire Housing in 2014 and served in various roles in the Multifamily Housing Division until 2021. Before that, Dapice was a project manager for North Branch Construction. He also was a captain in the U.S. Army and served in Iraq.

Dapice serves on various boards, including the Board of Directors of the Business and Industry Association of New Hampshire, Waypoint Board of Trustees, and his town's Planning Board. A resident of Contoocook, he earned a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College, and a master of business administration degree from the University of New Hampshire. He is a member of the Leadership New Hampshire Class of 2017 and a graduate of the U.S. Army Ranger School.

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**Ryan Jackson** is Vice President - Innovation Strategy at the American Bankers Association. In this role, Ryan supports banks to define innovation strategies and helps shape the technology marketplace by identifying promising startups that complement the banking industry. Additionally, he manages ABA's venture investments in emerging startups and bank technology-focused venture funds. Prior to joining the ABA, Ryan built Fannie Mae's Enterprise Innovation Team focused on emerging and disruptive technologies within the mortgage ecosystem. He also previously worked on the debt and derivatives capital markets group at Fannie Mae. Ryan

received his MBA from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University and completed his undergraduate degree in economics and finance from George Mason University.



**Quentin Leighty** is treasurer of the Independent Community Bankers of America® (ICBA), the only national advocacy organization that exclusively represents community banks. He also serves as president and chief financial officer for First National Bank Colorado, which is headquartered in Las Animas, Colo.

Leighty serves in many leadership roles at ICBA. He is a member of the ICBA Executive Committee, board of directors and Federal Delegate Board. He is a member of the Policy Development Committee and is the Executive Committee liaison to the Safety and Soundness and the Housing Finance committees.

Active at the local level, he is a member of the Independent Bankers of Colorado. Leighty also serves as a board member on the Palmer Lake Outdoor Classic.

Leighty graduated from the Monfort College of Business at the University of Northern Colorado and serves on the Alumni Advisory Board for the Graduate

School of Banking at Colorado.

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**Brent Lapp** is a Regional Vice President at Strategic Resource Management (SRM), an independent advisory firm specializing in working with financial institutions on strategies for negotiating cost savings with major technology vendors and new ways of generating revenue. At SRM, Brent oversees a team of business development and client management professionals responsible for assisting banks in the eastern time zone of the U.S.

Brent has 20 years of experience in the financial industry. Prior to joining SRM in 2016 he spent six years working on marketing strategy and multi-channel campaigns for large national banks. For five years prior to that, Lapp was a consultant for banks and credit unions on customer, product and organizational profitability.

Lapp holds two bachelor's degrees from Penn State and a Master's from the University of Virginia. In his free time, he enjoys singing and playing guitar. He and his family live in suburban Philadelphia.



**Bob Rohrer** As Managing Director and Principal of Colliers' New Hampshire offices, my responsibilities include managing the day-to-day operations of our firm and its continued growth and position within our marketplace. In this role, my primary goal is to provide a working environment that allows our brokers and staff to deliver to our clients the highest level of service available in our industry.

One way to meet the above goal is to "practice what I preach" by advocating for my clients to the best of my ability. That means putting my 25+ years of experience - including my understanding of the business, the people, and the market - to work on every assignment I undertake.

One of the great things about the commercial real estate industry is that no two deals are the same. I enjoy the challenge of being involved with complex, multi-layered projects that require me to continually build upon my understanding of the business. Strategizing and solving a real "game-changer" for a client is my favorite part of what I do. I am particularly interested in working on investment opportunities, development and redevelopment projects, and with assisting industrial and office users in finding the perfect real estate solutions for their business plan.

I am fortunate to work with a group of professionals who complement my knowledge of commercial real estate so that, working collaboratively, we can provide informed and innovative real estate solutions. This team approach means we work quickly and efficiently on a variety of assignments at any given time.



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**Ron Shevlin** has been a management consultant for more than 25 years, working with leading financial services, consumer products, retail, and manufacturing firms all over the world. As Chief Research Officer at Cornerstone Advisors, Ron calls on his analytical acumen to author a variety of corporate and commissioned [research reports](#).

Considered one of the banking industry's most notable experts, Ron's opinions are regularly sought for inclusion in major banking publications. He writes weekly for *Forbes* and has published hundreds of articles for his *Snarketing* blog. A seasoned professional speaker, Ron's insights and quirky sense of humor are in high demand for trade events and podcasts.

Before joining Cornerstone Advisors, Ron was a senior analyst at Aite Group, where he specialized in retail banking issues. Before Aite, he led Epsilon's financial services consulting practice. Before Epsilon, he headed up Forrester's research efforts on customer loyalty, profitability, and consumer channel use in the financial services industry.

Ron is the author of *Smarter Bank: Why Money Management is More Important than Money Movement*. He was ranked #2 on Bank Innovation's list of 30 Innovators to Watch. His *Snarketing 2.0* blog was named to Radius' 25 Best Marketing Blogs.

Ron received a master's degree in finance and statistics from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor's degree in economics from SUNY Binghamton.