

Quiet Revolution: The Rise of the Conservative Legal Agenda

Speaker Biographies

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Nan Aron

President, Alliance for Justice

A leading voice in public interest law for over 30 years, Nan Aron is President of the Alliance for Justice, a national association of public interest and civil rights organizations. Ms. Aron, who founded the Alliance in 1979, guides the organization in its mission to advance the cause of justice for all Americans, strengthen the public interest community's influence on national policy and foster the next generation of advocates. In 1985, Ms. Aron founded the Alliance's Judicial Selection Project, now the country's premier voice for a fair and independent judiciary and a major player in the often-controversial judicial nominations process. Notable accomplishments include helping to defeat Robert Bork's nomination to the Supreme Court in 1987; supporting the nomination of Roger Gregory, the first African American judge in the Fourth Circuit, in 2001; and organizing the effort that helped support ten Senate filibusters against President George W. Bush's most extreme judicial nominees.

Ms. Aron is nationally recognized for her vast expertise in public interest law, the federal judiciary and citizen participation in public policy. She is the author of *Liberty and Justice for All: Public Interest Law in the 1980s and Beyond* and has appeared as an expert in such media outlets as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Nation*, *Vanity Fair* and National Public Radio. Ms. Aron has taught at Georgetown and George Washington University Law Schools, and serves on the Dean's Advisory Council at American University's Washington College of Law. Prior to founding the Alliance, Ms. Aron was a staff attorney for the ACLU's National Prison Project and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She has a BA from Oberlin College and a JD from Case Western Reserve.

Seth Rosenthal

Legal Director, Alliance for Justice

From the fall of 1995 until joining the Alliance for Justice in January 2005, Mr. Rosenthal served through the Attorney General's Honors Program as a trial attorney in the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division. While at the Justice Department, Mr. Rosenthal was also a member of the Attorney General's Task Force that investigated recent allegations regarding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prior to his work at the Justice Department, he was a Skadden Public Interest Fellow at the Southern Center for Human Rights, where he handled both death penalty cases and class actions alleging unconstitutional conditions of confinement in jails and prisons in Georgia and Alabama. He received his J.D. from Harvard Law School and his B.A. from Dartmouth College.

Prof. David Forte

Charles R. Emrick Jr. - Calfee, Halter & Griswold Endowed Professor of Law, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

During the Reagan administration, Professor Forte served as chief counsel to the United States delegation to the United Nations and alternate delegate to the Security Council. He has authored a number of briefs before the United States Supreme Court, and has frequently testified before the United States Congress and consulted with the Department of State on human rights and international affairs issues. Recently, the Department of State sponsored a speaking tour for Professor Forte in Amman, Jordan, and he was also a featured speaker to the Meeting of Peoples in Rimini, Italy. He has also been called to testify before the state legislatures of Ohio, Idaho as well as the New York City Council. He has assisted in drafting a number of pieces of legislation for the Ohio General Assembly dealing with abortion, international trade, and federalism. He has sat as acting judge on the municipal court of Lakewood Ohio and was chairman of Professional Ethics Committee of the Cleveland Bar Association. He has received a number of awards for his public service, including the Cleveland Bar Association's President's Award, the Cleveland State University Award for Distinguished Service, and the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Alumni Award. His Holiness, John Paul II, has appointed Dr. Forte as Consultor to the Pontifical Council for the Family. In 2003, Dr. Forte was a Distinguished Fulbright Chair at the University of Trento. A graduate of Harvard College and Columbia Law School, he has given over 240 invited addresses and papers at 60 academic institutions.

Steve Dettelbach

Partner, Baker Hostetler

Steven Dettelbach is a partner in the Litigation and Legislative and Regulatory Practice Groups of Baker Hostetler in Cleveland and Washington D.C. A graduate of Harvard law school and Dartmouth College, he focuses on representing corporations and individuals in all facets of white collar criminal and regulatory matters, conducting internal corporate investigations and designing and implementing corporate compliance programs, especially for businesses that have frequent contact with regulators and public officials. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Dettelbach worked in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government over a 15-year span. Mr. Dettelbach served as a federal prosecutor both for the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., and at two U.S. Attorney's offices for over 12 years. During his time at the Department of Justice, Mr. Dettelbach headed criminal investigations or prosecutions in over 20 states and was lead counsel in well over 30 trials.

From 2003 to 2006, Mr. Dettelbach served as an Assistant United States Attorney on the Organized Crime and Corruption Strike Force in Cleveland, Ohio. From 2001 to 2003, Mr. Dettelbach worked in the United States Senate, where he served as Counsel to the United States Senate Committee of the Judiciary for the Chairman/Ranking Minority Member, Senator Patrick J. Leahy. Prior to working in the Senate, Mr. Dettelbach served for almost a decade in various capacities as a federal prosecutor based in the Washington, D.C., area. Mr. Dettelbach served as Deputy Chief of the United States Attorney's Office, District of Maryland, Southern Division. During that tenure, Mr. Dettelbach supervised the cases and activities of nearly 20 federal prosecutors in Greenbelt, Maryland, handling a wide array of criminal matters.