

TRANSATLANTIC LEADERSHIP NETWORK



FREEDOM
OF THE
MEDIA

2024

*4th Annual
Conference & Award
Ceremony*

**“It’s our duty as journalists to shine light
into the dark recesses of government secrecy.”**

- Society of Professional Journalists

National Press Club
Washington, D.C.
November 18, 2024



8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Registration



10:20 a.m.
Welcoming Remarks

Joel Starr
Senior Fellow, Transatlantic Leadership Network



10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Social Media's Role in Delivering the News

Panelists:

Donald Gilliland

Deputy Editor News & Investigations
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Howard Mortman

Director of Communications, C-span

Dušan Žarković

Executive Director IPESE
Partner - VREME political weekly

Moderator:

Peter Roff

TLN Media Fellow



11:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Coffee Break



12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Markets & Media—Being Transparent in a Non-Transparent World

Panelists:

Berislav Jelinić

TLN 2023 Freedom of the Media Awardee /
Publisher, Nacional Political Weekly (Croatia)

Hana Liubakova

Freelance Journalist (Belarus)
Atlantic Council Fellow, TLN 2024 Freedom of the
Media Awardee)

Tatjana Udovičić

Journalist at Žurnal portal, Center for Media
Development and Analyze (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Milan Vičentić

Executive Board Member, ALTA Bank (Serbia)

Moderator:

John Craig

TLN Senior Fellow



1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Lunch Break

4th Conference on Freedom of the Media

National Press Club Washington, DC 20052



2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The Phenomenon of Fake News and its Ramifications in the Digital Age

Panelists:

Alex Raufoglu

State Department Correspondent
U.S. Bureau Chief, Turan News Agency

Caoilfhionn Gallagher

Human Rights Attorney
Doughty Street Chambers

Heba El Koudsy

Washington Bureau Chief
Al Sharq Al Awsat

Moderator:

Emily Wilkins

President, National Press Club



3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Coffee Break



3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Protecting Whistleblowers World-Wide: Lessons Learned

Panelists:

Kathleen McClellan

Deputy Director, WHISPeR

Joe Spielberger

Senior Policy Counsel
Project on Government Oversight

Mark S. Zaid, Esq.

Founding Legal Partner
Whistleblower Aid

Moderator:

Shaun Waterman

TLN Media Fellow



5:00 p.m.

Cocktail Hour (Holeman Lounge)

6:00 p.m.

Dinner (Ballroom)

Ballroom Session



7:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Future of the Media and Digital Transformation: What's Next?

Introduction:

Peter Roff

TLN Media Fellow
Newsweek Contributing Editor

Yann Philippin

TLN 2024 Gold Medal for Investigative
Reporting, Mediapart France

Panelists:

Masih Alinejad

TLN 2024 Gold Medal for Public Service

Daniel Bush

The White House Correspondent, Newsweek

Vladimir Lučić

CEO, Telekom Serbia

Moderator:

Paul Beckett

Assistant Editor
The Wall Street Journal

TLN
FOURTH ANNUAL
FREEDOM OF THE
MEDIA AWARD
CEREMONEY

6:30 p.m.

Dinner

Welcome

Sasha Toperich

*Executive Vice President
Transatlantic Leadership Network*

Emily Wilkins

President, National Press Club

Introductions

Debra Cagan

*Distinguished Fellow
Transatlantic Leadership Network*

John Craig

*Senior Fellow
Transatlantic Leadership Network*

Berislav Jelinić

TLN 2023 Freedom of the Media Awardee

Joel Starr

*Senior Fellow, Transatlantic Leadership
Network*

Peter Roff

TLN Media Fellow

*Ballroom, National Press Club,
Washington, DC 20052*

2024 TLN FREEDOM OF

**The TLN Gold Medal for Public
Service**

is awarded to

Masih Alinejad

*for her outstanding commitment to freedom of
expression and advocacy for women's rights*

**The TLN Gold Medal for
Investigative Journalism**

is awarded to

Yann Philippin

*for his outstanding achievements in world-wide
corruption investigations*

**The TLN Freedom of the Media
for Excellence in International
Reporting**

is awarded to

Jimmy Lai

*for firmly standing for freedom and democracy,
unjustifiably imprisoned in Hong-Kong*

**The TLN Freedom of the Media
for Excellence in Commentary and
Criticism**

is awarded to

Stephen Kalin

*for his outstanding reporting on the Middle East,
especially contemporary Saudi Arabia*

**The TLN Freedom of the Media
for Excellence in Next Generation
Journalism Reporting**

is awarded to

Hana Liubakova

*for her courageous work in unraveling state-level
corruption in Belarus and cross-border reporting*

OF THE MEDIA AWARDEES AND BIOGRAPHIES

Masih Alinejad is an Iranian American journalist, a women's rights campaigner, and the author of the best-selling memoir *The Wind in My Hair*. In 2023, Time named Alinejad as one of the women of the year and was elected President of the World Liberty Congress. She is one of the most prominent and vocal figures challenging the Islamic Republic of Iran. The New York Times has described Masih as "The woman whose hair frightens Iran." Masih was born in a tiny village in the north of Iran. As a teenager, she was arrested and jailed for producing a student newspaper. She became a parliamentary journalist and worked for a number of reformist newspapers in Tehran. However, her articles frequently landed her in trouble. In 2014, she launched the My Stealthy Freedom campaign against compulsory hijab, which became the largest civil disobedience movement in the history of the Islamic Republic. Today, Masih continues to write and host Tablet, a satirical weekly show on VOA. She has been honored with several awards, including sharing the 2022 Oxi Courage Award with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy; the 2022 Washington Institute's Statesman-Scholar Award, and the American Jewish Committee's Moral Courage Award.

Stephen Kalin is a foreign correspondent for The Wall Street Journal based in the Middle East, where he has lived since 2009. He also began reporting from Ukraine after Russia invaded in 2022. He moved to Riyadh in 2017 to cover the rise of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and the profound social, economic and political shifts underway in the kingdom. He has reported on every major development in contemporary Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neighbors. Stephen previously worked for Reuters News for seven years. In Iraq, he covered the U.S.-backed military campaign to end the Islamic State group's control of territory, reporting extensively from the frontlines of that war in Mosul and Anbar province. Before that, he covered the Syrian civil war and the rise of Egyptian strongman Abdelfattah al-Sisi. He has reported from more than a dozen countries. Stephen is from New York. He earned a degree in political science from Davidson College and then learned Arabic in Cairo.

Jimmy Lai arrived in Hong Kong at age 12 as a stowaway on a fishing boat. After starting as a child laborer in a garment factory, he rose to manager, eventually purchasing a bankrupt company and launching the clothing retail chain Giordano, where he made his fortune. After the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre,

he launched *Next* magazine as part of his Next Media group (which became Next Digital in 2015). Following a column in the magazine in 1994, where Lai insulted then-Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng and told him to "drop dead," China began to force branches of Giordano on the mainland to close, after which Lai sold his share of the company. He launched *Apple Daily* in 1995, introducing tabloid-style journalism to Hong Kong and later Taiwan, and has openly supported pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong. Despite *Apple Daily's* popularity, many large businesses have shunned the paper in what Lai has described as a politically motivated squeeze. *Apple Daily* offices and Lai's home have been repeatedly attacked, including with firebombs. Lai was arrested in 2014 when he participated in pro-democracy demonstrations. He provoked China's ire when, during widespread street protests in Hong Kong in 2019, he met with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi during a visit to Washington, D.C. His clashes with authorities intensified sharply in 2020, especially after the July enactment of a sweeping National Security Law. He was arrested on February 28 and again April 18 for alleged participation in unlawful demonstrations the previous year. Police again arrested Lai on August 10 under the National Security Law for alleged collusion with foreign powers. He was arrested again and denied bail on December 3 after being charged with fraud. He was formally charged under the National Security Act on December 11. He was granted bail on highly restrictive terms on December 23, only to have bail revoked on December 31. Subsequent applications for bail under the National Security law were denied on the grounds that he might commit further offenses under the law. He was arrested again while in prison on February 17, 2021, for allegedly helping 12 fugitives in their failed attempt to escape Hong Kong for Taiwan. On April 16, 2021, Lai was sentenced to 14 months in prison for the alleged organization of, and participation in, two unauthorized marches in 2019. A conviction in the ongoing National Security case could result in a sentence of life in prison. On June 17, Hong Kong's National Security police raided the office of *Apple Daily*, confiscating mobile phones and computers with journalistic material and arresting five senior editors and executives under the National Security Law on suspicion of colluding with foreigners.

Hanna Liubakova is a journalist and analyst from Belarus. She is a non-resident fellow

at the Atlantic Council and has reported on recent developments in Belarus for international outlets such as The Washington Post, The Economist, and Deutsche Welle. Following the 2020 revolution, Liubakova was forced to flee Belarus and later discovered she was wanted in Belarus, Russia, and other CIS countries. A Minsk court sentenced her to 10 years in absentia on four politically motivated charges, including an alleged attempt to seize power. Despite these challenges, she continues to report on the resistance movement, which is increasingly crucial given the Lukashenka regime's involvement in the war against Ukraine. Liubakova began her career at Belsat TV, Belarus's only independent channel, which has been banned by the Minsk regime. She later joined Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, reporting from newsrooms in Belarus and Czechia. She is currently working on a book about Belarus. In 2023, Liubakova won the One Young World Journalist of the Year Award and was a finalist for the 2021 European Press Prize. She holds an MA with distinction in International Journalism from Brunel University London, where she received the Peter Caws Prize for the best postgraduate dissertation.

Yann Philippin, an investigative journalist, is currently Mediapart's coordinator of the European Investigative Collaborators (EIC) network. He joined Mediapart in 2015 specializing in financial affairs, tax fraud, and corruption. A graduate of the Grenoble *Institute of Political Studies* and the *Graduate School of Journalism* in Paris, he began his career as an economic journalist, initially specializing in technology. Before joining Mediapart, he worked for the magazine *Futur(e)s*, the *Reuters*, the *Journal du Dimanche* and the *Libération* where he covered French economy investigating major economic scandals (*Airbus, crash of the Air France Rio - Paris flight, Mediator, the SNCF accident in Brétigny, Bernard Arnault's Belgian fortune, the Qatar-Veolia affair, etc.*) and political-financial affairs (*Tapie, Dassault*). He is a co-author of the *Dassault Systèmes* (published by *Robert Laffont*). He investigated cyber-surveillance and other spying operations such as *Predator Files, Qatargate* and *Abu Dhabi Secrets*. His most recent investigations focus on environmental and climate issues. Yann contributed significantly to the success of the widely known investigative series *Football Leaks* and *Malta Files*, where his revelations led to significant legal repercussions against tax dodgers and major football clubs.

Paul Beckett is the Washington bureau chief of *The Wall Street Journal*, responsible for news across politics and government, economics, national security, the Supreme Court, financial regulation and the intersection of business and Washington. Before taking the helm of the bureau in 2017, Paul was Asia editor, in charge of the Journal's print and digital editorial operations across the region. He moved to Hong Kong in 2013 after six years as South Asia editor, based in New Delhi, where he started WSJ's India Real Time blog and its India news website, india.wsj.com. In 2008, Paul and the bureau won an Overseas Press Club award for their India coverage. In July 2013, he was co-author of the HarperCollins book "Crimes Against Women: Three Tragedies and the Call for Reform in India," a compilation of WSJ's reporting on women's issues in 2012 and 2013. Born and bred in Scotland and a graduate of Edinburgh University, Paul joined Dow Jones in 1990 at the *Daily News* of Newburyport, Mass., then part of Dow Jones's community newspaper chain. He joined *Dow Jones Newswires* in 1993 and reported from New York, London, Mexico City and Washington, D.C. He joined the Journal in 1998 in New York, where he covered banking. In 2003, he moved to London as bureau chief and European finance and markets editor.

Daniel Bush is a White House Correspondent for Newsweek. He reports on President Biden, national politics and foreign affairs. Biden is the third president he has covered. Daniel joined Newsweek in 2022 from PBS NewsHour, where he reported on the Obama and Trump administrations, the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, immigration issues, the Minneapolis protests over George Floyd's death, and the pandemic, among other topics. He had previously covered Congress for E&E News. He began his career as a newspaper reporter in New York, and is a graduate of NYU and Columbia University.

Ambassador **John Craig** became deputy chief of mission at the US Embassy in the Syrian capital Damascus followed by a similar posting to the US Embassy in Bogota, Colombia. On his return to the US in 1995, he was appointed to head the Office of Arabian Peninsula Affairs in the State Department's Near East Bureau. In 1998, President Bill Clinton nominated Craig to be the US Ambassador to Oman. After three years in the post, he returned to the US just after Sept. 11, 2001, to be appointed by President George W. Bush as a Special Assistant to the President for Combatting Terrorism. He served on the staff of the National Security Council with Gen. Wayne Downing, Deputy National Security Advisor. In 2003,

he was appointed as Boeing International Corporation's regional vice president in the Middle East. He was responsible for coordinating Boeing business activities enterprise-wide in a number of countries across the region. Since 2010, Ambassador Craig has Ambassador-in-Residence in the Center for Global Understanding and Peacemaking at Elizabethtown College in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

Heba el Koudsy Helal is an Egyptian-American journalist with over 25 years of experience in media and journalism. Her career has taken her across the Middle East and North Africa, including Cairo, Egypt; Kuwait; Dubai, UAE; South Africa; London, UK; and Washington, D.C. In 2009 and 2010, Ms. El Koudsy served as a political researcher at the Woodrow Wilson Center, focusing on democratization and its impact on U.S.-Arab relations during the Bush administration (2001-2008). Since 2010, Ms. El Koudsy has been the Washington Bureau Chief for Asharq Al Awsat. She is notably the only Arab journalist to have interviewed Vice President Dick Cheney. Her exceptional coverage of the Beijing Women's Conference earned her an award from the United Nations. Ms. El Koudsy is also a media consultant and TV commentator for several channels, including BBC, France 24, I-24, Al Arabiya, Associated Press, and Russia Today. In 2018, she founded the "Washington for Media Consulting and Training" firm (www.WMCT.com), which helps private sector companies from the Middle East access the U.S. market and vice versa. The firm facilitates partnerships between GCC companies and U.S. companies, providing strategic media planning and branding. It has successfully assisted clients from Turkey in establishing a branch in the U.S. and forging partnerships with U.S. companies, and helped an American nuclear company initiate projects in GCC countries.

Caioilfhionn Gallagher is an international human rights lawyer with Doughty Street Chambers. An expert in accountability for crimes against journalists, she leads the international legal teams for the family of Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, Hong Kong publisher and pro-democracy activist Jimmy Lai, and BBC Persian and Iran International journalists, among others. Gallagher has testified before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights on gender-based violence and risks to female journalists and on journalists' safety to parliamentary inquiries in the U.K., Ireland and Council of Europe. She is Ireland's special reporter on child protection, an adjunct professor at University College Dublin, Irish Human

Rights and Equality Commission member and Committee to Protect Journalists board member. Gallagher's recognition includes the president of Ireland's Distinguished Service Award.

Donald Gilliland is Deputy Editor for News & Investigations at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, where for the past three months he led the paper's politics and election coverage. He previously worked at The Hill and The Messenger in Washington, D.C. and was part of the team that won the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for the Harrisburg Patriot-News.

Berislav Jelinić is an investigative journalist with 30 years' experience in leading Croatian print and electronic media. He worked as journalist and/or editor for a number of established magazines; *Globus*, *Arena*, *Studio*, *Nacional*, *Aktual*, among others. As a reporter, Berislav produced about 500 TV reports. In 2004, he collaborated with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting in London. In 2006, he contributed to Amnesty International's research on a "Dead on time – arms transportation, brokering and the threat to human rights" report. In 2014, he acquired *Nacional*, an independent national political weekly magazine, and is currently co-owner and director of Nacional News Corporation that besides weekly magazine includes online portal (nacional.hr) and first DAB+ radio in Croatia with national concession, including two newspapers Zagreb News and Zadar News. As an editor, Berislav has successfully repositioned Nacional as the most influential Croatian print media. For several years, he served as a member of the European Investigative Collaboration (EIC). He is recognized as one of the top hundred most influential people in Croatia.

Vladimir Lučić serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Telekom Srbija since December 2020. In 1996, he started his career at the Serbian postal service and has worked in Sweden and in Germany as an engineer. Prior becoming CEO, he held various senior executive positions within the organization. Under his leadership, the company became largest operator in the country. In 2016, Lučić was named Best Manager by the Association of Managers in Montenegro. Since July 2018, in addition to the position of the Executive Director of m:tel CG, he also held the position of Telekom Srbija Group Internet and Multimedia coordinator, which allowed him to spearhead much of the Group's expansion from a traditional provider of fixed and mobile telephony into a strong pan-regional multimedia business. Under his management, more than 15 cable operators were acquired,

IA CONFERENCE BIOGRAPHIES

which have subsequently been unified under the Supernova brand. In addition, he has driven Telekom Srbija's move into content production and its establishment as the leading exclusive content provider in the region. In 2019 alone, Telekom Srbija produced over 10,000 hours of original content. Mr. Lučić has led strategic partnerships with Euronews, Bloomberg, Premier League, the Spanish and Portuguese football championships, a six-year cooperation agreement with the NBA in the US and a partnership with Spotify, the audio streaming and media services provider. Under his leadership, Telekom Srbija established a Corporate Venture Capital Fund, as a first CVC Fund in this part of Europe for investing in early-stage startup's.

Kathleen McClellan is Deputy Director for the Whistleblower and Source Protection Program (WHISPeR) at ExposeFacts. A licensed attorney in the U.S., she provides *pro bono* legal representation to national security and intelligence community whistleblowers and media sources, with a focus on human rights issues of mass surveillance, excessive secrecy, torture, and drone warfare. She has represented whistleblowers from the National Security Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Defense, and Department of Homeland Security, including Thomas Drake, John Kiriakou, and Daniel Hale. Ms. McClellan has appeared on television and radio programs, including *NPR*, *CNN*, *The Thom Hartmann Show*, *Progressive Radio Network*, and *Al-Jazeera English*, and written academic articles and op-eds focused on whistleblowing and national security. Previously, Ms. McClellan worked at Government Accountability Project, a whistleblower protection organization, and the American Civil Liberties Union's legislative office, where she worked on surveillance reform and torture accountability issues.

Howard Mortman has been C-SPAN's Communications Director since early 2009. He directs media outreach, corporate communications, and public relations efforts for the nation's only public affairs cable television network. He is responsible for planning and executing the strategic vision for extending the C-SPAN brand and content among traditional and social media. He also research, scripts, and voices the C-SPAN podcast "The Weekly". His first book "*When Rabbis Bless Congress: The Great American Story of Jewish Prayers on Capitol Hill*" was published in October 2020. It is the first-ever academic and historical examination of a little-known tradition in Congress: opening each session of the House and Senate in prayer. Before joining C-SPAN, Howard launched the public affairs

practice for New Media Strategies, a Virginia-based company which pioneered early online intelligence and marketing. He also served as a senior adviser to the Broadcasting Board of Governors, directing public relations for the agency that runs America's international broadcasting efforts, such as Voice of America and Radio Free Europe. He also worked for MSNBC, and he produced "Hardball with Chris Matthews" during 2002 and 2004 election cycles and wrote a regular column for the MSNBC.com web site. For nearly seven years Howard worked for National Journal, where he edited the daily political briefing the Hotline, regarded as the Bible of American politics. He also wrote the column "Extreme Mortman" – a pioneer among online political columns, which later became a blog.

Alex Raufoglu is the chief State Department and White House Correspondent for the News Agency Turan. Born in Baku, Raufoglu holds an MA in Interactive Journalism from American University in Washington, D.C. He worked extensively in the South Caucasus and Black Sea regions for several international broadcast outlets, such as BBC, RFE/RL, Voice of America, and others preparing features, audio/video stories covering democracy, media, and other freedoms, as well as regional peace and security. He currently serves as a Board Member of The Association of Foreign Press Correspondents in the United States. Raufoglu also serves as the Vice-Chair of the International Correspondent Committee at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Peter Roff is a *Newsweek* contributing editor and columnist. Between 2008 and 2019, he wrote a column three times a week for U.S. News and World Report from 2008 to 2019. From 2000 to 2005 he was on the Washington desk at United Press International. His writing has appeared in *The New York Daily News*, *The Washington Times*, *The New York Post*, *The Daily Caller*, *Investors Business Daily*, *The Washington Examiner*, *The Detroit News*, *The Orange County Register*, *The Houston Chronicle*, and *The Hill*. He's also appeared on "MSNBC," "Fox News," "CBS News Overnight," "Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher," "The Dennis Miller Show," "C-SPAN's Washington Journal" and on the 90's ABC comedy "Spin City" playing himself. As senior political writer for United Press International, he authored the Washington insider "Capitol Comment" and "White House Watch" columns and well as news analyses, and commentary. He is a former member of the White House Correspondents' Association and a member of the News Leaders Association.

Daniel Bush is a White House Correspondent for *Newsweek*. He reports on President Biden, national politics and foreign affairs. Biden is the third president he has covered. Daniel joined *Newsweek* in 2022 from PBS *NewsHour*, where he reported on the Obama and Trump administrations, the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, immigration issues, the Minneapolis protests over George Floyd's death, and the pandemic, among other topics. He had previously covered Congress for E&E News. He began his career as a newspaper reporter in New York, and is a graduate of NYU and Columbia University.

Joe Spielberger is the policy counsel at POGO's Effective and Accountable Government team, where he advocates in Congress and the executive branch to strengthen whistleblower rights, protect a merit based civil service, and promote government ethics and transparency. Prior to joining POGO, Joe worked as the public policy counsel for the ACLU of Maryland, where he lobbied and testified in the Maryland General Assembly on police reform, criminal legal reform, immigrants' rights, women's rights, reproductive justice, LGBTQ+ rights, government transparency and accountability, and constitutional rights. He played a significant role in passing four major bills into law, including leading coalition efforts to successfully enact Maryland's first state law governing police officers' use of force. He previously worked in state and local government for the Maryland House Judiciary Committee and the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Human Services. In law school, he served as a law clerk for a sex workers' collective in Kolkata, India, the Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin on the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Human Rights. Prior to law school, he worked with people facing the death penalty in post-Katrina Louisiana, and homeless veterans in Washington, DC. He also interned for then-Representative Jane Harman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He has been cited in the *Washington Post*, the *Baltimore Sun*, the *Appeal*, *Bloomberg*, *The Hill*, and a Fourth Circuit decision in *Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle v. Baltimore Police Department*

Joel Starr is the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Regional Security in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. Working off the 1978 Camp David Peace Accords as a template, his division contributed the arms sales package component to the 2020 Abraham Accords. He also oversaw \$40

billion in Foreign Military Sales & Financing and Third Party and Excess Defense Article transfers. He was also responsible for \$6.5 billion in State Department, and \$9 billion in Defense Department security sector assistance programs. Prior to this position, Mr. Starr served as Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs at the U.S. Institute of Peace. Previously, he served as Counsel for Foreign and Military Affairs to Senator James M. Inhofe (R-Oklahoma). Immediately before this position, Mr. Starr served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, where he was responsible for relations between the U.S. House of Representatives and the Department of State. He has also served as Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Legislative & Public Affairs at the U.S. Agency for International Development, Counsel and foreign affairs Legislative Assistant to Congressman Tom Campbell (R-California) and as an Attorney/Advisor to the late HUD Secretary Jack Kemp. Mr. Starr retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps in 2018 after 20 years of service.

Milan Vienti is a professional banker with 23 years of extensive experience in corporate and investment banking, including leasing, factoring and project finance areas. He holds a master's degree in economics from Belgrade University. He attended several postgraduate programs like AAOM / Alternative Academic Educational Network, sponsored by Friedrich Ebert Foundation from Germany, Uniquet yearlong masters' program supported by Unicredit Italy and Bocconi university and INSEAD University business course for managers. Soon after, he started his banking career in 2001, moving to Sarajevo and Tuzla in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to join Micro Enterprise Bank, sister bank of Micro Finance. In 2004 he joined the subsidiary of HVB Munich and BACA Vienna in Serbia, becoming one of the youngest managers within the group. He became executive director for the corporate division in 2009, at age 31, in the French based banking group Société Générale, a subsidiary in Serbia. In 2015, after the US and Canadian based investment funds bought Eurobank banking group in Greece, Milan joined their Serbian operations as the Executive Board member, a position he stayed at for nine years, continuing his career as the Chief Corporate Market Office and Executive Board member in Alta Bank. Besides his core responsibilities related to corporate banking, Milan was a valuable member of several M&A banking transactions and purchasing of portfolios, as well as member of due diligence teams and teams for legal and operational

mergers, the last one successfully completed in July 2023.

Tatjana Udovičić is program manager at Bosnian independent non-profit NGO "Center for Media development and analysis" (CRMA). She is dealing with high-scale and cross-sectoral media-related and anti-corruption projects, primarily funded by U.S. and international organizations. Her duties and competences include planning, managing and coordination of activities in non-profit and investigative journalism, as well as communication and networking with partners, beneficiaries and stakeholders. Tatjana was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She graduated from the Department of Journalism and Communication Studies, at the Faculty of Political Science in Belgrade, Serbia. She has been in journalism since 2001, working as a journalist, and then as a deputy editor at the newspaper company "Novosti", Belgrade, Serbia. In 2007, she moved to Podgorica, Montenegro, where she worked as a rewriter and sectoral editor in daily newspaper "Dan" until 2012. The last decade she spent in non-governmental sector and non-profit media projects, among other things as deputy director of the Press Council and associate of the Media Plan Institute. She has been in the CRMA since 2015, where she got the opportunity to provide a maximum input within her professional engagement.

Mark S. Zaid is the Managing Partner of Mark S. Zaid, PC where he specializes in litigation and lobbying on matters relating to international transactions, torts and crimes, national security, foreign sovereign and diplomatic immunity, defamation (plaintiff) and the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOI/PA). Through his practice Mr. Zaid often represents former/current federal employees, intelligence and military officers, Whistleblowers and others who have grievances or have been wronged by agencies of the United States Government or foreign governments, as well as members of the media. Mr. Zaid teaches D.C. Bar Continuing Legal Education classes on "Defending Security Clearances" and "The Basics of Filing and Litigating Freedom of Information/Privacy Act Requests". He has been named as a Washington, D.C. Super Lawyer every year since he was profiled in 2009, as well as a "Best Lawyer" by Washingtonian Magazine since 2009 (issued bi-annually), for his national security work. Mr. Zaid is also the Executive Director and founder of the James Madison Project, a Washington, D.C.-based organization with the primary purpose of educating the public on issues relating to

intelligence gathering and operations, secrecy policies, national security and government wrongdoing. Mr. Zaid also serves as an Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins University teaching in the Global Studies/National Security Certificate programs. In connection with his legal practice on international and national security matters, Mr. Zaid has testified before, or provided testimony to, a variety of governmental bodies including the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, the House Judiciary Committee, the House Government Operations Committee, the Department of Energy, the Public Interest Declassification Board and the Assassination Records Review Board.

Dušan Žarković is media expert with more than 15 years of experience in the public and private sector. He is a co-founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Politics and Economy of Southeast Europe, based in Belgrade. Dusan is also a partner in *Vreme*, one of the most influential political weekly magazines in the Balkan region. He is an expert on media and public relations in World Bank Program for infrastructure and institutional development in local communities. From 2017 to 2022, he served as the Chief of Staff to the Minister of Innovation and Technological Development of Serbia. From 2008 to 2014, Dusan served as media advisor to the Vice President of the National Assembly of Serbia. He is a visiting lecturer at the Faculty of Organizational Sciences at the University of Belgrade.

Emily Wilkins is a CNBC correspondent for the network's Washington, D.C. bureau, covering the intersection of business, politics and policy. She focuses on Congress, and has covered shutdown, fiscal cliffs and Speaker's races. Prior to CNBC, Wilkins, an award-winning journalist, served as a reporter for Bloomberg Government, where she covered breaking news coming out of Washington and Congress with a focus on House leadership, as well as Congressional and presidential campaigns. She was also a contributor to Bloomberg TV and Radio. She previously reported on education and labor for both Bloomberg Government and CQ Roll Call. She covered local politics for The Bryan College-Station Eagle in Texas, and did numerous internships in Ohio, Colorado, Phnom Penh and D.C. Wilkins graduated from Michigan State with a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science and served as managing editor of The State News. She lives in D.C.