

CHAMBER DAY 2018

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS



GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER

Bruce Rauner (Republican) was sworn in as the 42nd Governor of Illinois on Jan. 12, 2015.

His goal as governor is to create a more prosperous state, where everyone has an opportunity to succeed.

Bruce will remain focused on delivering value for taxpayers, creating a pro-jobs economic climate, ensuring world-class schools and educational options for every Illinoisan, and bringing term limits and greater accountability to state government.

Bruce was born in Illinois and is a self-made businessman who had no inheritance or family wealth.

A dedicated and diligent student, Bruce worked while he attended Dartmouth College, where he graduated with top honors. He went on to earn an M.B.A. from Harvard.

Returning to Illinois in 1981, Bruce began working at then startup investment company Golder, Thoma, Cressey (later GTCR). As one of its earliest partners, Bruce helped build the firm into one of the most successful and respected businesses in Illinois.

GTCR has been trusted for decades to oversee the retirement investments of first responders, teachers and other Illinois workers and has created tremendous returns for them - far surpassing the stock market's performance - providing exceptional value for taxpayers.

Bruce has reinvested much of his success into the state he loves through supporting education, the YMCA, local hospitals and community organizations. His greatest passion is education. Bruce and his wife, Diana, have devoted a tremendous amount of their personal time and resources to improving education throughout the state.

Bruce has never let his success change him. He still drives a 20-year-old camper van, wears an \$18 watch, and stays in the cheapest hotel room he can find when he's on the road. He is the proud father of six children - two boys and four girls - and Diana is the love of his life. He hunts birds, hikes, loves riding his Harley, and jumps at every opportunity to fish.

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ERIKA HOLDER

Born and raised in Illinois, Erika Harold knows that home is worth fighting for. That's why she's stepping up to take on Mike Madigan's political machine.

Illinois is facing grave challenges with financial mismanagement and a political class looking out for themselves. But Erika is used to overcoming challenges – it's what she's done her whole life.

As a student attending Illinois schools, Erika knew that education was the ticket to success and a better life. So she drove herself to be the best, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and as a Chancellor's Scholar from the University of Illinois. When she was blessed with the opportunity to attend Harvard Law

School, she was thrown a curveball. She couldn't afford the tuition. But Erika didn't give up. Lacking the funds to pay for school, she got creative. She decided to compete in the Miss America Organization to attempt to earn the scholarship money necessary to pay for law school. She won. And she used her platform to not only pay for school, but also to give back.

As Miss America 2003, Erika became a national leader in the fight to end youth violence and bullying, sharing with more than 100,000 students her own experience of overcoming bullying. Erika was named one of Fight Crime, Invest in Kids' "Champions for Children" and received a leadership award from the National Center for Victims of Crime.

Upon graduating from Harvard Law School, Erika worked as an attorney in the litigation groups of Sidley Austin LLP and Burke, Warren, MacKay & Serritella, P.C. Erika represented businesses in commercial disputes and advised religious institutions in matters involving First Amendment protections. She also was active in the law firms' respective legal education efforts, teaching students about the U.S. legal system as part of the Lawyers in the Classroom program and coaching a team of high school students in the City-Wide Mock Trial Competition. She was also part of the teaching faculty for Harvard Law School's 2017 Trial Advocacy Workshop. In 2015, the Illinois Supreme Court appointed Erika to serve on the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Equality.

Erika is also a member of Trinity International University's Board of Regents, and serves as a Commissioner on the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism. Erika currently serves on the national board of directors of Prison Fellowship, the world's largest outreach to prisoners and their families. In that capacity, she advocates for criminal justice reform. She was also recently selected to the 2017 Emerging Lawyers list and was recognized in the categories of commercial litigation, civil rights/constitutional law.

Erika Harold works as an attorney at Meyer Capel, one of Champaign County's largest law firms. She lives in Urbana and is the doting Auntie of one adorable niece and two high-energy nephews.

It's for their future that Erika is taking on this new challenge and running to be Illinois' next Attorney General.

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SENATOR KWAME RAOUL

A lifelong resident of the Hyde Park/Kenwood area, he completed his undergraduate education at DePaul University and went on to earn a law degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law. Kwame started his legal career nearly 25 years ago as a prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and continued to practice as a labor and employment attorney for the City Colleges of Chicago. He currently serves as a partner in the health law group of Quarles & Brady.

In 2004, Kwame was appointed to fill the vacancy left in the 13th Legislative District by former State Senator Barack Obama's election to the U.S. Senate.

At the state Capitol, he quickly gained the confidence of leaders to handle difficult negotiations and landmark legislation, including the abolition of the death penalty, background checks on private transfers of guns and the strongest voting rights protection in the country.

An attorney concerned both with crime victims and the rights of the accused, Kwame has consistently introduced and supported criminal justice reform legislation that makes Illinois not just tough on crime, but smart on crime. He sponsored diversion and second-chance programs, made it easier for juveniles to have their records expunged and pushed through landmark law enforcement reform, including body camera and police training standards. Most recently, he passed a criminal justice reform package aimed at reducing gun violence by cracking down on repeat offenders while making sentences for nonviolent offenders more reasonable. He has also passed bills aimed at fighting the heroin/opioid crisis. Kwame has been recognized for his work to protect victims of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Kwame's other achievements in the Senate include expanding opportunities for minority and women-owned financial service firms, helping protect student athletes from brain injuries, eliminating pension ethics loopholes and reforming workers compensation policy. He serves as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

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MICHAEL L. DEMBEK

Michael L. Dembek is a Managing Director in True Partners Consulting's Chicago office. He is a tax professional with over 10 years of Federal, State, and International tax consulting and income tax compliance experience.

Mike specializes in corporate taxation and assists clients with federal, state, & international income tax issues. Mike is also a firm leader regarding US Tax Reform and the corresponding Federal, state & international income tax consequences.

He is experienced in federal, state & international income tax compliance, ASC 740 Accounting for Income Taxes consulting, ASC 718 Accounting for Stock Compensation consulting, IRS audit defense, international reporting, tax technology software implementations, business formations/dissolutions, acquisitions, and various other areas of federal income tax consulting. Mike is a firm leader regarding US Tax Reform and the corresponding Federal, state & international income tax consequences. Mike advises clients in a variety of industries including manufacturing, retail, distribution, hospitality, healthcare providers and services, software, and professional services.

Mike received his Bachelor of Science in Economics and Master of Science in Accountancy degrees from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is a Licensed Certified Public Accountant and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Illinois CPA Society.



Jeff Lungren

Chief Health Care and Immigration Lobbyist,
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Jeff Lungren is the chief health care and immigration lobbyist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He helps spearhead the Chamber's lobbying efforts on these issues and other Chamber priorities such as entitlement reform and promoting America's free enterprise system with Capitol Hill policymakers and other entities.

Lungren brings more than a dozen years of senior government relations and public affairs experience to the Chamber. Most recently, he handled Hill outreach and communications for the Galen Institute, a nonprofit health care think tank, during consideration of health reform in 2009 and 2010.

Lungren previously served as a special assistant to former President George W. Bush in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs. As the president's liaison to more than 100 House members, he helped devise and implement the administration's agenda on critical issues before Congress. During his tenure at the White House, Lungren also briefed the vice president on legislative and oversight matters as the No. 2 person in his legislative affairs office.

Earlier in his career, Lungren served in a number of senior communications positions on Capitol Hill. He handled messaging and communications for the House Judiciary Committee from 2001 to 2007, where he was responsible for such high-profile issues as the USA-PATRIOT Act and its 2006 renewal, immigration and border security, and medical liability reform. Lungren's work garnered him recognition by National Journal in its 2003 "The Hill People" profiles of top Capitol Hill aides.

Lungren is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and resides in Alexandria, Virginia, with his wife, Jennifer, and their four children.



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