Speaker Biographies

WILLIAM C. BANKS

Professor William C. Banks is an internationally recognized authority in national security, counterterrorism, international humanitarian, and constitutional law. He is one of the founding directors of the Syracuse University Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism, a multidisciplinary university-based center offering law and graduate certificates of advanced study and conducting incisive research and timely policy analysis.

Professor Banks teaches national security law and counterterrorism law at Syracuse University College of Law, and lectures around the world on various national security and constitutional law-related topics and on comparative legal systems. His research ranges from cybersecurity/cyberespionage, the military use of drones, domestic and international terrorism, emergency and war powers, and emergency preparedness and response.

Professor Banks received his law degree from the University of Denver and his undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska.

JAKE LAPERRUQUE

Jake Laperruque is a Privacy Fellow at The Constitution Project in Washington, D.C., where he is working on issues of government surveillance, national security and defending privacy rights in the digital age.

Prior to joining The Constitution Project, Mr. Laperruque was a fellow at New America’s Open Technology Institute and at the Center for Democracy and Technology. He also served as a law clerk for Senator Al Franken on the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law, and as a policy fellow for Senator Robert Menendez.

Mr. Laperruque received his law degree from Harvard Law School and his undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis.
DOUGLAS COX

Douglas Cox is an associate professor and international law librarian at CUNY School of Law in Long Island, New York. He focuses his research on the intersection of information policy and national security, including issues related to the legal status of documents captured in armed conflict, international legal protections for cultured property, laws governing the preservation of government records and archives, and the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA").

He previously practiced law at Allen & Overy in London and New York, focusing his litigation practice on cross-border legal issues. He has represented detainees in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and previously served in the U.S. Army.

Professor Cox received his law degree from the University of Texas, his Masters in Legal Studies from Queens College, and his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Arizona.

LT. COLONEL JEFFREY ADDICOTT

Lt. Colonel Jeffrey Addicott (U.S. Army, ret.) is a Professor of Law and the Director of the Center for Terrorism Law at St. Mary’s University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas. As an internationally recognized authority on national security law, Professor Addicott has published over sixty books, articles and monographs. He has lectured and participated in professional and academic organizations both in the United States and abroad, and has testified before Congress on a variety of legal issues.

Professor Addicott served as an active duty Army officer in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps for twenty years. He spent a quarter of his military career as the senior legal advisor to the United States Army’s Special Forces. Among his many contributions during his military and civilian service, Professor Addicott pioneered the teaching of law of war and human rights courses to the militaries across the globe and was recognized as “Army Judge Advocate of the Year,” and honored as co-recipient of the American Bar Association’s Hodson Award.

Professor Addicott earned a Doctor of Juridical Science and Master of Laws from the University of Virginia School of Law. He also received a Master of Laws from the Army Judge Advocate General’s School and his Juris Doctor from the University of Alabama School of Law.
PAUL GILL

Paul Gill earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1983 from the University of Virginia and worked for four years as a journalist before attending law school at the University of Richmond. At Richmond Law, he was editor of the University of Richmond Law Review and earned his law degree in 1990. After clerking for the Honorable James R. Spencer (Eastern District of Virginia), he spent six years in private practice and four years at the United States Department of Justice. He joined the Office of the Federal Public Defender when it first opened in Richmond in 2001.

Paul Gill has defended a variety of challenging cases as an Assistant Federal Public Defender. He defended a Somali client facing murder and related charges arising out of the capture of the S/V Quest and her four-person American crew in the Indian Ocean. He has defended cases of all kinds involving mentally ill or disabled clients. Most relevant for purposes of this symposium, Paul Gill defended a Russian expatriate found on an Afghan battlefield in 2009, the lone surviving member of an attack he allegedly led on Afghan Border Police and the American forces which responded to the attack.

TOM RIDGE

Tom Ridge became the first Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, and on January 24, 2003, became the first Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The creation of the country’s 15th Cabinet Department marked the largest reorganization of government since the Truman administration. Tom Ridge served as Secretary until February 1, 2005. Secretary Ridge was twice elected Governor of Pennsylvania from 1995-2001.

Tom Ridge graduated from Harvard College with honors. After his first year at Pennsylvania State University’s Dickinson School of Law, he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served as an infantry staff sergeant in Vietnam, earning the Bronze Star for Valor, the Combat Infantry Badge and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

After his military service, he earned his law degree from Dickinson School of Law. He later became one of the first Vietnam combat veterans elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served six terms.

Tom Ridge is currently Chairman of Ridge Global. He provides clients with solutions to cyber security, international security and risk management issues. He serves on the boards of the Institute for Defense Analyses, the Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress and other private and public entities. He is currently chairman of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s National Security Task Force.

*Tom Ridge will not be attending Thursday evening’s dinner.