
PRESS RELEASE



THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC & NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP *Georgetown Public Policy Institute*

January 29, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL EXPERTS TO DEBATE FOUNDATION GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY PRACTICES AT GEORGETOWN FORUM

DATE: Thursday, January 29, 2004

TIME: 2:00 to 4:30 P.M.

**PLACE: Preston Auditorium at the World Bank, 1818 H Street, NW,
Washington, DC (security pre-registration required)**

While corporate America has come under much public scrutiny in the last two years, there has been less focus on the accountability and governance of foundations – until now. Georgetown University’s Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership (CPNL), a division of the Public Policy Institute, is bringing together a prestigious group of experts to discuss and debate the rules for oversight of the 62,000 foundations and trusts operating in the United States. Together, foundations provide more than \$30 billion annually to nonprofit organizations, colleges and universities, health and social service organizations, research centers and grassroots initiatives.

This timely and provocative forum will explore the mission and influence of philanthropic giving from the diverse perspectives of scholars, journalists, state and federal regulators, congressional staff and, of course, foundation officials.

“Recently, we’ve seen intense public interest in the responsibilities of foundations in light of declining revenues, questions about their practices, renewed congressional oversight, and their increased role in supplementing social services at a time of shrinking state and local budgets,” said Dr. Kathy Kretman, director of CPNL. “This marks the first time we’ll have a broad public conversation about foundation accountability to grantees and the public.”

The panel will be moderated by Dr. James Allen Smith, the Nielsen Visiting Professor in Philanthropy at Georgetown, a former foundation executive, and the author of *“The Idea Brokers: Think Tanks and the Rise of the New Policy Elite.”* Panelists include: Dorothy Ridings, president and CEO of the Council on Foundations and a former newspaper executive; William Josephson, assistant attorney general for the State of New York who oversees the Charity Bureau; Lance Lindblom, president of the Nathan Cummings Foundation who has also held executive posts at the Ford Foundation and the Open Society Institute; Ralph Smith, executive vice president of the Annie E. Casey Foundation; Pablo Eisenberg, a senior fellow at the Georgetown Public Policy Institute and vice-chair of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy; Stephanie Strom, national reporter for the New York Times; and Dean Zerbe, Chief Investigative Counsel for the Senate Finance Committee.

Members of the media must register in advance due to security requirements at the World Bank. To do so, e-mail: cpnl@georgetown.edu.