

TheCapitol.Net's Executive Conference
White House Workshop: The Executive Branch and Congress

Sample Agenda – see www.WhiteHouseWorkshop.com for schedule

Washington, DC
Day One

8:30 Welcome and Introductions *The Capitol.Net*

8:35 The Presidency and the Executive Branch *Presidency expert*

This session will provide an overview of the structure of the Executive Office of the President, the Cabinet, and the relationship between the president and the executive branch as a whole, and how it has changed and expanded over time. The speaker will address the ability of the president to lead or manage the executive branch bureaucracy, and discuss the relations between political appointees and career civil servants.

9:40 Break

9:50 The President's Management Agenda *PMA expert*

This session will describe the elements of the President's Management Agenda, reviewing each of the components—strategic human capital, financial management, e-government, competitive sourcing, and budget and performance intergration—in turn. For each of these pieces, the standards for success (“getting to green”) will be reviewed, the current experience of federal agencies will be described, and the key factors for improved performance will be reviewed.

11:00 Break

11:10 Legislative-Executive Relations in the Bush White House *Current or former staff member of White House*

A staff member of the White House Office of Legislative Affairs will orient the attendees to the organization and responsibilities of the White House legislative affairs team, including how it fits into the structure of the Bush White House as a whole. The speaker will provide an inside look at how the Office does its work on Capitol Hill, the key players involved, their access to the president, at what point they are called upon to advise the president, and how decisions are made.

12:10 Networking Lunch

1:15 The President's Legislative Powers and Influence *Presidential scholar*

A presidential scholar will review the president's role in the legislative process, how this role evolved, and how the president sets his legislative agenda in Congress today. The speaker will discuss how the balance of power between the executive and legislative branches has shifted over time, and characteristics that determine a President's “success” in passing his legislative agenda. He will examine how the relationship between the two branches differs depending on whether there is unified or divided party control.

2:30 Break

2:40 Rating Executive Agencies: The Program Assessment Rating Tool *Staff member, OMB*

The Office of Management and Budget unveiled a new evaluation device—the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART)—as part of the FY04 budget process. The PART is designed to systematically evaluate the success of federal programs. This session will describe the PART methodology, review the first year results, and discuss plans to revise and use the tool in the future.

4:00 Day One concludes

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White House Workshop - continued

Day Two

8:30 Introduction *The Capitol.Net*

8:35 Congressional Oversight of the Executive Branch *Congressional oversight expert*

This session will briefly describe the goals and purposes of legislative oversight and how our constitutional scheme of separated but shared powers impacts on those goals and purposes. The unique and vital role of investigations will be distinguished from other leading methods of the oversight process. This will be followed by a review of the legal basis for investigative oversight, a description of the essential tools available to committees to make it effective, a discussion of the problems that may arise in enforcing the investigative prerogative, and actions that may be taken to circumvent such problems. Each topic will be illustrated by prominent historical examples of interbranch confrontations.

10:00 Break

10:15 Watch Dogs: The Roles of Inspectors General and the General Accounting Office

This session will briefly trace the history and evolution of the differing roles and functions of the offices of Inspectors General and the General Accounting Office, and the Executive's response to them. Particular attention will be paid to how the recent District Court ruling in *Walker v. Cheney* may affect the GAO's continued ability to effectively perform oversight support functions for the Congress.

11:15 Break

11:30 The Office of Management and Budget and the Legislative Process *Budget examiner, OMB*

A budget examiner from the Office of Management and Budget will present the details of how the White House participates in the legislative process from initial proposal, through congressional consideration, to signing ceremony in the Rose Garden. Discussion will include the important, yet little-known, role of the Office of Management and Budget in the formulation and approval of legislation and the President's official policy program.

12:30 Networking Lunch

1:30 Current Issues in Executive-Congressional Relations *Presidential scholar*

A presidential scholar will discuss the current issues in executive-congressional relations. He will assess the current working relationship between Congress and the Bush White House on domestic policy-making, budgetary and economic policy-making, and foreign and national security policy-making.

2:30 Break

2:45 How Federal Agencies Handle Congressional Relations *Panel of representatives from executive agencies*

Federal agencies are prohibited from lobbying, but all federal agencies have created congressional liaison offices to build working relationships with Congress--both committees of jurisdiction and personal offices of members. In this session, a panel of representatives from executive agencies will discuss the organization and responsibilities of their agencies' legislative affairs teams, how a legislative affairs shop can educate and work most effectively with Capitol Hill, and lobbying restrictions to be aware of.

3:50 Complete Evaluations

4:00 Program Concludes

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