

TheCapitol.Net's Executive Conference:
Advanced Legislative Procedure: Floor and Conference Action

Sample Agenda: see www.AdvancedLegislativeProcedure.com for schedule

Day One

Morning Program

Instructor: Congressional expert

9:00 Welcome and Introductions *(including participant self-introductions)*
TheCapitol.Net

9:10 The Procedural Biases of the House

- * Learn how the rules of the House are structured to permit a determined majority to work its will
- * Understand how the skillful use of House rules and procedures makes the difference between winning and losing on the House floor
- * Analyze how members use the rules to frame issues and structure decision-making in a manner favorable to their position

9:35 Scheduling Legislation for House Floor Action
(A break will be taken during this session.)

- * Learn how bills are scheduled for consideration on the House floor after being reported out of committee
- * Understand the House calendar system and when bills on each calendar become eligible for floor action
- * Learn how suspension-of-the-rules procedure is used as a legislative short-cut for both major and minor bills
- * Understand the procedures available for bringing legislation blocked in committee to the House floor

11:00 The House Rules Committee: Gatekeeper to the Floor

- * Briefly review the history of the Rules Committee and how it has become so powerful
- * Find out how the resolutions or "rules" granted by the Rules Committee structure floor debate and amendment opportunities
- * Take an inside look at the work, membership and internal decision-making process of the Rules Committee
- * Learn the nuances and procedural implications of the different types of "rules" by walking through the common types: open, modified, closed, etc
- * Examine the procedures that govern floor consideration of the "rule"

Copyright © 2002 by TheCapitol.Net, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

TheCapitol.Net is a non-partisan firm, and the opinions of its speakers, clients, and of the owners and operators of its vendors do not represent those of TheCapitol.Net.

EXCLUSIVE PROVIDER OF CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY EXECUTIVE CONFERENCES

202-678-1600 www.TheCapitol.Net

- * Videotapes of committee and floor action will be shown

12:00 Lunch

Afternoon Program

Instructor: Congressional expert

1:10 Major Legislation on the House Floor and the Amending Process

(A break will be taken during this session.)

- * Master the floor procedures utilized after the House passes the rule and resolves itself into the Committee of the Whole
- * Understand the specific rules that govern debate, voting and the offering of amendments
- * Examine the different types, classes and degrees of amendments
- * Learn about the germaneness requirement
- * Understand how the order in which amendments are voted on influences members' amendment strategies
- * Learn the strategic importance of knowing when to offer an amendment
- * Examine the steps following the Committee of the Whole consideration, including the motion to recommit
- * Walk through a real-life example of the House amending process

3:55 Complete Evaluations for Day 1

4:00 Day One Concludes

Day Two

Morning Program

Instructor: Congressional expert

9:00 Introduction

TheCapitol.Net

9:05 The Dynamics of the U.S. Senate

- * Discuss current political dynamics, leadership changes, and the role of partisanship
- * Learn how the Senate's rules are designed to slow down or even defer, action on legislation by granting enormous parliamentary powers to individual senators
- * Analyze how legislating in the Senate differs from legislating in the House

9:45 Scheduling and Calling Up Bills on the Senate Floor

(A break will be taken during this session)

Copyright © 2002 by TheCapitol.Net, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

TheCapitol.Net is a non-partisan firm, and the opinions of its speakers, clients, and of the owners and operators of its vendors do not represent those of TheCapitol.Net.

EXCLUSIVE PROVIDER OF CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY EXECUTIVE CONFERENCES

202-678-1600 www.TheCapitol.Net

- * Take a behind-the-scenes look at the factors involved in scheduling legislation for Senate floor action including the interaction between the majority and minority leaders, the competing interests of senators, and procedural factors
- * Discuss the Senate's two calendars: Executive Calendar and Calendar of Business; Compare and contrast the scheduling of minor versus major legislation
- * Analyze the role of unanimous consent in bringing bills to the floor as well as alternative measures to bring bills to the floor such as the discharge rule
- * Learn about the practice of placing a "hold" on legislation

10:50 Senate Floor Procedures

- * Examine what takes place during the various stages of a typical day on the Senate floor
- * Study the sequence of floor procedures that occurs after a bill has been scheduled and called up for consideration on the floor
- * Discuss the importance of the floor manager's role
- * Learn the rules pertaining to filibusters, cloture procedure and post-cloture filibusters
- * Examine voting procedures, and the use of motions to table, reconsider and recommit
- * Videotape of floor action will be shown

11:45 Amending Legislation on the Senate Floor

- * Examine the amendment process in the Senate
- * Learn to distinguish different types, classes and degrees of amendments
- * Discuss the modification, withdrawal and disposition of amendments.

12:15 Lunch

Afternoon Program

Instructor: Congressional expert

1:30 House Floor Procedures: Tactics and Strategies

2:40 Break

2:50 Senate Floor Procedures: Tactics and Strategies

3:55 Complete Evaluations for Day 2

4:00 Day Two Concludes

Copyright © 2002 by TheCapitol.Net, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

TheCapitol.Net is a non-partisan firm, and the opinions of its speakers, clients, and of the owners and operators of its vendors do not represent those of TheCapitol.Net.

EXCLUSIVE PROVIDER OF CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY EXECUTIVE CONFERENCES

202-678-1600 www.TheCapitol.Net