A ONE-DAY SUMMIT · IN PERSON & ONLINE

The Future of Independence in Executive Branch Agencies

SCAN TO REGISTER

WHEN

Monday, December 14, 2026

8:30 AM – 5:45 PM

WHERE

Virginia Tech Executive Briefing Center

900 N. Glebe Road, Arlington, VA · and online

The Future of Independence in Executive Branch Agencies will examine how institutional independence in federal agencies is defined and protected, particularly in light of recent Supreme Court decisions. We will consider the safeguards that protect independent agencies, inspectors general, regulatory commissions, and adjudicatory bodies. The summit brings together oversight professionals, scholars, students, civil society leaders, and public servants, in Arlington and online.

PROGRAM — Subject to change

8:30 – 9:00 AM	Registration
9:00 – 9:15 AM	**Welcome**
9:15 – 10:00 AM	**Defining Independence:** What does "independence" mean? Jay Lerner
10:15 – 11:45 AM	**The Current Framework:** What is the current framework for "independent" agencies and protections for officials? Jennifer Selin, Eric Soskin, John Roth · Moderator: Patrick Roberts
11:45 – 12:30 PM	Lunch and Networking
12:30 – 2:00 PM	**Courts, Oversight, and Agencies:** What are the implications of recent court decisions with respect to oversight and agencies? Ray Limon, Chris Piper · Moderator: Jenny Banner Rone
2:00 – 3:30 PM	**Working Groups on the Future of Agency Independence:** What does the future hold? What future do we imagine? How do we get there?
3:45 – 4:30 PM	**Report-Outs and Synthesis**
4:30 – 4:45 PM	**Closing Remarks**
4:45 – 5:45 PM	Optional Networking Reception

Register to attend in person or online: forms.gle/bTV4ZE6SqLtSFFoV6

Ballston-MU Metro (Orange/Silver), five-minute walk · Paid parking in the building garage, entrance on 9th St. N.

This event is hosted with the support of the Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs **Minnis E. Ridenour Faculty Fellowship** and the **Accountability and Reform Research Consortium**, in partnership with:

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ABOUT THE SUMMIT

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BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF INQUIRY

This summit brings together practitioners, scholars, students, public servants, and civil society leaders to learn from one another and envision the future of independence in executive branch agencies. Panelists will offer their expertise and perspectives and engage with attendees in a dialogue designed to elicit participant knowledge, questions, and perspectives. Afternoon working groups will reflect on what lies ahead, discuss what an appropriate balance between independence and accountability might look like, and identify next steps to get there. Participants are also invited to bring and exchange relevant research and other resources with colleagues working on these questions.

PRESENTERS

Jay N. Lerner Professorial Lecturer, George Washington University Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration; faculty, American University School of Public Affairs; Fellow, National Academy of Public Administration. Former Senate-confirmed Inspector General, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Raymond A. Limon Former Vice Chairman and Acting Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board. Former Chief Human Capital Officer, U.S. Department of the Interior and Corporation for National and Community Service.

Chris Piper Senior Manager, Public Policy & Stakeholder Engagement, Partnership for Public Service. Practitioner Fellow, University of Virginia's Miller Center; adjunct professor, George Washington University. His research focuses on political appointees and inspectors general.

Patrick S. Roberts Professor, Center for Public Administration & Policy, Virginia Tech. Scholar of homeland security, crisis governance, and public management; author of *Disasters and the American State*.

Jenny Banner Rone Former Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Former Executive Director, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee. Board Member and Secretary, For 250 More.

John Roth Former Senate-confirmed Inspector General, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Board Member, Project On Government Oversight. Previously led FDA criminal enforcement and served 25 years at the Justice Department.

Jennifer L. Selin Associate Professor of Law, Arizona State University. Former Senior Attorney Advisor, Administrative Conference of the United States. Co-author of the *Sourcebook of United States Executive Agencies*.

Eric J. Soskin Senior Advisor to the Governor of Florida. Former Senate-confirmed Inspector General, U.S. Department of Transportation. Previously a senior trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice.

REGISTER TO ATTEND

forms.gle/bTV4ZE6SqLtSFFoV6 · In person in Arlington or online

Questions? Contact Matt Dull (**mdull@vt.edu**) or Rainee Luciano (**rainee@for250more.org**)