Douglas Heye  
Deputy Chief of Staff, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor
Heye is currently serving as Deputy Chief of Staff for House Majority Leader Eric Cantor. He is a 20-year plus veteran of politics throughout the nation. He was communications director for the Republican National Committee during the historic 2010 elections, a senior advisor for the 2012 Iowa Caucus and communications director for his home state Senator Richard Burr of North Carolina, serving in a similar role for Burr’s successful 2004 campaign. From 1997-2003, Heye worked in communications in the U.S. House of Representatives. Before returning to Capitol Hill in 2012, Heye was a sought-after commenter on politics and public policy, making more than two hundred appearances on national and international television networks. Heye graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1994.

Kevin Martin  
Partner, Patton Boggs, LLP; Managing Partner, Carmichael Partners
Martin is a former Chairman of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (March 2005 to January 2009) and co-chair of Patton Boggs’ technology and communications practice. Earlier in his career, he worked as an attorney focused on media and telecommunications policy at both Wiley, Rein & Fielding in Washington and the FCC. He also presently serves as co-chair of the technology and communications practice at Patton Boggs in Washington. In addition to his extensive background in media, communications and technology, Martin previously served as Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy in the White House, a staff member on the National Economic Council and Deputy General Counsel on the Bush/Cheney 2000 campaign in Austin.

During Martin’s tenure as FCC Chairman, the FCC created a regulatory environment that encouraged infrastructure investment and broadband competition, leading to greater coverage and decreased prices for Americans. As FCC Chairman, Martin reviewed, approved and conditioned a number of transactions that transformed the media and communications industries. He has also served as the official U.S. government representative to the G-8’s Digital Opportunity Task Force, addressed numerous international conferences as a global leader on media, communications and technology policy, represented the U.S. in dozens of bilateral negotiations and served on the boards of several private companies in Carmichael’s targeted sectors. Martin holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was Student Body President, a Master of Public Policy degree from Duke University and a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School.
Alan Murray
President, Pew Research Center
Murray is president of the Pew Research Center in Washington, D.C. He previously spent 29 years at The Wall Street Journal, where he most recently served as Deputy Managing Editor and Executive Editor, Online. Murray spent a decade as the Journal’s Washington Bureau Chief, during which the bureau won three Pulitzer Prizes; and he subsequently served as CNBC’s Washington Bureau Chief, co-hosting “Capital Report with Alan Murray and Gloria Borger.” At various times, he wrote the Journal’s weekly Business and Political Capital columns, and won numerous awards for his writing on economics and international issues. He is the author of four books, including Showdown at Gucci Gulch, coauthored with Jeffrey Birnbaum. He was a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina, a Luce scholar, and holds a master’s degree in economics from the London School of Economics. He is a member of the Gridiron Club and the Council on Foreign Relations, and serves on the Governing Council of the Miller Center for Public Affairs at the University of Virginia.

Dr. Lori E. Murray
Former Special Advisor to the President
Murray is former Special Advisor to President Clinton and Director of ACDA on the Chemical Weapons Convention. She helped oversee the bipartisan approval of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Dr. Murray is also the former Assistant Director for Multilateral Affairs of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. The treaties and issues Dr. Murray was responsible for included, along with the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Test Ban and fissile material cutoff. She also served as Executive Director of the Federal Advisory Committee on Gender-Integrated Training and Related Issues, established by Secretary of Defense William Cohen. Dr. Murray’s congressional experience includes having worked for almost a decade as senior legislative assistant and national security policy for Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R-KS), a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. She also served as Acting Executive Director and Senior Advisor to The U.S.-China Security Review Commission, a congressionally mandated commission that reports yearly to Congress on the economic and security issues regarding China. Dr. Murray has also served as a consultant to the President’s Commission on Weapons of Mass Destruction and U.S. Intelligence Capabilities and as a consultant to ABC News. Dr. Murray earned her BA from Yale University and her Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. She is an active member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission.
James (Jim) Parrott
Former Senior Adviser, National Economic Council; Senior Fellow, Urban Institute
Parrott, a Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute, works to ensure that the analytic work being done at the Institute both informs and is informed by the major policy discussions of the day, giving the Institute a seat at the table with leaders and stakeholders working to shape the future of the nation's housing policy. Parrott served on White House National Economic Council, a team that coordinates the development of the Administration’s economic policy. In this role, Parrott was central to the development of the Administration’s policy on housing and housing finance, and articulated that policy with Congress, stakeholders and the press, and advising the President and senior advisers on related communications and legislative strategy. Prior to joining the NEC, Parrott was Counsel to the Secretary of HUD, advising Secretary Donovan on a range of issues, with particular focus on housing finance. Parrott spent two years in Sri Lanka with Peace Corps. He earned his law degree from Columbia, a MA from Washington, and a BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Tommy Ross
Senior Intelligence and Defense Advisor to Senate Majority Leader
Tommy Ross is Senior Intelligence and Defense Advisor to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada. In this capacity, he advises Senator Reid on national security matters, serves as an ex officio staff member to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and is responsible for all compartmented "Gang of 8" intelligence matters for the Majority Leader. Prior to his service with Senator Reid, he served as Legislative Director for Rep. David Price of North Carolina's Fourth District, and advised Rep. Price on issues relating to foreign affairs, defense, intelligence, veterans, and justice. He also provided program support for Rep. Price’s work as Chairman of the House Democracy Partnership, a congressional commission working to strengthen basic capabilities of legislatures in developing democracies. In addition, Tommy has worked as a national security policy analyst for the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, an arm of the Democratic Leader's office, and as a research assistant for Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle. He is a graduate of Davidson College in North Carolina and earned an M.A. in Theology and Ethics from Union Theological Seminary in New York. He has also completed a certificate program through the U.S. Air Force's Air Command and Staff College, and is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations.
Senator James (Jim) Sasser
Former United State Senator (TN) and Ambassador to China
Sasser served three terms as a United States Senator from Tennessee (1977–1995) and was Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense and Military Constructions, the Banking Subcommittee on International Financial and Monetary Policy, and the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on General Services, Federalism and the District of Columbia. From 1995 to 1999, during the Clinton Administration, he was the United States Ambassador to China. Before assuming his post as ambassador to China, he served as a fellow at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government, regent of the Smithsonian Institution and trustee of the Sgt. Alvin C. York Historical Association. Today, Senator Sasser serves on a number of boards, including the Board of Trustees of the national Geographic Society and is vice-chairman of the Committee on U.S.-China relations. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Affairs. Senator Sasser earned both his undergraduate and law degree from Vanderbilt University.

Michael (Mike) Stegman
Counselor to the Treasury Secretary for Housing Finance Policy
Dr. Stegman serves as a counselor to the U.S. Treasury Secretary for housing-finance policy. At Treasury, Dr. Stegman coordinates the department’s housing policies on everything from revamping Fannie and Freddie to initiatives geared towards stabilizing housing markets. He served as an assistant secretary for policy research in the Department of Housing and Urban Development during the Clinton administration. Since 2005, he has served as director of policy and housing for U.S. programs at the MacArthur Foundation, and prior to that he taught housing policy and community-development finance for over 40 years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At Carolina, he served as the Cary C. Boshamer Professor and Chairman, Department of City and Regional Planning and the Duncan Macrae ’09 and Rebecca Kyle MacRae Professor and Chair of Public Policy. He was the founding director of the Honors Carolina Burch Field Research Seminar in Domestic Policy. He earned his BA from Brooklyn College and his MA and PhD from the University of Pennsylvania.
Nate Tibbits  
Principal, Blackwood Advisory LLC

Prior to forming Blackwood Advisory, Tibbits was Chair, U.S. Public Affairs Practice, at Burson-Marsteller. Tibbits served Executive Secretary of the National Security Council (NSC), where he supported the President (Obama) and his national security team in formulating national security policy. Prior to his time at the NSC, Tibbits was Special Assistant to the President for Presidential Personnel. In that role, he oversaw the candidate identification and selection process for more than 1,000 presidential appointments across several government departments and agencies. Tibbits also served in a similar role for the Obama-Biden Transition Project. Earlier in his career, he served as founding Chief Operating Officer for the Center for a New American Security, a national security think tank. Tibbits was also Vice President for International Education at Discovery Communications. Prior to joining Discovery, he worked at The Albright Group, a consulting firm advising Fortune 100 clients on a range of international policy and public affairs matters, and at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. He earned his Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland and he is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Meridith Webster  
Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Bloomberg L.P.

Webster joined Bloomberg from the White House, where she served as Senior Advisor to Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and to interim Chief of Staff Pete Rouse and where she served as Deputy Director of Government Reform for Competitiveness and Innovation in the Office of Management & Budget. Webster joined the Obama administration in January 2008 as Deputy Chief of Staff for Susan Rice, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, after working on the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team’s national security and energy and environment policy working groups. She earned her law degree from Georgetown University and is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara.