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Speaker Biographies

Debbie Berger

Debbie Berger has been with CNN for over four years. She currently serves as Producer for Crossfire, where she is responsible for booking and pre-interviewing the guests for live debates. Prior to that, Berger was producer and booker for CNN's Burden of Proof and for the Guest Bookings Department.

Susan Crabtree

Susan Crabtree is a reporter for Roll Call newspaper where she covers the House Republican leadership and its interactions with the White House. Before joining Roll Call, Crabtree was a senior writer for Capital Style magazine. She graduated with honors from the University of Southern California in 1994 with a BA in journalism and political science.

Stephen Dinan

Stephen Dinan is the new congressional bureau chief for the Washington Times. He spent three years covering Virginia's governor and legislature in Richmond for the paper before joining the congressional bureau last year, and becoming chief this year.

Michele Davis

Michele Davis is currently Vice President for Regulatory Policy for Fannie Mae. Prior to this position, Davis served as Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs of the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Previously, Davis served as communications director to House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-TX) from 1997 until January 2001. Prior to that, Davis served as a top policy aide for the Majority Leader. Before joining the Majority Leader's staff, Davis served as an economist with the minority staff of the Joint Economic Committee in Congress. She also worked as an economist with Citizens for a Sound Economy. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Davis has a Master's degree in economics from American University and earned her B.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

Carl Forti

Originally from Rochester, NY, Carl Forti joined the NRCC in May 1999 as Deputy Communications Director. In addition to his communication duties, Carl most recently served as the NRCC's Issue Advocacy Director, overseeing a program that ran over 180 TV commercials and created over 300 individual mail pieces in more than 50 races.

Prior to joining the NRCC, Carl served as the Director of Political Media Operations for Wilson Grand Communications, a Republican media/general consulting firm. He has worked on over 50 campaigns across the country at all levels from County Council to Governor to US Senate.

Major Garrett

Major Garrett is a general assignment reporter for FOX News Channel. Before joining FNC, Garrett served as a White House correspondent for CNN from 2000 - 2002. Before joining CNN, Garrett was a senior editor and congressional correspondent for U.S. News and World Report, where he reported on Congress and the impeachment and trial of President Clinton. From 1990-1995, he was a congressional reporter for The Washington Times, and from 1995-1997, he

was the newspaper's deputy national editor. Before joining The Washington Times, Garrett was a reporter for The Houston Post, Las Vegas Review-Journal and the Amarillo Globe-News. He has also had articles published in The Weekly Standard, Washington Monthly and Mother Jones magazines. Garrett is the author of two books, The 15 Biggest Lies in Politics and Common Cents.

Jonathan Grella

Jonathan Grella currently serves as Press Secretary for Majority Leader Tom DeLay. Prior to this position, he worked for the National Republican Senatorial Committee as Deputy Communications Director and Acting Communications Director. Grella's time at the NRSC also included a stint in the Research office. He earned his Master's in American Politics at The Catholic University of America.

Terry Holt

Terry Holt has spent many years as a communicator on the Hill, and ranked as a Fabulous 50 Staffer in Roll Call. He served as Communications Director for House Majority Leader Dick Armey and the House Committee on the Budget, and Spokesperson the House Republican Conference. During the 2000 elections, Holt was the Communications Director for the Republican National Committee's Victory 2000. Holt currently serves as Senior Vice President and Director of Public Affairs for the Dutko Group.

Christine Iverson

Christine Iverson spent five years as a reporter and anchor at the ABC affiliate in Sioux Falls South Dakota before coming to Washington to serve as Communications Director for Congressman John Thune. Three years later she moved over to the House Republican Conference where she served as Deputy Communications Director before taking over as Communications Director for Chairman J.C. Watts. Iverson returned to South Dakota for the 2002 election cycle to serve as Communications Director for the Thune for Senate campaign. She currently serves as Communications Director of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions under Chairman Judd Gregg.

Larry Lipman

Larry Lipman came to the Cox Newspapers Washington Bureau in 1984 on behalf of the Palm Beach Post, the Palm Beach Times and the Miami News. Since coming to Washington he has served as a Fellow in the Paul Miller Washington Reporting Program and is a past president of the National Press Club, the Regional Reporters Association and the Regional Reporters Educational Foundation.

Jim Morrell

Jim Morrell serves as Communications Director for Congressman Rob Portman (R-OH). He has previously served as a speechwriter for Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) and Secretary of Education Rod Paige. In 2000, Morrell served as Rapid Response Writer for the Bush-Cheney campaign. From 1995 to 1999, he worked for Congressman Tom DeLay in various capacities, most recently as Senior Legislative Assistant. Morrell is a 1998 graduate of American University in Washington, DC.

Alan Nathan

Alan Nathan is the host of Battle Line, a daily syndicated radio broadcast on the Radio America network. Recently named by Talkers Magazine as one of the Top 100 Broadcasters of 2002, Nathan is well-respected among pundits and journalists, and calls himself the “centrist with teeth,” advocating a more biting aggressiveness to both sides of the political spectrum.

Rob Nichols

Rob Nichols has been Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs for the Treasury Department since March of 2001. Prior to his current appointment, Nichols was Director of Communications for the Electronic Industries Alliance, a high tech trade association consisting of 2,100 computer, semiconductor, computer chip, telecommunications, consumer electronic and information technology companies. Nichols has also served as Communications Director for Sen. Slade Gorton, Press Secretary for Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn, and as a Press Advance Representative in the Office of Presidential Advance for the first Bush Administration.

Tony Rudy

Tony Rudy is a partner in the Alexander Strategy Group and an alumnus of the House Republican Leadership. Rudy is a veteran of Capitol Hill, having worked with Representative DeLay, both as Policy Director and General Counsel and later as his Deputy Chief of Staff.

George Uribe

George Uribe is a Producer for prime-time at MSNBC currently working on Hardball with Chris Matthews and MSNBC Reports with Joe Scarborough. Prior to that he served as a booker on Hannity & Colmes, Foxwire with Rita Cosby and AtLarge with Geraldo Rivera at the Fox News Channel. Uribe is a former Capitol Hill Press Secretary and holds a Masters Degree in Political Management from The George Washington University. When he's not working in television he serves as PAO for the U.S. Army Reserve 77th Regional Support Command in New York.

Genevieve Wood

Genevieve Wood is the vice president for media at the Family Research Council and Media Advisor of the Center for Print and Broadcast Media. Genevieve is also a member of the Heritage Foundation's national Media Advisory Board and is a frequent speaker at public policy forums around the country. Genevieve has served as Deputy Press Secretary and spokesman for the Republican National Committee during the 1998 midterm election cycle and Clinton impeachment debate. She was an interviewer and commentator for America's Voice cable television network from 1993-1998 and hosted “Left, Right, and Center,” a weekly radio program airing on KCRW, the NBC Page, and from 1991-1993 served as the Publicity Coordinator for NBC News.