

PRESENTER AND PANELIST BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Paul Barringer, J.D., M.P.A., General Counsel, Common Good. Paul Barringer is General Counsel at Common Good, the legal reform coalition. He speaks frequently at conferences and events, and has testified before Congress and at the state level. He has published articles in the *National Law Journal*, *American Outlook*, and numerous other publications. Before joining Common Good, he worked as a health consultant with Accurium, Inc. and practiced health law with the firms Hogan & Hartson, LLP in Washington, DC and Smith Anderson, LLP in Raleigh, NC. He has bicycled across the United States as well as the length of the United Kingdom and New Zealand, and has completed the Appalachian Trail.

Kimberly Carter, Executive Director, Doctor-Patient Foundation. Kim Carter is an independent contractor specializing in the development of strategies and programs designed to raise public awareness regarding critical issues that affect the lives of the citizens of Maryland and the nation at large. Mrs. Carter has most recently been working with the Doctor-Patient Foundation and its “If the Bough Breaks” project. This initiative has been designed to raise public awareness concerning the medical malpractice crisis. Mrs. Carter has helped coordinate the airing of the documentary, “If the Bough Breaks,” for prime time coverage by WETA Public Television in Washington, DC and Maryland Public Television in the Mid-Atlantic media market. She has also helped the Foundation distribute a DVD trailer of this documentary to over 7,500 physicians throughout Maryland.

George Deebo, M.A., Executive Director, Virginia Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program. George Deebo joined the Virginia Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Program as Executive Director in April 2002. Prior to that, he was Deputy Director of the Virginia Primary Care Association for nine years. Before joining the Association he worked in Corporate Communications for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Virginia. Additionally, he has worked as Manager of Corporate Communications for the Christian Broadcasting Network in Virginia Beach and been a newspaper reporter and photographer. A native of Bethesda, MD, Deebo completed his undergraduate degree at Davis & Elkins College. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Communications from Regent University and a certificate in Volunteer Management from Norwich University.

Allen B. Kachalia, M.D., J.D., Assistant Professor, Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Dr. Allen Kachalia is a faculty member at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School. He practices and teaches hospital medicine, his clinical area of expertise. His interests are focused on improving the quality and safety of patient care for which he maintains leadership roles in several hospital- and department-wide quality initiatives as well as pay for performance measures. He also conducts research in patient safety improvement and related health care issues.

Delegate Gerron Levi, J.D., Delegate, Maryland House of Delegates. Gerron Levi has been a member of the Maryland House of Delegates since 2007. She is currently a member of the Judiciary Committee, the House Special Committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse, the House Work Group to Study Maryland Law regarding Access to Firearms and Sharing of Health Information, and several other committees. She has previously worked for the Laborers International Union of North America and is currently the Deputy Director of the AFL-CIO’s Department of Legislation. She is a member of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland and the Women Legislators of Maryland. Also, she has volunteered for Christmas in April and is a member of From the Heart Church (a political affairs ministry).

Martha Nathanson, J.D., Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy, LifeBridge Health. Martha Nathanson is Vice President for Government Relations and Advocacy for LifeBridge Health. Previously, she served as Associate General Counsel and Director of Government Relations. Before joining LifeBridge, she was Director of Risk Management and Legislative/Regulatory Affairs for the Kirson Medical Equipment Company. Earlier, Ms. Nathanson was an attorney advisor at the Health Care Financing Administration and an associate attorney at Ober, Kaler, Grimes, and Shriver in Baltimore. She received both her bachelor's and law degrees from Indiana University.

Kelli Nelson, Co-Director of Public Policy Initiatives, Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council. Prior to working as Co-Director of Public Policy Initiatives, Ms. Nelson worked with the Council for three years as the Co-Director of the Special Education Leadership Project. She is the parent of a child with a developmental disability, serves as a volunteer on many local and statewide committees and coalitions, and has extensive advocacy experience, particularly around early intervention and education issues. Ms. Nelson also has experience working with the Maryland legislature and was instrumental in the passage of the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Act of 2002.

Carol Ritter, M.D., Obstetrician-Gynecologist. Dr. Ritter practices gynecology in Towson, MD. She received her medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin and did her residency at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center. Dr. Ritter is actively involved in efforts to reform the medical liability system, and has been interviewed by CNN and featured on the cover of *Ob-Gyn News*. She is currently working with Steve Yeager (a Sundance award winning filmmaker) on a documentary detailing the effects of the medical malpractice crisis. Last June, Dr. Ritter embarked on a medical charity mission to Honduras with her daughter and husband.

Delegate Chris Shank, M.A., Minority Whip, Maryland House of Delegates. Chris Shank has been a member of the Maryland House of Delegates since 1999. He is currently the Minority Whip and serves on the Judiciary, Legislative Policy, and Rules and Executive Nominations Committees. He has previously worked as an insurance procurement specialist and as a legislative assistant to Washington County. He received his B.A. in history from Johns Hopkins University and his M.A. in political management from George Washington University. He has been a member of the Advisory Committee to the Cold Weather Homeless Shelter of Washington County since 1997. He has served as Vice President of the American Cancer Society's Washington County Chapter since 1998.

Larry Smith, J.D., Vice President of Risk Management, MedStar Health. Larry Smith is Vice President of Risk Management Services for MedStar Health, the largest community-based not-for-profit healthcare provider in the Baltimore/Washington, DC area. Serving also as President of MedStar Health's captive insurance company, Greenspring Financial Insurance Limited, Inc. of Cayman, he is responsible for the design, implementation and administration of MedStar Health's broad comprehensive risk management, self-insurance and commercial insurance program. Mr. Smith has served as a member of various corporate boards, and is currently the Chairman of the Board of the Captive Insurance Council of the District of Columbia. Additionally, he is the recipient of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia's 2005 John Benjamin Nichols Award for his contributions toward improving the health of the Washington, DC community and the 2005 Maryland Hospital Association Award for his expertise in the development of medical liability reform initiatives and his work on the medical liability crisis in Maryland.