



ABOUT

Our Influence and Impact

Independent Women's Forum (IWF) and Independent Women's Voice (I WV) exist to make this a freer, better country for women and their loved ones. We are the leading women's group explaining a broad range of policy issues to essential audiences. We ask different questions, approach problems creatively, and see opportunities where most others haven't. We don't just talk about problems, but we identify solid policy solutions, take action to create better outcomes, and have impact.

REACH: In 2022, IW spokeswomen conducted 617 radio interviews and 1,232 TV hits, being on air an average of 3.4 daily and reaching a combined estimated 214 million viewers throughout the year.

IW experts often serve as trusted resources to members of Congress—testifying and holding messaging briefings on key issues.

Weighing in on cultural news of the day, economy, foreign policy, education, law, and everything in between, chances are you have caught one of our IW spokeswomen on a tv screen or radio near you!

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As Seen On





GENERAL POLICY/POLITICS

Heather R. Higgins

*Chairwoman,
Independent Women's Voice*

📍 New York, NY

✉ @theHRH

Heather leads Independent Women's Voice (IWV) as CEO, where she uses her passion for helping people make informed decisions to create a vision and overall strategy for IWV's efforts. Heather chairs the board of Independent Women's Forum (IWV's sister organization) and she is also on the board of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. In addition, she is on the board of many of UBS's mutual funds, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

She was named as one of the "50 Most Influential People" by Campaigns & Elections magazine for her issue advocacy and being a thought leader. Heather previously worked in finance and as an editorial writer for the Wall Street Journal and assistant editor at the Public Interest magazine as well as a money manager at US Trust.

When not working, Heather loves to cook, hike, and make friends laugh. She continues to write opinion editorials and appears on a variety of radio and television programs. The Higgins's have six children—three two-foots who are all now in their twenties, and three four-foots (one adventuresome cat and two squirrel obsessed dogs) who live in New York with Heather and her husband.

Heather's Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
Email press@iwf.org to book.



**GENERAL
POLICY/POLITICS**

Carrie L. Lukas

*President,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 Washington, DC

✉ @carrielukas

Carrie L. Lukas is the president of Independent Women's Forum, vice president of Independent Women's Voice, and a member of Independent Women's Network.

Carrie has worked in the policy arena for twenty-five years. She is the author of the *Politically Incorrect Guide to Women, Sex, and Feminism*, *Checking Progressive Privilege*, and *Liberty Is No War on Women*. Her work has appeared in The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, USA Today, and numerous other outlets.

Carrie has made numerous appearances before Congressional Committees and on television and radio. She is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She lives with her husband and five children in Virginia.

Carrie's Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
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GENERAL POLICY/POLITICS

Hadley Heath Manning

*Vice President for Policy,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 Denver, CO

✉ @HadleyHeath

Hadley Heath Manning is vice president for policy at Independent Women's Forum and Independent Women's Voice and a Senior Blankley Fellow at the Steamboat Institute.

Hadley has testified before Congress and state legislatures on various policy issues. She also appears frequently in radio and TV outlets across the country and is a regular guest on the Fox Business Network. Her work has been featured in publications such as the Wall Street Journal, Forbes, POLITICO, and many others.

In 2016, Hadley was named to Forbes' 30 Under 30 list in Law and Policy. In 2015, the Republican National Committee honored Hadley as a Rising Star, and in 2014, she was named to the Red Alert Politics 30 Under 30 list. Hadley has also completed the National Review Institute's Washington Fellowship, class of 2012-2013.

Hadley graduated with distinction from the University of North Carolina as a Morehead-Cain Scholar with a double major in economics and journalism. She now lives in Denver, Colorado, with her husband and children.

Hadley's Appearances



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GENERAL POLICY/POLITICS

Judy Pino

*Spokeswoman ,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 Virginia

✉ @JudyPino

Judy Pino is the Spanish-language spokesperson for Independent Women's Forum. She is an award-winning journalist with over 20 years of experience in the public, private and non-profit sectors. She has appeared in both English and Spanish-language top-tier media including: Fox, MSNBC, CNN, Miami Herald, Univision, and Telemundo.

Born in Cuba, Judy immigrated with her family to Miami as a child. She began working in television at the age of 17 hosting a talk show addressing issues affecting teens for the local ABC affiliate WPLG-10. Judy worked as assignment editor, reporter, and producer, and eventually became the youngest news director in Miami. She went on to anchor the news at WJAN 41 AmericaTeve and received "The Communicator Award" for her reporting from Guantanamo Military Base in Cuba.

Judy ran press operations for the Libre Initiative, a nonprofit organization focused on issues affecting Hispanics and is currently Communications Director for the New Civil Liberties Alliance, a nonpartisan nonprofit civil liberties group.

Judy is a graduate from the University of Miami with a B.S. degree in Broadcast Journalism and Political Science and has a Masters in Marketing degree from Florida International University. Judy resides in Virginia with her husband, two young children and her French Bulldog, Stormi.

Judy's Appearances



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CULTURE

Riley Gaines

*Advisor,
Independent Women's Voice*

📍 Nashville, TN

✉ @Riley_Gaines_

Riley Gaines, 12x NCAA All-American swimmer, serves as the “Stand With Women” spokeswoman at Independent Women’s Forum (IWF). Gaines has received national attention for speaking out against the NCAA’s discriminatory policy of allowing biological males to take roster spots, opportunities, and awards from female athletes. Gaines, a recent graduate of the University of Kentucky, famously tied biological male Lia Thomas in the 200-yard freestyle at the 2022 NCAA Division I Swimming Championships.

After Gaines directly experienced competing against a man in women’s sports and forced to undress in front of a fully intact male exposing his genitalia in the women’s locker room without being forewarned nor the opportunity to provide consent, she became one of the first female college athletes to speak out against the injustice, challenge the rules the NCAA, USA Swimming, International Olympic Committee (IOC), and other athletic governing bodies have in place.

She believes that allowing male-bodied athletes to participate in women’s competitions will destroy the integrity of women’s sports and leave women vulnerable. Gaines has encouraged other female athletes to come forward and highlight why the issue is blatantly unfair and harmful to females.

Riley’s Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
Email press@iwf.org to book.



CULTURE

Payton McNabb

*Spokeswoman,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 Murphy, NC

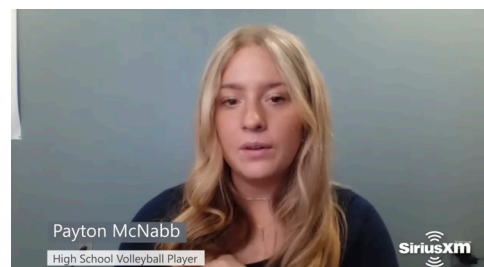
✉ @paytonmcnabb_

Payton McNabb is an Independent Women's Forum spokeswoman. McNabb is a high school senior and athlete. She has joined IWF to share her personal experience of competing against a biological male athlete, how her life forever changed following an injury during the game, and her desire to speak out to keep women's sports female.

Last fall, McNabb was knocked unconscious and exhibited a fencing response following a forceful blow to the head from a volleyball spike by a biological male playing on the opponent's team. The sheer impact of the ball has left McNabb with significant long-term physical and mental effects, including impaired vision, partial paralysis on her right side, and anxiety and depression.

McNabb testified before the North Carolina General Assembly in April 2023, alongside IWF Spokeswoman and 12x All-American swimmer Riley Gaines, to advocate for the passage of a Fairness in Women's Sports Bill. During her testimony, McNabb said, "I'm here for every biological female athlete behind me. My little sister, my cousins, my teammates. Allowing biological males to compete against biological females is dangerous. I may be the first to come before you with an injury, but if this doesn't pass I won't be the last."

Payton's Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
Email press@iwf.org to book.



CULTURE

Paula Scanlan

*Stand With Woman
Spokeswoman & Advisor,
Independent Women's Forum
& Independent Women's Voice*

📍 Philadelphia, PA

✉ @PaulaYScanlan

Paula Scanlan is Stand with Women Spokeswoman and Advisor at Independent Women's Forum and Independent Women's Voice. She officially partnered with IW in July 2023 to advance our joint mission of defending women's single-sex spaces and standing up for the right to free speech.

Scanlan graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, where she was a member of the women's swim team. Inspired by fellow female athletes, Paula broke her silence in June 2023 on her experience as a teammate of Lia Thomas and the efforts of her college's administration and student body to silence her and suppress her right to free speech.

Scanlan has encouraged females, especially athletes, to come forward, share their stories, and join her in making change to protect women everywhere.

Paula's Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
Email press@iwf.org to book.



CULTURE

Kelsey Bolar

*Director of Storytelling
and Senior Policy Analyst,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 Washington, DC

✉ @kelseybolar

Kelsey Bolar is director of storytelling and a senior policy analyst at Independent Women's Forum.

She is also a senior Blankley Fellow at The Steamboat Institute, and a contributor to The Daily Signal and The Federalist. Her work has been featured in USA Today, Newsweek, The Daily Mail, Fox News, National Review, The Washington Examiner, and more.

Bolar appears frequently in radio and TV outlets across the country and is a regular guest on the Fox News and Fox Business channels.

Before joining IWF, Bolar worked for The Heritage Foundation as a senior writer and producer. There, she co-hosted the weekly podcast, "Problematic Women," produced videos that received millions of views, and regularly appeared on radio and TV.

A Connecticut native, Bolar graduated from Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., and lives in northern Virginia with her husband, two children, and third on the way.

Kelsey's Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
Email press@iwf.org to book.



CULTURE

Nan Hayworth

*Former Congresswoman
for NY-14*

📍 New York, NY

✉ @NanHayworth

The Honorable Nan Hayworth, M.D., is the first female physician elected to a full term as a Member of the House of Representatives, serving the 19th District of New York in the 112th Congress.

As a freshman in the House Majority, Nan was a member of the House Financial Services Committee and the Majority Whip Team; she was chosen by Speaker Boehner to serve on two House-Senate Conference Committees; and she worked with House Republican Conference Chair Jeb Hensarling on special communications initiatives with both fellow House members and Senators.

Nan makes regular appearances on television, streaming media, and radio, and in print, on behalf of the Independent Women's Forum (IWF), on whose board she serves.

A board-certified ophthalmologist, Nan had a private practice before becoming a vice president and medical director at Cline Davis & Mann from 2007 to 2009.

In addition to her work with IWF, Nan is chairman of the board of directors of ConservAmerica, a member of the boards of the Goodman Institute for Public Policy Research, Public Agenda, and United Way of Westchester and Putnam, and on the advisory board of the New Tolerance Campaign.

Nan's Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
Email press@iwf.org to book.



CULTURE

Inez Stepman

*Senior Policy Analyst,
Independent Women's Forum*

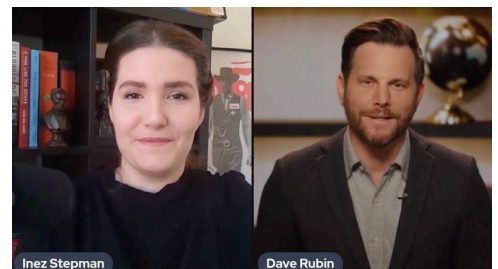
📍 New York, NY

✉ @InezFeltscher

Inez Feltscher Stepman is a senior policy analyst at IWF and host of *High Noon* podcast. With over a decade of experience in education policy, she is also a Lincoln Fellow with the Claremont Institute and a senior contributor to *The Federalist*. Her work has additionally appeared in outlets such as USA Today, Newsweek, and New York Post, and she has made appearances on Fox News, PBS, CSPAN, and NPR.

Inez has a BA in Philosophy from the University of California, San Diego, and a JD from the University of Virginia School of Law. She lives in New York City with her husband.

Inez's Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
Email press@iwf.org to book.



CULTURE

Madeleine Kearns

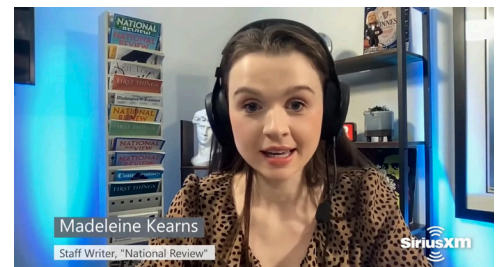
*Senior Fellow,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 New York

✉ @madeleinekearns

Madeleine Kearns is a staff writer at National Review and a contributor to The Spectator. She has written for The Wall Street Journal, The Daily Telegraph, The Daily Mail, Standpoint Magazine, UnHerd, The Scotsman, The Catholic Herald, Verily, and Heterodox Academy. She has appeared on the BBC, Fox News, and the Ben Shapiro Show. She has a first class bachelor's degree in English from the University of St Andrews, a postgraduate diploma in Education from the University of Glasgow, and a master's degree in Journalism from New York University. She writes and performs music.

Madeleine's Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
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ECONOMY

Patrice Onwuka

*Director, Center for Economic Opportunity,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 Washington, DC

✉ @PatricePinkFile

Patrice Onwuka is the director of the Center for Economic Opportunity at the Independent Women's Forum.

Patrice co-hosts WMAL-FM's morning show O'Connor & Company, the leading talk radio station in the DC area every Friday. Patrice is also a senior adjunct fellow with The Philanthropy Roundtable and a Tony Blankley Fellow at The Steamboat Institute. Patrice has worked in policy, advocacy, and communications roles in Washington, D.C. for more than a decade on issues related to the economy, employment, technology, philanthropy, and the criminal justice system. Prior to moving to Washington, Patrice served as a speechwriter for a United Nations spokesman.

Patrice is a frequent guest on Fox News, Fox Business News, and PBS programs. Her opinions have appeared in the Washington Post, USA Today, Barron's, CNBC, Bloomberg, and other national outlets. She hosts a column called the New Agenda for Black Women on Newsmax.com and is a contributor to the Washington Examiner and The Hill.

Born in the Caribbean, Patrice immigrated with her family to Boston where she grew up and completed her education. Patrice holds a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Tufts University and a master's degree in international relations from Boston College. Patrice resides in Maryland with her husband and three children.

Patrice's Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
Email press@iwf.org to book.



ECONOMY

Carrie Sheffield

*Senior Policy Analyst,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 Washington, DC

✉ @carriesheffield

Carrie Sheffield is a columnist and broadcaster in Washington, D.C. She is a senior fellow at Independent Women's Forum and contributes regularly to the *New York Post*. She earned a master's in public policy from Harvard University, concentrating in business policy. She earned a B.A. in communications at Brigham Young University and completed a Fulbright fellowship in Berlin. She managed municipal credit risk at Goldman Sachs and rated healthcare bonds at Moody's Investors Service. Carrie later researched for American Enterprise Institute scholar Edward Conard and served as Warren Brookes Journalism Fellow at Competitive Enterprise Institute. While serving as executive director for Generation Opportunity, a project of Americans For Prosperity, she spoke at the U.S. Senate alongside key senators in favor of landmark tax reforms passed by Congress in 2017.

Carrie is a member of the Harvard Christian Alumni Society, The National Press Club and the Society of Professional Journalists. She is a 2018 winner of the William F. Buckley Awards by America's Future Foundation, is listed in Maverick PAC's "Future 40" 2019 class of influential young conservatives and named a Most Inspiring New Yorker by Bumble, a social connection app with more than 55 million global users.

Carrie's Appearances



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EDUCATION

Ginny Gentles

*Director,
Education Freedom Center,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 Washington, DC

✉ @ginnygentles

Virginia (Ginny) Gentles is the director of the Education Freedom Center at Independent Women's Forum, a contributor to the Independent Women's Network, and host of the Students Over Systems podcast. Gentles is a long-time school choice advocate and former state and federal education policy leader. Her work has appeared in National Review, Newsweek, City Journal, Real Clear Education and Townhall.

Gentles served as a senior political appointee in the U.S. Department of Education under President George W. Bush. She led the Florida Department of Education's Office of Independent Education and Parental Choice, managing the state's school choice programs. While living in Canada, she worked for the Fraser Institute and the Ontario Ministry of Education. Gentles began her career on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant and House Budget Committee analyst.

A Florida native, Gentles is a graduate of Wake Forest University and the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. She lives in Virginia with her two daughters.

Ginny's Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
Email press@iwf.org to book.



EDUCATION

Nicole Solas

*Senior Fellow,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 South Kingstown, RI

✉ @Nicoletta0602

Nicole Solas is a stay-at-home mom of two children from Rhode Island. The teachers union sued her for submitting public records requests about Critical Race Theory after her school district told her to submit the requests and then publicly threatened to sue her for submitting too many. Now Nicole advocates for school choice and academic transparency to fight back against the oppressive teachers unions and school districts that hide public information and bully parents.

Nicole is a Massachusetts attorney and graduate of Roger Williams School of Law.

Nicole has also appeared as a parent advocate on The Ingraham Angle, Tucker Carlson Tonight, Newsmax National Report, and National Review. Her favorite appearance was on the cover of the New York Post as a featured “domestic terrorist.”

Nicole's Appearances



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ENERGY

Mandy Gunasekara

Director of the Center for Energy & Conservation, Independent Women's Forum

📍 Oxford, Mississippi

✉ @MississippiMG

Mandy Gunasekara is the director of the Center for Energy and Conservation at Independent Women's Forum. Gunasekara previously served as chief of staff at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and majority counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. She's worked for numerous non-profits including the Texas Public Policy Foundation, Energy 45, and the Heritage Foundation. She's an experienced communicator, writer, and back-up radio host for her home-state station, Supertalk Mississippi. She is the mother of two young children and lives in Oxford, Mississippi.

Mandy's Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
Email press@iwf.org to book.



ENERGY

Gabriella Hoffman

*Senior Fellow,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 Virginia

✉ @Gabby_Hoffman

Gabriella Hoffman is a Senior Fellow with Independent Women's Forum and freelance media strategist, award-winning writer, and Townhall.com political columnist. She hosts the District of Conservation podcast and CFACT original video series "Conservation Nation."

Gabriella has published columns and articles in Richmond Times-Dispatch, the Hill, RealClearPolicy, Virginian Pilot, Washington Examiner, Deseret News, InsideSources.com, Washington Times, Field & Stream, Sporting Classics, Outdoor Life, The Virginia Sportsman, and more. Additionally, she's been quoted/featured in notable publications including Washington Post, Fox News, NPR, Marie Claire, and Time Magazine's Guns in America fall 2018 issue.

In May 2021, she was elected to the Professional Outdoor Media Association's Board of Directors where serves as Secretary. She is the 2019 POMA Pinnacle Conservation Award recipient for her reporting work on grizzly bear conservation in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. She also is a 2021 graduate of State Policy Network's Generation Liberty Fellowship.

Gabriella credits her Lithuanian parents, Soviet Union escapees, for instilling a love of freedom, liberty, and limited government in her.

Gabriella's Appearances



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Email press@iwf.org to book.



FOREIGN POLICY

Dr. Qanta Ahmed

*Senior Fellow,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 New York, NY

✉ @MissDiagnosis

Dr. Ahmed is a physician, non-fiction author and broadcast media commentator. Her work has been published in The Guardian, The Wall Street Journal, The Spectator, Al Jazeera, The Independent, USA Today, The Daily Beast, the World Policy Journal, Fox News, CNN, and many others.

Dr. Ahmed is the first physician, and first Muslim woman, to be awarded the Templeton-Cambridge Fellowship in Journalism at the University of Cambridge, England.

A graduate of the University of Nottingham, Dr. Ahmed has practiced subspecialty medicine in the United Kingdom, the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Currently, a triple board certified pulmonologist and sleep disorders specialist, Dr. Ahmed is appointed Associate Professor of Medicine at the State University of New York, an Honorary Professor at the School of Health and Life Sciences at Glasgow Caledonian University and an Honorary Fellow at the Technion-Israel Institute of Science and Technology. She is a Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians, a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and a Fellow of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

In December 2015 Dr. Ahmed was naturalized as an American citizen. Today, she maintains dual British and U.S. citizenship and lives in New York where she continues to write and practice medicine.

Dr. Ahmed's Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
Email press@iwf.org to book.



FOREIGN POLICY

Ellie Cohanin

*Senior Fellow,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 Washington, DC

✉ @elliecohanin

Ellie Cohanin served as U.S. Deputy Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism at the U.S. Department of State during the Trump Administration. She was the State Department's first Iranian-born Jewish Envoy, and led diplomatic initiatives resulting in historic breakthroughs in the Muslim world including forging groundbreaking partnerships with the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Co-Existence of Bahrain, and with Association Mimouna of Morocco, to combat anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and Islamophobia; persuading the Global Imams Council (GIC) to adopt the IHRA working definition of anti-Semitism; and removal of anti-Semitic content from textbooks in the MENA region, all as part of the Abraham Accords efforts.

As Deputy Envoy, Ellie Cohanin was the lead official on creating and implementing policy on countering anti-Semitism in both the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and Latin America regions.

Ellie Cohanin received her B.A. in Political Science, Cum Laude, from Barnard College, Columbia University; and conducted graduate study in International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She is fluent in Hebrew and Farsi, familiar with German and Arabic.

Ellie's Appearances



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FOREIGN POLICY

Meaghan Mobbs

*Senior Fellow,
Independent Women's Forum*

📍 Washington, DC

✉ @mobbs_mentality

Meaghan Mobbs, M.A., MPhil is a West Point graduate, Afghanistan Veteran, and former Army Captain. A clinical psychology PhD candidate and Predoctoral Fellow at Columbia University, her research and work revolves around better understanding the transition off active duty, the heterogeneity of the Veteran experience, and societal impacts of an all-volunteer force.

She is a former advisor to the Trump-Pence campaign on veteran and military family issues. Meaghan serves as a Presidential appointee to the United States Military Academy, West Point, Board of Visitors and is a George W. Bush Veteran Leader Scholar and Tillman Military Scholar.

Meaghan's Appearances



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LAW

Jennifer C. Braceras

*Director,
Independent Women's
Law Center*

📍 **Boston, MA**

✉️ **@J_Braceras**

Jennifer C. Braceras is the director of Independent Women's Law Center.

A former member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, Jennifer is an expert on Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and has taught courses on civil rights and constitutional law at both Boston College Law School and Suffolk University Law School.

She writes and speaks widely on issues related to civil rights, civil liberties, and other aspects of constitutional law.

Jennifer is a graduate of the Harvard Law School, where she served as an editor of the Law Review. After law school, she clerked for two federal judges and practiced labor and employment law with the Boston law firm Ropes & Gray.

A long time political columnist and editor, Jennifer's writing has appeared in a variety of publications, including the Wall Street Journal, the Boston Globe, the Hill, and National Review Online. With a background in both media and law, Jennifer has a unique talent for breaking down complex legal topics for a general audience.

Along with Inez Stepman, she co-hosts *At the Bar*, a bimonthly virtual happy hour discussion about issues at the intersection of law, politics, and culture.

Jennifer's Appearances



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LAW

May Mailman

*Senior Legal Fellow,
Independent Women's
Law Center*

📍 Cleveland, OH

✉ @MayMailman

May Mailman is a senior fellow at Independent Women's Law Center. She is a former legal advisor to President Donald J. Trump, where she advised on a wide range of policies including health care, immigration, and social issues. While in the White House, she also worked in the office of the Chief of Staff and the Staff Secretary's office.

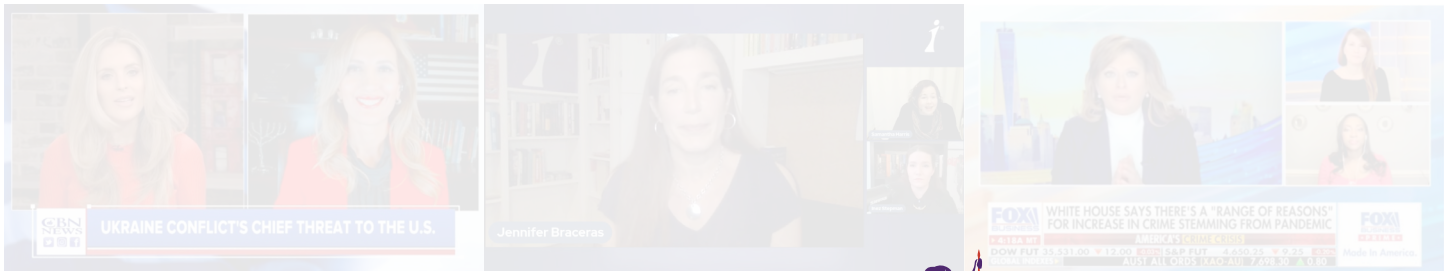
Prior to entering public service, May practiced litigation in Denver. Earlier in her career, taught sixth grade in Kansas City through Teach for America.

May received a B.S. in Journalism from the University of Kansas, where she served as Student Body Vice President. She also earned her J.D. from Harvard Law School, where she served as President of the Federalist Society.

May's Appearances



Meet the spokeswomen.
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To book a policy expert, contact:

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Media Coordinator
lynn.hatcher@iwf.org
410-924-5263

