

## **Biographies of Panelists:**

### **David Blankenhorn**

David Blankenhorn is founder and president of the Institute for American Values, a nonpartisan organization devoted to strengthening families and civil society in the U.S. and the world.

A 1998 profile in the *New York Times* describes Blankenhorn as a “consensus builder for a moral base in society.” Mary Ann Glendon of Harvard Law School writes: “No one writes about the crisis in American family life with more candor, intelligence, and sympathetic understanding than David Blankenhorn.” *USA Today* in 2000 describes Blankenhorn as “leading a grass-roots movement” to strengthen marriage. A 1995 profile in the *Los Angeles Times* called him “the de facto navigator” of a new fatherhood movement and the Idaho Statesman describes Blankenhorn’s 1995 book, *Fatherless America*, as “the bible of the fatherhood movement.” In 2005, Carl Gershman of the National Endowment for Democracy called Blankenhorn’s Islam/West project “the most effective initiative to influence opinion in the Arab world since 9/11.” His most recent book, “The Future of Marriage,” was published this year.

Blankenhorn has co-edited eight books: *Rebuilding the Nest: A New Commitment to the American Family* (1990); *Seedbeds of Virtue: Sources of Competence, Character, and Citizenship in American Society* (1995); *Promises to Keep: Decline and Renewal of Marriage in America* (1996); *The Fatherhood Movement* (1999); *The Book of Marriage: The Wisest Answers to the Toughest Questions* (2001); *Black Fathers in Contemporary American Society* (2003); *Does Christianity Teach Male Headship?* (2004); and *The Islam/West Debate* (2005).

In 1994, Blankenhorn helped to found the National Fatherhood Initiative, serving as that organization’s founding chairman. In 1992, he was appointed by President Bush to serve on the National Commission on America’s Urban Families. A frequent lecturer, Blankenhorn’s ideas have been cited in *Time*, *Newsweek*, the *Economist*, and elsewhere, and his articles have appeared in scores of publications, including the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, *First Things*, and *Christianity Today*. He has been profiled by the CBS *Evening News* and other news organizations, and has been featured on numerous national television programs, including *Oprah*, *CBS This Morning*, *The Today Show*, *Charlie Rose*, *ABC Evening News*, and C-SPAN’s *Washington Perspectives*.

Prior to founding the Institute in 1987, Blankenhorn worked as a community organizer in Virginia and Massachusetts. He served two years as a VISTA Volunteer. A native of Jackson, Mississippi, Blankenhorn attended public schools in Jackson and in Salem, Virginia. As a high school student, he founded the Mississippi Community Service Corps and the Virginia Community Service Corps. In 1977, he graduated magna cum laude in social studies from Harvard, where he was president of Phillips Brooks House, the campus community service center, and the recipient of a John Knox Fellowship. In 1978, he was awarded an M.A. with distinction in comparative social history from the University of Warwick in Coventry, England.

### **Maggie Gallagher**

Maggie Gallagher is president of the Institute for Marriage and Public Policy ([www.iMAPP.org](http://www.iMAPP.org)), whose motto is “strengthening marriage for a new generation” and whose unique mission is research and public education on ways that law and public policy can strengthen marriage as a social institution.

Maggie is a nationally syndicated columnist, the author of three books on marriage (including most recently with University of Chicago Professor Linda Waite *The Case for Marriage: Why Married People Are Happier, Healthier and Better-Off Financially*), and a leading voice of the new marriage movement. *National Journal* named her to the 2004 list of the most influential people in the same-sex marriage debate.

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She appears frequently on major TV and radio and is frequently asked to lecture at colleges, universities and law schools. She has testified as an expert witness on marriage before the U.S. Senate and in various state legislatures. Her writings on marriage have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Weekly Standard*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, as well as scholarly journals such as the *Louisiana Law Review*, and the *Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics, and Public Policy*.

## **Randy Hicks**

Randy Hicks is the president of the Georgia Family Council, a non-profit research and education organization committed to strengthening Georgia's families by shaping laws, influencing public opinion, and equipping leaders.

Randy is regularly in demand as a commentator on family issues for local and national media outlets. He carries his message of family revitalization to civic, business and church groups throughout Georgia and the nation.

As a longtime student of the cultural effects of family breakdown, Randy works with local and national policy leaders to make marriage the center of domestic policy plans. In Georgia, his organization has created awareness of the harmful consequences of divorce and promoted policies and strategies for reversing family decline. He currently serves on the Georgia Supreme Court's Commission on Children, Marriage and Family Law.

A graduate of the University of Southern California, Randy also received a master's degree from the Talbot School of Theology at Biola University in Los Angeles. He and his wife, Marilyn, reside in Suwanee, Georgia. They have five children, two boys, Jesse and Carson, and three girls, Madison, Jessica and Alexis.

## **Jeff Kemp**

For over 15 years, Jeff has served as president of Families Northwest and is a strong advocate for the value and benefits of healthy marriages. Known as a passionate and effective leader within the marriage movement, Jeff has built a team of dedicated professionals. They have positioned Families Northwest as a leading advocacy, resource, and training organization with a firm commitment to networking with leaders from all segments of society — business, community, church, government, and the media.

Jeff's strength is imparting his vision for healthy marriage and motivating people to make a difference. His speech topics include: "Why Marriage Matters: The Northwest Marriage and Family Movement" and "Leadership for Life: Purpose, Vision and Teamwork." Jeff is frequently interviewed on issues related to marriage and family, appearing on "Town Meeting" and "Arts & Entertainment." His published commentary includes *The Seattle Times*, *USA Today*, and *American Enterprise*. His *Family Matters* radio show can be heard daily on 75 radio stations throughout the Northwest.

A former NFL quarterback, Jeff and his father, Jack, are one of only four sets of father/son quarterbacks who have played professional football. Jeff received a Bachelor's degree in economics from Dartmouth College and an MBA with honors from Pepperdine University. He lives in Redmond, Washington with his wife, Stacy, and their four sons.

## **Benjamin Scafidi, principal investigator**

Ben Scafidi is an associate professor in the J. Whitney Bunting School of Business at Georgia College & State University. His research has focused on education and urban policy. Previously he served as the Education Policy Advisor for Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue and served on the staff of both of Georgia Governor Roy Barnes' Education Reform Study Commissions. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Virginia and his bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Notre Dame. Ben was born and raised in Richmond, Virginia. Ben and Lori Scafidi and their four children reside in Milledgeville, Georgia.