

Assembly Committee on Accountability and Administrative Review:

**An Oversight Hearing on the State's Role
In Addressing Income and Wealth Inequality**

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PRESENTER BIOS

Paul Pierson is Professor of Political Science and holder of the Avice Saint Chair of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley. As of July 1st, 2007 he is also Chair of the Department of Political Science. Pierson's teaching and research spans the fields of American politics and public policy, comparative political economy, and social theory. His most recent books are *Off-Center: The Republican Revolution and the Erosion of American Democracy* (Yale University Press), co-authored by Jacob Hacker, and *Politics in Time: History, Institutions and Social Analysis* (Princeton University Press 2004). A volume co-edited with Theda Skocpol, *The Transformation of American Politics: Activist Government and the Rise of Conservatism*, will be published in late 2007 by Princeton University Press. Pierson is an active commentator on public affairs, whose writings have recently appeared in such outlets as *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New Republic*. Along with Jacob Hacker, he is currently writing a book on the politics of rising inequality in the United States.

Pierson is also the author of *Dismantling the Welfare State? Reagan, Thatcher, and the Politics of Retrenchment* (Cambridge 1994), which won the American Political Science Association's 1995 prize for the best book on American national politics. His article "Path Dependence, Increasing Returns and the Study of Politics" won the APSA's prize for the best article in the *American Political Science Review* in 2000. He currently serves on the editorial boards of *The American Political Science Review* and *The Annual Review of Political Science*.

Ann Huff Stevens is Professor and Chair, Department of Economics, University of California, Davis, and a Research Associate with the National Bureau of Economic Research. She is Director of the Center for Poverty Research at UC Davis, one of three federally funded poverty research centers in the country. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Michigan and has also served on the faculty at Rutgers and Yale Universities. Dr. Stevens' research areas include job loss, intergenerational mobility, poverty dynamics and retirement. She has served as a Principal Investigator on grants from the National Science Foundation, including a study currently underway to better understand the relationship between cyclical movements in unemployment and mortality. Her work has been published in a number of peer-reviewed journals including the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, the *Journal of Labor Economics*, and the *Journal of Public Economics*.

Jeffrey Michael is Director of the Business Forecasting Center at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA. The Center produces quarterly economic forecasts for California and ten Northern California metro areas in addition to special reports on current business and public policy issues impacting the region.

Jeff's areas of expertise include regional economic forecasting and environmental economics including work on the economic impacts of the Endangered Species Act, climate change, and regulation on land use, property values and employment growth. His research has received numerous grants, and been published in scholarly journals such as the Journal of Law and Economics, Southern Economic Journal, Energy Policy, and Ecological Economics. He makes frequent presentations to the regional business and government audiences, and is cited over 200 times per year in the local and national press including the Wall Street Journal, New York Times Magazine, Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, Newsweek, National Geographic, Washington Post, NPR, and PBS.

Before coming to Pacific in 2008, he spent nine years as faculty, Associate Dean, and Director of the Center for Applied Business and Economic Research at Towson University in Maryland. Jeff received his Ph.D. from North Carolina State University, M.S. from the University of Maine, and B.A. from Hamilton College.

Sylvia A. Allegretto is a labor economist who joined IRLE in the spring of 2007. She received her Ph. D. in Economics from the University of Colorado, Boulder and worked for several years at the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, DC. In addition to numerous briefing papers and articles for EPI, Sylvia co-authored two editions of *The State of Working America* with Larry Mishel and Jared Bernstein. Her previous research has examined long-term unemployment, family budgets, teacher pay, and low-wage labor markets. Sylvia is currently working on analyses of minimum wage effects and on the sub-minimum wage received by tipped workers.

Dan Schnur is the Director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California, where he works to motivate students to become active in the world of politics and encourage public officials to participate in the daily life of USC.

For years, Dan was one of California's leading political and media strategists, whose record includes work on four presidential and three gubernatorial campaigns. Schnur served as the national Director of Communications for the 2000 presidential campaign of U.S. Senator John McCain and spent five years as chief media spokesman for California Governor Pete Wilson.

In addition to his position at USC, Schnur is an Adjunct Instructor at the University of California at Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies. He has served as an advisor to the William & Melinda Gates Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Broad Education Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, and the Stuart Foundation on a variety of K-12 education, college and workforce preparedness, governance and political reform efforts. He is also the Co-Chairman of the Voices of Reform project, a bipartisan statewide organization devoted to making state government more responsive to the needs of California voters. Schnur is a graduate of the American University in Washington, D.C.