

Washington, D.C.—The first international conference of academics and reformers in Washington, D.C., on the current state of lobbying and ethics reform in the United States and Europe will take place on Monday, March 17, at American University.

Robert Bauer, President Obama's former White House counsel and now a partner in the Washington law firm of Perkins-Coie, will deliver the keynote address at 12:30 p.m. on the successes and failure of the Obama administration to implement lobbying and ethics reform.

"With the massive increase in the amount of money flowing into election campaigns in the U.S. and the 'bribes for amendments' scandal in Brussels, there is continued focus on how to improve ethics and lobbying in the U.S. and Europe," said James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at the School of Public Affairs and organizer of the conference.

The conference will focus on the causes and characteristics of lobbying and ethics reform in the United States, including the efforts of President Obama, since he took office in 2009 and when he was a U.S. Senator in 2007. Participants from Europe will also describe the lobbying and ethics reforms in the European Union Commission and Parliament and in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nations.

The "Conference on Lobbying Reform in the U.S and the E.U.," co-sponsored by the School of International Service and the School of Public Affairs, will take place in Mary Graydon Center room 5.

At 9:30 a.m., Professor Thurber will introduce and welcome American University officials, including President Neil Kerwin; James Goldgeier, dean of the School of International Service; Barbara Romzek, dean of the School of Public Affairs; Michelle Egan, associate professor in the School of International Service; and Patrick Griffin, associate director for public policy programs at the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies.

From 9:45 to 11 a.m., there will be a panel discussion on the current state of lobbying and ethics reforms in the United States. Panelists will include Frank Baumgartner, the Richard J. Richardson Distinguished Professor of Political Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Meredith McGehee, policy director at the Campaign Legal Center; Lisa Rosenberg, government affairs consultant, Sunlight Foundation; and Tom Susman, director of the Government Affairs Office, American Bar Association. Professor Thurber will be moderator.

From 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., there will be a discussion on lobbying and ethics reforms in the European Union and OECD nations. Panelists will include Michelle Cini, professor of European politics, University of Bristol; Pierre Keller, visiting professor at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University; David Coen, professor of public policy and director of the School of Public Policy, University College London; and Karl Isaksson, managing partner of Kreab & Gavin Anderson of Brussels and chair of the European Public Affairs Consultancies' Association. Professor Egan will be moderator.

From 1:45 to 3 p.m., there will be a discussion on measuring and assessing the impact of lobbying reforms. The panel will feature Janos Bertok, head of the OECD's Division of Public Sector Integrity; Lee Drutman, senior fellow, Sunlight Foundation; Timothy LaPira, assistant professor of political science, James Madison University; and Burdett Loomis, professor of political science, University of Kansas. Professor Thurber will be moderator.

The final panel discussion on "Where is the Future of Lobbying Reform? Who is in the Lead: E.U. vs. the U.S.?" will take place from 3 to 4:15 p.m. The panel will feature Craig Holman, government affairs lobbyist for Public Citizen's Congress Watch; Norm Ornstein, resident scholar, American Enterprise Institute; and Trevor Potter, president of the Campaign Legal Center and member of the law firm of Caplin & Drysdale. Professor Griffin will be moderator.

“Scandal in the Washington and Brussels and the resulting lobbying and ethics reform have been a major concern in the U.S. and Europe for the last 10 years,” said Professor Griffin of American University. “It is rare that reformers and academics will focus on measures to assess the impact of lobbying reform.”

The conference is partially supported by a grant from the European Union and with support from the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies. It will be streamed live at <http://www.american.edu/spa/ccps/lobbying-reform-conference-2014.cfm>.

##