

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM Original Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at [gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov](mailto:gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov), within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Name of Traveler: Chaston Pffingston
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None  
b. Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
3. a. Dates: Departure: 4/22/2025 Return: 4/25/2025  
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**  None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: New York, NY Return City: Washington, D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Center Forward
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: The group met with representatives of financial institutions to discuss how their products facilitate commerce, retirement planning, payments, and digital security. We met small business owners and regulators who interact with and oversee the industry as well, to better understand the nuances of policies impacting the financial ecosystem
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box:*
  - a.  a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
  - b.  the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
  - c.  page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
  - d.  the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a.  I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*  
b. If not, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature of Traveler:  Date: 5/1/2025

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Lloyd Smucker Date: 5/1/2025

Signature of Supervising Member: 

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

Original  Amendment

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip within 10 days of their return.** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.**

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: Center Forward
2. Travel Destination(s): New York City, New York
3. Date of Departure: 04/22/2025 Date of Return: 04/25/2025
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Tammy Pham, Chaston Pfingston, Patrick O'Connor, Yusuf Nekzad, Jaliya Nagahawatte, Sam Lupas  
*Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.*
5. Actual amount of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Total Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$464.43	\$900.00	\$239.30	\$0.00
Accompanying Family Member	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

6.  All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. Signify statement is true by checking box.

**I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: 04/29/2025

Name: Riley Kilburg Title: Executive Director

Organization: Center Forward

I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.

Address: 1214A Ingleside Ave, McLean, VA 22101

Telephone: 563-542-6821 Email: riley@center-forward.org

*Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.*

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Chaston Pfingston
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Center Forward
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: New York, NY
4. a. Date of Departure: April 22, 2025 Date of Return: April 25, 2025  
b. Yes  No  Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?  
If yes, list dates at personal expense: \_\_\_\_\_
5. a. Yes  No  Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? If yes:
  - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_
  - (2) Relationship to Traveler:  Spouse  Child  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_
  - (3) Yes  No  Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes  No  Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?  
b. If yes, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Yes  No  *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.

I am a Legislative Assistant covering Financial Services and economic issues for Congressman Smucker. This trip will help me better understand the current practices of financial institutions and the policy implications of regulations and laws the Congressman is considering. As an LA for a Ways & Means member, I will be prepared to discuss how tax and trade policies impact investment.

9. Yes  No  Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

### ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member:  Date: 3/14/25

# COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

## PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* at least **30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website ([ethics.house.gov](http://ethics.house.gov)) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

**NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.**

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

Center Forward

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2.  I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*
3. **Check only one.** I represent that:
- The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
  - The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
  - The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary): \_\_\_\_\_  
Please see attached supplemental form.
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5. Yes  No  Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?

6. Date of Departure: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 Date of Return: Friday, April 25, 2025

7. a. City of departure: Washington, D.C.

b. Destination(s): New York City, New York

c. City of return: Washington, D.C.

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8. **Check only one.** I represent that

- The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
- The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
- The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. **Check only one of the following.**
- a.  I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
  - b.  I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
  - c.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
  - d.  I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. \_\_\_\_\_
- 

10.  Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. **Check only one of the following.**
- a.  I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box; OR*
  - b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For *each* sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip *and* its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:  
**Please see attached supplemental form.**

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13. **Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary:**

- a. Mode of travel: Air  Rail  Bus  Car  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
  - b. Class of travel: Coach  Business  First  Charter  Other  (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
  - c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 

14.  I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. **Check only one.** I represent that either:

- a.  The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
- b.  The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:

1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \$92 per full programming day and \$69 per travel days

2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please see attached supplemental form.**

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16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel Name: InterContinental New York City: New York City Cost Per Night: \$300

Reason(s) for Selecting: Please see attached supplemental form.

Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Cost Per Night: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for Selecting: \_\_\_\_\_

17.  I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimates	Total Transportation Expenses per Participant	Total Lodging Expenses per Participant	Total Meal Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$563.00 Train + Shuttle	\$900.00	\$207.00
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A

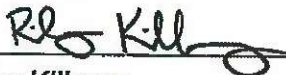
	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	\$0.00	N/A
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A

19. **Check only one:**

- a.  I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
- b.  *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**

- a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
- b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
- c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature:  Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025  
 Name: Riley Kilburg Title: Executive Director  
 Organization: Center Forward  
 Address: 1214A Ingleside Avenue, McClean, VA 22101  
 Email: riley@center-forward.org Telephone: 563-542-6821

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or [travel.requests@mail.house.gov](mailto:travel.requests@mail.house.gov).

Michael Guest, Mississippi  
*Chairman*  
Mark DeSaulnier, California  
*Ranking Member*

John H. Rutherford, Florida  
Andrew R. Garbarino, New York  
Ashley Hinson, Iowa  
Nathaniel Moran, Texas

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina  
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland  
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas  
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

**U.S. House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust  
*Staff Director and Chief Counsel*

Keelie Broom  
*Counsel to the Chairman*

David Arrojo  
*Counsel to the Ranking Member*

1015 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328  
Telephone: (202) 225-7103  
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

April 8, 2025

Mr. Chaston Pfingston  
Office of the Honorable Lloyd Smucker  
302 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Pfingston:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to New York, New York, scheduled for April 22 to 25, 2025, sponsored by Center Forward.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$480 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest  
Chairman

Mark DeSaulnier  
Ranking Member

MG/MD:mc

**Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form: Supplemental**

First	Last	Title	Affiliation	Reason
David	Goldfarb	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Bryan Steil	As Rep. Steil's Legislative Director, Mr. Goldfarb is responsible for the legislative and policy agendas of a Financial Services member. He will provide insights on the policy ramifications of digital assets and financial technology disruptions.
Victoria	Honard	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Suzan DelBene	As the Legislative Director to a member of the Ways and Means Committee's Tax Subcommittee and Trade Subcommittee, Ms. Honard will discuss how tax and trade policy can affect financial institutions. Especially, how trade supply chains are disrupting investments and how taxes can be used to influence the allocations of investment funds.
Tyler	Dunn	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Brad Finstad	As Legislative Assistant to a member on the Agriculture Committee's Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development Subcommittee, Mr. Dunn can offer insights about what the proper asset class classification for digital assets should be, and the implications of classifying them as a commodity. Additionally, he can discuss the broader impact both financial institutions and commodity markets have on agriculture policy.
Quincy	Henderson	Financial Services Counsel	Office of Representative Ritchie Torres	As Financial Services Counsel for a New York Representative, Mr. Henderson can speak about how the financial system can impact the local New York community and how legislative policy can be used in tandem with private industry to drive value for everyday consumers.

Colin	Anonsen	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Brittany Pettersen	As Legislative Director to a member of the Financial Services Committee's Digital Assets, Financial Technology, and Artificial Intelligence Subcommittee, Mr. Anonsen can speak to the jurisdictional differences of digital asset regulations, specifically the importance of certain digital assets being classified as a security. In addition, he can discuss how innovative financial technology is changing the way the U.S. financial system works.
Delia	Kashat	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Donald Davis	As Legislative Director to a member of the Agriculture Committee's Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development Subcommittee, Ms. Kashat is the principal legislative staffer for Rep. Davis's digital asset and commodity markets policy. Since Rep. Davis is the ranking member on this subcommittee, Ms. Kashat is exceptionally suited to discuss how legislation can impact commodity markets and digital assets.
Gianluca	Nigro	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Brendan Boyle	As the Legislative Director to a member of the Ways and Means Committee's Tax Subcommittee and Trade Subcommittee, Mr. Nigro will discuss how tax and trade policy can affect financial institutions. Especially, how trade supply chains are disrupting investments and how taxes can be used to influence the allocations of investment funds.
Megan	Guiltinan	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Andy Barr	As Rep. Barr's Legislative Director, Ms. Guiltinan is the principal agent responsible for the legislative and policy agendas of a Financial Services member on the Financial Institutions Subcommittee. She will provide insights on the policy ramifications of investments by financial institutions.

Chaston	Pfingston	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Lloyd Smucker	As the Legislative Assistant to a member of the Ways and Means Committee's Tax Subcommittee and Trade Subcommittee, Mr. Pfingston will discuss how tax and trade policy can affect financial institutions. Especially, how trade supply chains are disrupting investments and how taxes can be used to influence the allocations of investment funds.
Cody	Hollerich	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Bill Foster	As the Legislative Assistant to the ranking member on Financial Services Committee's Financial Institutions Subcommittee, Mr. Hollerich can provide valuable insights on how policy is crafted to grow the financial industry while ensuring its stability. He can also address the interconnectedness of financial institutions and the U.S. government.
Ian	Haimowitz	Economic Policy Advisor	Office of Representative Steven Horsford	As the Economic Policy Advisor for a member on the Ways and Means committee, Mr. Haimowitz can bring a perspective on how financial institutions impact the economic well being of everyday Americans. He will provide valuable insight into the intersectionality of economic policy and investments by financial institutions.
Sheridan	O'Kelly	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Sean Casten	As the Legislative Assistant to a member on the Financial Services Committee, Ms. O'Kelly will provide valuable insights on how policy is crafted to grow the financial industry while ensuring its stability. Specifically, she would be able to discuss the importance of capital markets and financial institutions for working Americans.
Kevin	Gannon	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Andrew Garbarino	As the Legislative Director for a member on the Financial Services Committee's Capital Markets Subcommittee, Mr. Gannon can provide unique insights into the functioning of U.S. capital markets and how policy can be crafted to strengthen American capital markets.

Yusuf	Nekzad	Legislative Director	Office of Representative Nikki Budzinski	As Legislative Director to a member of the Agriculture Committee's Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development Subcommittee, Mr. Nekzad is the principal legislative staffer for Rep. Budzinski's digital asset and commodity markets policy. Since Rep. Budzinski is from a rural district, Mr. Nekzad is exceptionally suited to discuss how financial decisions can impact rural constituents.
Quinn	Ritchie	Senior Policy Advisor	Office of Representative Mike Kelly	As the Senior Policy Advisor to a member of the Ways and Means Committee's Tax Subcommittee and Trade Subcommittee, Mr. Ritchie can discuss how tax and trade policy can affect financial institutions. Especially, how trade supply chains are disrupting investments and how taxes can be used to influence the allocations of investment funds.
Levon	Bagramian	Director of Capital Markets and Investor Protection Policy	U.S. House Committee on Financial Services	As the Director of Capital Markets and Investor Protection Policy for the House Committee on Financial Services, Mr. Bagramian will bring unique insights about the functioning of U.S. capital markets, how they are adapting to challenges in the 21st Century, and the impact this has on investors.
Tamara	Cesaretti	Director of Financial Technology Policy	U.S. House Committee on Financial Services	As Deputy Director of Financial Technology Policy for the House Committee on Financial Services, Ms. Cesaretti can provide insights into the impacts innovative financial technology is having on industry participants. Her insights would include how congressional policy can be utilized to encourage financial innovation to improve the lives of constituents.
Danny	Reeves	Deputy Director of Member Services	U.S. House Committee on Financial Services	As Deputy Director of Member Services for the House Committee on Financial Services, Mr. Reeves can provide insights into how policymakers approach problems in financial services and how they view the proper blend of growth promotion and stability regulations.

Erin	Butler	Legislative Assistant	Office of Representative Jim Himes	As the Legislative Assistant to a member on the Financial Services Committee, Ms. Butler can provide valuable insights on how financial policy needs to balance financial stability with growth promotion. She can also discuss how financial institutions impact the lives of working Americans and diverse constituents.
Patrick	O'Connor	Tax & Economic Policy Advisor	Office of Representative Terri Sewell	As the Tax & Economic Policy Advisor to a member of the Ways and Means Committee's Trade Subcommittee, Mr. O'Connor can discuss how trade policy can affect financial institutions. He would also be able to provide insights on the intersectionality of tax and trade policy with the U.S. financial system.
Matt	Holyoak	Constituent Liaison	Office of Representative Blake Moore	As the Constituent Liaison to a member on the Ways the Means Committee's Trade Subcommittee, Mr. Holyoak can discuss how trade policy can affect financial institutions. Additionally, his role conducting business outreach in Utah brings insights on how the financial system affects regional businesses.

**12) Sponsor's interest in the subject matter and role in organizing the trip:**

Center Forward's Financial Services Innovation Conference is being convened to bring together a bipartisan group of senior legislative staffers from the House of Representatives to discuss innovation and development in America's financial services and how the federal government can foster growth and promote financial stability. Center Forward's organizational mission is to provide pragmatists with the information they need to craft common-sense solutions and provide support in turning those ideas into results. Center Forward brings together Members of Congress, their staffs, not-for-profits, academic experts, trade associations, corporations, and unions to find common ground.

Center Forward is the sole organizer of the trip. Center Forward is planning the conference and is responsible for the organization and execution of the event logistics as well as the programming content. Discussion topics will include employee stock option plans, alternative asset products, retirement accounts, payment systems, monetary policy, cryptocurrencies, equity exchanges, financial news effects on investing decisions, critical financial infrastructure, credit fraud prevention, and how small businesses interact with the financial system. Conference attendees will be senior legislative staffers from House member offices and the House Financial Services Committee, and will speak with financial practitioners, business leaders, researchers, small business owners, and government officials in New York City.

15.b.2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip:

New York City, New York was selected as the location for the conference to give attendees an on the ground experience of America's financial center. New York City is the epicenter of America's capital markets and is home to firms that are part of the creative disruption to the way the U.S. banks, pays for goods, and interacts with financial institutions broadly. New York City is home to the largest stock exchange in the world, the New York Stock Exchange; the headquarters of multiple investment, commercial, and retail banks; and the New York Federal Reserve Bank, whose president is a permanent voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee. Throughout the conference, attendees will see the inner workings of America's financial system and learn about how this impacts consumers and the constituents of their district.

16) Reasons for Selecting:

The InterContinental New York was chosen due to its central location in Manhattan and proximity to many site visits. Additionally, the hotel offers rooms for conference programming and a complimentary breakfast option for participants at a competitive rate. Although the nightly rate is slightly above the GSA per diem rate for New York City in April, it is more affordable than other hotels with comparable accommodations.



Center Forward Financial Services Innovation Conference  
InterContinental New York  
New York, New York — Tuesday, April 22 - Friday, April 25, 2025  
Conference Agenda

Center Forward Contact Information

Riley Kilburg | 563-542-6821 | [riley@center-forward.org](mailto:riley@center-forward.org)  
Bennett Sproat | 630-309-4830 | [bennett@center-forward.org](mailto:bennett@center-forward.org)  
Eddie Huck | 317-979-1185 | [eddie@center-forward.org](mailto:eddie@center-forward.org)  
Ciara Nolan | (248) 212-4173 | [cjara@center-forward.org](mailto:cjara@center-forward.org)

**Tuesday, April 22, 2025**

***\*\*Business Casual suggested. Government ID required.***

**9:30 am ET** Staff departs Union Station | 701 First St NE, Washington, DC 20002  
Amtrak Acela Train #2162 | 2 h 56 min train time

**12:24 pm - 12:35 pm** Staff arrives at Penn Station

Penn Station | 350 W 33rd St, New York, NY 10001

*After arriving, staff drop off their luggage on the shuttle and Center Forward staff will deliver the luggage to the hotel. Congressional staff and Center Forward staff will depart for the site visit walking.*

**12:35 pm - 12:45 pm** Depart Penn Station and walk to KKR (10 min)

KKR | 30 Hudson Yards, New York, NY 10001

**12:45 pm - 1:05 pm**      Opening Remarks and Welcome

*Ken Mehlman welcomes guests to KKR and provides brief opening remarks about the firm. He then introduces the next speaker, Pete Stavros.*

Speakers include:

- Ken Mehlman, Global Head of Public Affairs, KKR

**1:05 pm - 1:50 pm**      Presentation - KKR's Employee Ownership Initiative

*Pete Stavros discusses KKR's innovative strategies to increase employee engagement and employee ownership. Mr. Stavros explains how KKR supports its portfolio companies in awarding equity worth billions of dollars to non-management employees across numerous companies. Participants also learn about how Ownership Works and Expanding ESOPs is expanding ownership to non-management employees.*

Speakers include:

- Pete Stavros, Global Co-Head of Private Equity, KKR; Founder, Ownership Works; Founder, Expanding ESOPs

**1:50 - 2:15 pm**      Q and A with Pete Stavros

*Conference participants have the opportunity to dive deeper into KKR's employee ownership expansion programs and are encouraged to engage with Mr. Stavros on the intersection of KKR's work and legislative policy.*

**2:15 pm - 3:00 pm**      Depart KKR en route to the Vanderbilt Boardroom at the InterContinental New York for a Financial Media Presentation via shuttle (45 min)

InterContinental New York | 111 E 48th St, New York, NY 10017

Invited:

- Bloomberg
- Wall Street Journal
- CNBC

**3:00 pm - 5:00 pm** Presentation and Discussion - Effects of Financial News on Investment Decisions

*Panel discusses how financial news stories are formed and their impact on the investing decisions of financial professionals. Conference participants are exposed to the importance of accurate and timely information in the work of investment professionals along with how they can promote the dissemination of this information legislatively.*

Speakers include:

- TBD

**5:00 pm** Check-in at InterContinental New York

**5:00 pm** Official programming concludes for the day.

### **DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

**Wednesday, April 23, 2025**

### **BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN**

Continental breakfast is available in The Parlour from 7:00 am - 11:00 am

**\*\*Located in the Hotel Lobby\*\***

**\*\*Business Casual attire. Government ID required.**

**8:00 am - 8:15 am** Attendees meet in the hotel lobby to depart for BlackRock

**8:15 am - 8:45 am** Depart InterContinental New York en route to BlackRock via shuttle (30 min).

BlackRock | 50 Hudson Yards, New York, NY 10001

**8:45 am - 9:15 am** Opening Remarks

*Joe Wall greets participants and provides a few opening remarks on BlackRock.*

Speakers include:

- Joe Wall, Managing Director & Head of U.S. Government Affairs and Public Policy, BlackRock

**9:15 am - 9:45 am** Presentation - Introduction to BlackRock

*Jessica Tan and Rob Crothers discuss BlackRock and its various product offerings. Participants learn about the history of the firm, how its services fit into balanced portfolios, and how its products help average Americans save for a comfortable retirement.*

Speakers include:

- Jessica Tan, Managing Director & Head of Americas for Global Product Solutions, BlackRock
- Rob Crothers, Managing Director & Head of U.S. Retirement, BlackRock

**9:45 am - 10:15 am** Presentation - Digital Assets

*Samara Cohen explains the emerging digital assets financial sector and BlackRock's role in this innovative field. Participants learn how BlackRock is utilizing its financial expertise to offer unique financial solutions for the growing digital asset class.*

Speakers include:

- Samara Cohen, Senior Managing Director & Chief Investment Officer of ETF and Index Investments, BlackRock

**10:15 am - 10:45 am** Presentation - Private Markets: Infrastructure, Energy, and AI

*Salim Samaha describes the role infrastructure, energy, and AI investments play in a balanced portfolio. The discussion focuses on the unique challenges in these investment classes and how BlackRock is adapting to meet these challenges.*

Speakers include:

- Salim Samaha, Partner & GIP's Global Head of Energy, BlackRock

**10:45 am - 11:00 am** Closing Remarks and Q&A

*John Kelly closes with final thoughts and reiterates key points. The floor is then opened for questions participants may have for Mr. Kelly.*

Speakers include:

- John Kelly, Senior Managing Director & Global Head of Corporate Affairs, BlackRock

**11:00 am - 11:45 am** Depart BlackRock en route to New York Federal Reserve Bank via shuttle (45 min).

In transit, a member of the Center Forward team briefs conference participants with a detailed overview of the Federal Reserve System and the role of the 12 regional Federal Reserve Banks. This briefing explores the origins of the Federal Reserve System, the dual mandate that drives the Federal Reserve, and how the regional Federal Reserve Banks work to execute the Federal Reserve's mission.

*Boxed lunch is provided during the ride.*

New York Federal Reserve Bank | 33 Liberty St, New York, NY  
10045

**11:45 pm - 1:00 pm** Tour of New York Federal Reserve Bank

*Participants tour the New York Federal Reserve Bank's facilities that enable it to execute its objectives. Additionally, the tour highlights the history of the New York Federal Reserve Bank and its unique capacities.*

Speakers include:

- Stanley Hardy, Director Government Industry Relations, New York Federal Reserve Bank

**1:00 pm - 2:00 pm** Presentation and Discussion - Monetary Policy in the 21st Century and the New York Federal Reserve Bank's Mission

*Conference participants partake in a panel discussion about the New York Federal Reserve's role in monetary policy, financial stability, and regional economic growth promotion. The panel focuses on how monetary policy can be adapted for the economic challenges of the 21st century and how the New York Federal Reserve can facilitate solutions to these challenges.*

Speakers include:

- Jonathan McCarthy, Economic Research Advisor, New York Federal Reserve Bank
- Matthew Higgins, Economic Research Advisor, New York Federal Reserve Bank

**2:00 pm - 2:15 pm**

Depart Federal Reserve Bank of New York en route to Citibank via shuttle (15 min)

Citibank | 388 Greenwich St, New York, NY 10013

**2:15 pm - 3:00 pm**

Tour of Citibank's Fraud Fusion Center

*Liseli Pennings leads participants in a tour of Citibank's Fraud Fusion Center and explains how Citibank's state of the art technology helps protect its payment systems by staying one step ahead of potential fraudsters.*

Speakers include:

- Liseli Pennings, Information Security Senior Group Manager, Citibank

**3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Presentation and Discussion - Credit Card Payment Systems and Policy Impacts

*Conference participants are educated on the changing nature of U.S. payment systems and how Citibank is offering solutions to 21st century problems. Michael Steinbach and Pam Habner, leading the presentation, discuss how policy choices can impact fraud detection and disrupt, for better or worse, retail lending.*

Speakers include:

- Michael Steinbach, Head of Financial Crimes and Global Fraud Prevention, Citibank
- Pam Habner, Head of US Branded Cards and Lending, Citibank

**4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

Depart Citibank en route to InterContinental New York via shuttle (1 hr)

InterContinental New York | 111 E 48th St, New York, NY 10017

- 5:00 pm - 6:40 pm** Break
- 6:40 pm - 7:00 pm** Depart InterContinental New York and walk to Estiatorio Milos (20 min)
- Estiatorio Milos | 125 W 55th St, New York, NY 10019
- 7:00 pm - 9:15 pm** Dinner - The Role of Allocators in Managed Funds
- The panel discusses the vital role allocators like pensions, foundations, and endowments play in the managed funds industry. Ron Alquist gives first hand experience on the benefits of managed investment returns from the view of beneficiaries and why alternative investments are a strategic part of their portfolios.*
- Speakers include:
- Ron Alquist, MFA Managing Director, Research
- 9:15 pm - 9:35 pm** Depart Estiatorio Milos and walk to InterContinental New York (20 min)
- InterContinental New York | 111 E 48th St, New York, NY 10017

<b>Thursday, April 24th, 2025</b>
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**BREAKFAST ON YOUR OWN**

Continental breakfast is available in The Parlour from 7:00 am - 11:00 am  
**\*\*Located in the Hotel Lobby\*\***

***\*\*Business Casual attire. Please bring a government ID.***

- 9:20 am - 9:30 am** Attendees meet in the hotel lobby for Roundtable Discussion.
- All conference participants meet in the lobby and then walk to the Vanderbilt Boardroom in the hotel.*

**9:30 am - 10:00 am** Roundtable Discussion

*Participants are separated into groups to discuss the current programming. These small groups, led by Center Forward staff, foster discussions on the information participants have learned and how they plan to implement it legislatively in their jobs in Congress. Participants are encouraged to give honest feedback on how this trip and the information provided has impacted their outlook on financial services policy.*

**10:00 am - 10:30 am** Depart the InterContinental New York en route to Mastercard via shuttle (30 min)

Mastercard | 150 5th Ave, New York, NY 10011

**10:30 am - 12:15 pm** Presentation and Discussion - Credit Card Payment Systems and Policy Impacts

*Bunita Sawhney educates participants on how payment systems work. She explains to the participants the lifecycle of a payment and how Mastercard fits into this payment journey. Additionally, Mastercard discusses how it is adapting its payment systems for the digital age and how these changes will affect consumers.*

Speakers include:

- Bunita Sawhney, Chief Product Officer, Mastercard

**12:15 pm - 12:45 pm** Lunch Meet and Greet

*Over lunch, conference participants join the Mastercard team for informal, forward-looking conversations on Mastercard's future. Conference participants have the opportunity to dive deeper by building upon the previous discussion to form a more holistic picture of how the U.S. pays for its goods.*

**12:45 pm - 1:15 pm** Depart Mastercard for Elan Flowers (30 min)

Elan Flowers | 1 Worth St, New York, NY 10013

- 1:15 pm - 2:45 pm** Roundtable Discussion - Small Business and the Financial System
- Patrick Hall describes how his small business went from a dream to a reality, showcasing how the financial system fits into Elan Flowers' story. Mr. Hall, additionally, provides a critical view of how financial institutions interact with small businesses. Participants experience firsthand how the financial system can help small businesses thrive and what policies are needed to better support them.*
- Speakers include:
- Patrick Hall, Owner, Elan Flowers
- 2:45 pm - 3:15 pm** Depart Elan Flowers for the New York Stock Exchange (30 min)
- New York Stock Exchange | 11 Wall St, New York, NY 10005
- 3:15 pm - 3:30 pm** Arrive and Check-in at the New York Stock Exchange
- After arriving and checking in, conference participants begin a tour of the New York Stock Exchange.*
- 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm** Tour of the New York Stock Exchange
- Participants are given a tour of the New York Stock Exchange. The tour discusses the history of the stock exchange, while getting an on the ground view of how exchanges operate. The tour includes a view of the trading floor and the trading floor bell.*
- 4:45 pm - 5:00 pm** Presentation and Discussion - Innovation and Time Compression at Stock Exchanges
- Courtenay Dunn describes how technological innovations are changing the nature and frequency of trading, along with how the New York Stock Exchange is adapting to this new reality. The discussion also compares the role of the New York Stock Exchange's in capital markets with that of other stock exchanges.*
- Speakers Include:
- Courtenay Dunn, Senior Director of Government Affairs, Intercontinental Exchange
- 5:00 pm - 5:35 pm** Depart the New York Stock Exchange en route to InterContinental New York via shuttle (35 min)
- InterContinental New York | 111 E 48th St, New York, NY 10017

- 5:35 pm - 6:50 pm** Break
- 6:50 pm - 7:00 pm** Depart InterContinental New York and walk to The Smith (10 min)  
The Smith | 956 2nd Ave, New York, NY 10022
- 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm** The Smith - Center Forward Financial Services Recap  
*Riley Kilburg recaps the conference by providing a synopsis of the programming. The conversation also explores the insights and perspectives on fostering bipartisan solutions in financial services.*  
Speakers include:  
- Riley Kilburg, Executive Director, Center Forward
- 9:00 pm - 9:10 pm** Depart The Smith and walk to InterContinental New York (10 min)  
InterContinental New York | 111 E 48th St, New York, NY 10017

**Friday, April 25th, 2025**

- 8:00 am - 8:30 am** Staff depart InterContinental New York en route to Penn Station via shuttle (30 min)  
Penn Station | 350 W 33rd St, New York, NY 10001
- 9:00 am** Staff depart Penn Station  
Amtrak Acela Train #2151 | 2 h 58 min train time
- 11:58 am** Staff arrives at Union Station