

Tuesday December 10

Modernizing Campaign Finance Law

3:30-4:45pm



John Bjornson, North Dakota Legislature

John Bjornson is the director of the North Dakota Legislative Council. Before he was appointed as Director in 2018, Bjornson served as legal counsel, assistant code revisor, code revisor and legal division director during his over 30-year career with the Legislative Council. As an attorney with the Legislative Council, Bjornson focused on state and local government law, election law and legislative redistricting. He has served on the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Executive Committee and Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee (LSCC) and as an officer for the NCSL Legislative Effectiveness Committee and Elections and Redistricting Committee. As a member of the NCSL Executive Committee, he co-chaired a working group to review NCSL committee structure and policy development. Bjornson received a B.A. in political science with a minor in history from the University of North Dakota and a J.D. from the University of North Dakota School of Law in 1988.



Catie Kelley, Campaign Legal Center

Catie Kelley is the Campaign Legal Center's Senior Director of Policy & Strategic Partnerships. Recognizing that the federal government continuously fails to act on issues of campaign finance, government ethics and voting rights, CLC is building a program under Kelley's leadership to help state and local partners develop and implement effective policies. Kelley works with stakeholders at the state and municipal levels, as well as with CLC's legal staff, to assess reform options and determine what policy and approach would be the best fit for their communities. Kelley worked as a staff attorney at the FEC from 2010 to 2014. She previously worked at CLC as a policy analyst from 2005 to 2007 before leaving to attend law school. Catie is a graduate of the Washington College of Law and Bates College and is admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia and the State of Maryland.



Bradley Smith, Institute for Free Speech

Brad Smith is one of the nation's foremost experts on campaign finance law. He served as a Commissioner on the Federal Election Commission until 2005 and was elected as Vice Chairman of the Commission in 2003 and Chairman of the Commission in 2004. Smith has authored over 40 articles on campaign finance reform, appearing in academic publications, such as the *Yale Law Journal* and *Georgetown Law Journal*, and popular publications. He has won numerous awards for his scholarship and teaching and is a past member of the Advisory Committee to the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Election Law. He currently serves on the Editorial Board of the *Election Law Journal* and the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*. Smith is a cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School and Kalamazoo College and holds an honorary doctorate from Augustana College. Smith now serves as the Josiah H. Blackmore II/Shirley M. Nault Designated Professor of Law at Capital University Law School.