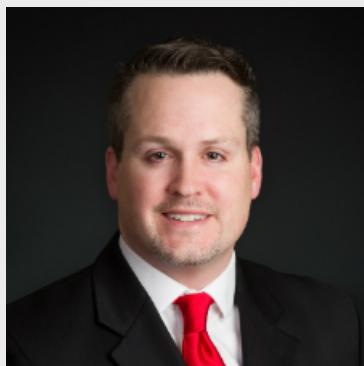




Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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Message from the Director

The year 2020 was a year of significant growth for the Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership. We began the year hosting in-person events at UW-Whitewater, UW-Green Bay, and UW-Milwaukee. Pandemic restrictions, however, required that we quickly transition subsequent UW-Stevens Point and UW-Madison conferences to webinars as we concluded the spring semester. Nevertheless, attendance held strong as webinars increased accessibility for those residing in every corner of the state. It was also heartening to see the growth in Thompson Center programming, which now includes Research Affiliate and Honorary Fellow programs, along with an annual Distinguished Public Leadership Award.

With restrictions on large gatherings still in effect this fall, we continued webinar delivery of events. In the process, we shifted our focus from last year’s topics (independence for individuals with disabilities, renewable energy, and democracy) to biomedical technology, antitrust & big tech, privacy & cybersecurity, insuring against low risk-high cost events such as pandemics, and free speech. The Center hosted thought leaders from across the country and as far away as Denmark. In keeping with our mission, we partnered with almost every UW System campus in 2020.

We recently fielded another survey of UW-Madison undergraduates - this time about their views on free speech and religious liberties. The responses revealed substantial opposition to established free speech principles and religious liberties. Nearly 40% of students believed the government should restrict the speech of climate change deniers; 63% believed government should punish hate speech; 65% believe that public institutions

should be allowed to revoke invitations to speakers when others might respond negatively to that speech; and 53% believed that employers' religious beliefs should give way when it comes to providing goods or services that violate their religious beliefs. These results show that many students find it difficult to distinguish between, on the one hand, the moral concerns of speech or activities that are contested or even detestable and on the other, the long run value derived from free speech and religious liberty. The results are troublesome for an institution like UW-Madison, which must cultivate an unfettered marketplace of ideas and instantiate and inculcate those values among its students. Where we go from here is an open question, but one thing is clear: we need to do a better job explaining the values of free speech and religious liberties. Read the full survey [here](#).

As we look forward to what the new year may bring, the Thompson Center encourages each of you to join us for an event in 2021 as we explore ways to move Wisconsin Forward!

Yours very truly,

Ryan J. Owens, J.D., Ph.D.
George C. and Carmella P. Edwards Professor of American Politics
Director, Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership



DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LEADERSHIP AWARD

Nominations

The Thompson Center is soliciting nominations for its annual Distinguished Public Leadership Award.

The nomination period runs from September through February 1, 2021.

The objective is to recognize Wisconsinites who have committed themselves to public service, worked tirelessly to advance sound public policy, and exhibited virtuous leadership.

Nominees must have exercised sound judgment and an entrepreneurial spirit, and served as exceptional role models for others in public service. Anyone may submit a nomination.

For more details on eligibility criteria and to make a nomination, please visit:

thompsoncenter.wisc.edu/distinguished-leadership-award/

Honorary Fellow Program

The Thompson Center recently announced the development of an Honorary Fellows program that will help elevate discussions on public leadership through a range of collaborations. Honorary Fellows will work with the Center to follow the legacy of Governor Thompson by bringing great minds together to tackle some of Wisconsin's biggest challenges. Our first Honorary Fellows will be former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Paul Ryan, and former U.S. Solicitor General, Paul Clement.



Paul Ryan is a native of Janesville who served as Representative for Wisconsin's 1st Congressional District for two decades. He served in a variety of leadership roles including as Chair of the Committee on Ways & Means, Chair of the House Committee on the Budget, and ultimately as the 54th Speaker of the House of Representatives. In 2012, Speaker Ryan was selected as the Republican nominee for Vice President of the United States.



Paul Clement is a native of Cedarburg who began his legal career as a law clerk to Judge Laurence Silberman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and later Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court. He worked in private practice before reentering public service with the U.S. Department of Justice, where he became the 43rd U.S. Solicitor General, arguing over 100 cases before the Supreme Court. He is currently a partner with Kirkland & Ellis and Distinguished Lecturer in Law at Georgetown University Law Center.

The Thompson Center looks forward to collaborating with former Speaker Ryan and former Solicitor General Clement in the year ahead.

New Student Journal of Public Affairs

The Wisconsin Journal of Public Affairs is a new journal for undergraduate students interested in all forms of public policy and law. The journal acts as a forum for students to collaborate and publish commentary, memorandums, and classwork, providing students an opportunity to bring their work to a wider audience and strengthen their professional outcomes. Ultimately, it strives to be a vehicle for students to come together—placing the value of law and policy over politics—in publishing works of a wide ideological variety that will in turn empower students to think creatively as a new generation of American political thinkers. To learn more, visit siftingwinnowing.com.

Fall 2021 Conferences

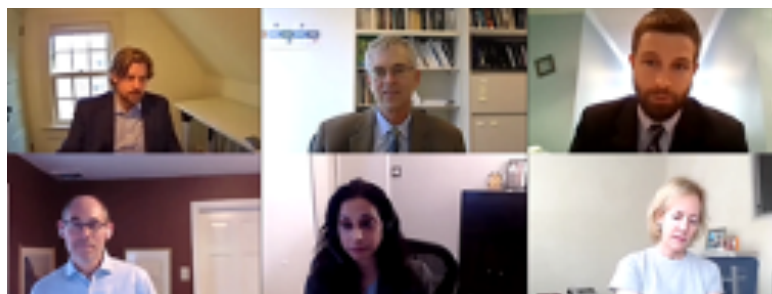
Antitrust & Big Tech



The Thompson Center held a debate on October 30th between Professor Timothy Wu of Columbia University Law School and Professor Daniel Crane of University of Michigan Law School on Antitrust and Big Tech, moderated by Fox News Chief Legal Correspondent Shannon Bream. Professor Wu argued the New Brandeis School of Antitrust perspective while Professor Crane defended the Consumer Welfare perspective. The former raises concerns that the growing concentration of market power in Big Tech threatens the free market and democratic values that more active antitrust policy is intended to counter. Meanwhile, the latter argues the size of Big Tech is not a problem warranting antitrust enforcement if the technology market is competitive and provides sufficient consumer choice. The webinar was held in partnership with the UW Law School and UW-Madison Jean Monnet Grants.

[Watch the recording here.](#)

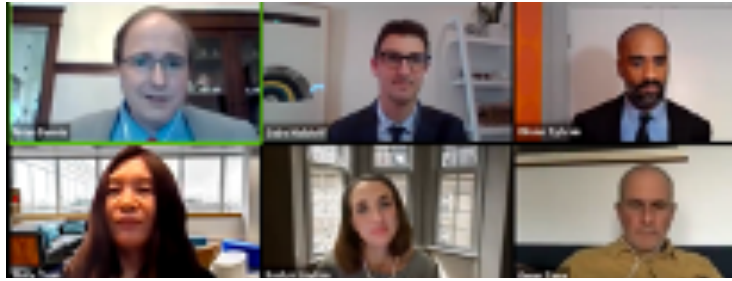
Perspectives on Insuring Against Low Risk, High Cost Events (e.g. Pandemics)



On November 6th, the Thompson Center convened a conference on the challenges and possibilities of insuring low risk, high cost events moderated by UW-Madison School of Business Associate Professor of Risk & Insurance Ty Leverty. Economist Shanthi Ramnath of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago provided an overview of business interruption insurance and how it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attorneys Linda Kornfeld and Arthur Park provided legal perspectives on the contentious debate surrounding whether business interruption insurance covers, and was intended to cover, losses to businesses caused by a pandemic, including debates surrounding the Reasonable Expectations of the Insured Doctrine. University of Pennsylvania Law Professor Tom Baker shared how state and federal courts are ruling on the 1400+ business interruption lawsuits filed since the pandemic began. The Rand Corporation's Lloyd Dixon then provided an overview of key issues insurers and policymakers would need to consider in designing a sustainable pandemic insurance program for the future. The webinar was held in partnership with the UW-Green Bay Austin E. Cofrin School of Business, the UW-Milwaukee Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business, the UW Law School, and the UW-Madison School of Business Department of Risk & Insurance. [Watch the recording here.](#)

To Whom Should Wisconsinites Look to Advance Digital Privacy & Security?



The Thompson Center held a conference exploring state, interstate, federal and international legal frameworks that are advancing digital privacy and security reforms. Director Brian Dennis of the UW-Whitewater Cybersecurity Center for Business moderated the discussion. Forbes senior contributor Roslyn Layton, International Association of Privacy Professionals chief knowledge officer Omer Tene, Attorney Gabe Maldoff, Fordham University Law Professor Olivier Sylvain, and Professor Holly Yuan of the UW-Stout Cybersecurity Research & Outreach Center explained how the norms and legal frameworks in different jurisdictions are impacting the evolution of security and privacy laws, across individual states, the Uniform Law Commission, U.S., European Union, China, Canada, and India. The webinar was held in partnership with UW-Whitewater, UW-Stout, and the UW-Madison Jean Monnet Grants.

[Watch the recording here.](#)

Presidential DebateWatch2020



The Thompson Center partnered with the UW-Madison Elections Research Center, Department of Political Science, Morgridge Center for Public Service, and Commission on Presidential Debates to bring together faculty and students immediately following the Presidential Debates for a post-debate discussion. The Thompson Center wishes to thank Professors Barry Burden, Katherine Cramer, Michael Wagner, David Canon and Ryan Owens, along with the hundreds of students who participated, for helping make DebateWatch2020 a success.

Fall 2020 Campus Speakers

Michael Chertoff, Former Homeland Security Secretary & Cybersecurity Expert
UW-Whitewater and UW-Stout on September 18th

John Barry, Expert on the 1918 Pandemic and Author
UW-Superior on September 22nd

Wisconsin BioHealth Summit 2020
UW-Madison Institute for Clinical & Translational Research & BioForward on September 23rd

Eric Liu, Former White House Speechwriter
UW-Superior on October 13th

Howard Kunreuther, *The Ostrich Paradox* Coauthor and UPenn Professor
Schools of Business at UW-Madison, UW-Green Bay, and UW-Milwaukee on October 16th

Forward in Energy Forum: Energy & the Election
Policy Expert Scott Coenen and Professors Morgan Edwards, Steph Tai, and Greg Nemet
Wisconsin Energy Institute at UW-Madison on October 20th

Election 2020: The Interregnum
UW-Madison Elections Research Center and Keep Our Republic on October 21st

John Bolton, Former National Security Advisor & Former Ambassador to the United Nations
Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy & Service on October 21st

Cybersecurity Symposium
UW-Stout on October 23rd

Kay Coles James, Former U.S. OPM Director & Heritage Foundation President
UW-Milwaukee on December 2nd

Christine Todd Whitman, Former Governor
UW-La Crosse on December 10th

To watch a recorded Thompson Center webinar, please visit:
thompsoncenter.wisc.edu/speakers-and-presentations/

Fall 2020 Podcasts



Dennis Dresang, Author & Professor Emeritus of UW-Madison

Shannon Jankowski, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press Legal Fellow &
Diego Zambrano, Stanford University Assistant Professor of Law

Jim Palmer, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Professional Police Association

Wilfred Reilly, Assistant Professor of Kentucky State University

Christine Rosen, Senior Editor of *The New Atlantis*

Mondira Saha-Muldowney, UW-Madison Institute for Clinical & Translational Research
Manager

David Stark, President of Stark Company Realtors &
David Clark, Marquette University Professor

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thompsoncenter.wisc.edu/podcasting/

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