

EDWARD M. KENNEDY INSTITUTE

FOR THE UNITED STATES SENATE

25 Years of the Good Friday Agreement
September 26, 2023

Speakers

James T. Brett has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of The New England Council, the nation's oldest regional business association, since 1996. Under Mr. Brett's leadership, The New England Council has become the region's premier business advocacy and networking association. During his tenure, revenues have grown significantly, membership has increased tenfold, and the organization has expanded its programming to offer upwards of 60 events annually throughout the six New England states and in Washington, DC. The Council is widely respected by business leaders and policymakers alike for its non-partisan, consensus-based approach to policy advocacy. As a result, in recent years, Mr. Brett has led the Council's successful and impactful federal advocacy on a wide range of critical economic issues, including energy, financial services, healthcare, education and workforce development, technology, transportation, trade, and more. Prior to joining the Council, Mr. Brett served for 15 years as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Mr. Brett is also a dedicated advocate for people with disabilities, and currently Chairs the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, the Massachusetts Governor's Commission on Intellectual Disability, and the Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission. He holds degrees from American University, Suffolk University and Harvard University, and is a lifelong resident of Dorchester, MA.

Lord Jonathan Caine was appointed as a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office on 5 November 2021. On 24 November 2022, he was appointed as a Lord in Waiting. Lord Caine has been a Conservative member of the House of Lords since 2016 and is a former special adviser to six Secretaries of State for Northern Ireland.

David Brooks is a Democratic Unionist Party MLA representing the East Belfast constituency at the Northern Ireland Assembly. He was elected to Stormont at the most recent elections in May 2022, having previously served as a Councillor on Belfast City Council. A graduate of Queens University Belfast, David was previously a parliamentary aide to then MEP Diane Dodds in the European Parliament, Brussels, and a public affairs officer with the General Medical Council. He is a 2013 alumnus of the Washington Ireland Program, and during his time on the program had the opportunity to intern in the office of the late US Senator John McCain. In addition to his other responsibilities David is also the DUP lead on relations with the United States.

Sharon Cunningham is CEO and co-founder of pharmaceutical company Shorla Oncology. Shorla develops and commercializes innovative oncology products for women's and children's cancers, populations for which existing treatment options are often limited. A chartered accountant by profession, Cunningham graduated with a Bachelor of Science in finance from University College Cork, Ireland, and trained with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in Ireland. Cunningham spent seven years at EirGen Pharma in Waterford, Ireland, then undertook a two-year Executive Master of Business program at University College Dublin Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, graduating in 2015. She is currently a member at Irish Rule of Law International, a joint initiative of the Law Society of Ireland, the Bar of Ireland, and the Law Society of Northern Ireland, and the bar of Northern Ireland, dedicated to harnessing the skills of Irish lawyers to tackle global injustice and empower all people. She is a board member of the Healthcare Business Network at the Young President's Organization, and is on the advisory board of LSX's Female Founders, a networking, dialogue, and community for women in health and life sciences. Cunningham has also received many awards, including Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur 2019 and Association of MBA's Best Entrepreneurial Venture Award 2020.

Colum Eastwood is the Social Democratic & Labour Party MP for Foyle and has been an MP since December 2019. A Derry City Councillor from 2005 until 2011, he was elected Leader of the SDLP in November 2015. He has been a passionate advocate for investment, infrastructure and jobs for communities which have been deprived of prosperity as part of a wider economic package rebalancing Northern Ireland. In 2010 and at the age of 27 Colum was appointed Derry's youngest ever Mayor. Leading Derry's hugely successful and prestigious year as City of Culture, he proved himself to be an energetic and articulate leader for the city and all its people. A strong believer in social justice and human rights, Colum has been a long standing supporter of the Bloody Sunday families in their campaign for truth and justice. Colum was Derry's Mayor during the publication of the historic Saville Report which exonerated the Bloody Sunday victims of any wrong doing and led the city during a period of immense reconciliation.

John Finucane, Sinn Féin, is the current MP for north Belfast. Emblematic of a changing Belfast, John is the first nationalist to win the Westminster in what was a traditional Unionist seat. John was elected on a platform of representing all. He was born and grew up in Belfast, and is the son of Patrick and Geraldine Finucane. In 1989, his father, a human rights lawyer, was killed in front of the family. John and his family spent the following decades campaigning for truth and justice around the circumstances of his father's murder. This has gained significant bi-partisan US support and has uncovered shocking levels of collusion between the British government and loyalist gangs. John is a qualified lawyer, former councillor and Mayor of Belfast. In a long career in Gaelic Football, John won club and county honors.

Adam Hinds is CEO of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the U.S. Senate. Adam has twenty-five years of experience working in US politics, government, and foreign affairs. Before joining the Institute, he spent six years as a Massachusetts State Senator where he Chaired the Committee on Revenue and led the Senate's effort to rebuild the Commonwealth post-COVID. In 2021-2022 he was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts. From 2005 to 2014 Adam worked for the United Nations in the Middle East. He was based in Baghdad, Iraq where he was a team leader of a UN-led negotiation between the Kurdistan Region and the Government of Iraq over disputed territory. He was a regional advisor to the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process in Jerusalem. He worked for former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to establish a ceasefire in Syria in 2012 and then was part of a team to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons program. Early in his career, Adam worked for former Congressman John Olver and was part of John Kerry's campaign for President where he worked for Susan Rice, the head of his foreign policy team who later became the US National Security Advisor. Adam attended Wesleyan University and received a Master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Adam is married to Dr. Alicia Mireles Christoff, Associate Professor of English at Amherst College, and they have two young children.

Joseph Kennedy III currently serves as the Special Envoy to Northern Ireland for Economic Affairs. Over four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Kennedy built an impressive legislative record around economic policy, health care, and civil rights. Representing a district that spanned from the suburbs of Boston to the proud post-industrial communities along Massachusetts' South Coast, Mr. Kennedy sat on the House Energy & Commerce committee and spearheaded bipartisan efforts to extend mental health coverage, support the domestic manufacturing industry, protect consumer voices online, make hearing aids more affordable, and defend access to legal assistance for struggling families.

Today, Mr. Kennedy also serves as Managing Director at Citizens Energy, a non-profit energy company founded to help low-income families meet their basic energy needs. Through innovative programming, Citizens has donated hundreds of millions of dollars to benefit millions of families across the United States. He is the founder of Groundwork Project, an advocacy organization dedicated to supporting local community organizing efforts in under-resourced and historically disenfranchised communities. He also serves on the boards of the Woodwell Climate Research Center, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, and the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate. He is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School and spent two years in the United States Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. He is married to Lauren Birchfield Kennedy and they have two young children, Eleanor and James, and a rescue dog, Banjo.

Dr. Robert Ladner is the Founder and CEO of CV6 Therapeutics, a drug development company dedicated to developing novel treatments to improve the lives of patients with cancer and

inflammatory conditions. He was awarded his MSc and PhD from Rutgers University/The University of Medicine and Dentistry New Jersey. It was during this time that Dr. Ladner identified and characterized the sequence of human dUTPase and the mechanisms of resistance to a class of chemotherapies. In 2004, Dr. Ladner was subsequently recruited to the post of Assistant-Professor at the University of Southern California Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center where he initiated a collaborative drug development strategy to develop novel chemotherapeutics targeting uracil-DNA repair and to develop new synthetic lethal strategies that exploit the uracil-DNA misincorporation pathway during treatment with TS inhibitors. Robert was appointed to the post of Reader in the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences at Queen's University Belfast in 2015.

Charles Landow is a Senior Research Associate and Manager at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School. He previously served as chief of staff for former Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin. Landow earlier held several roles at the Council on Foreign Relations, including in the president's office and in the education and studies programs. In 2013, he served as research director for the chair and vice chair of multi-party political negotiations in Northern Ireland. Landow earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Columbia University. His writings on international affairs and philanthropy have appeared in such outlets as the International Herald Tribune, the Wall Street Journal, CNN.com, ForeignPolicy.com, and CFR.org. He is an editor of *Pathways to Freedom: Political and Economic Lessons From Democratic Transitions* (2013). A native of Omaha, Landow speaks fluent French, advanced Spanish, and basic German and Italian.

Senator George Mitchell served as a Special Advisor to President William J. Clinton on Ireland in 1995, and from 1996 to 2000 as the Independent Chairman of the Northern Ireland Peace Talks. Under his leadership, the Good Friday Agreement, a historic accord ending decades of conflict, was agreed to by the governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom and the political parties of Northern Ireland. For his service in Northern Ireland, Senator Mitchell received numerous awards and honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor given by the US government; the Philadelphia Liberty Medal; the Truman Institute Peace Prize; and the United Nations (UNESCO) Peace Prize. He served as US Special Envoy for Middle East Peace from January 2009 to May 2011.

Mitchell was appointed to the United States Senate in 1980 (D-ME) and was elected to a full term in 1982 in a stunning come-from-behind victory. Senator Mitchell went on to an illustrious career in the Senate spanning 15 years. He left the Senate in 1995 as the Senate majority leader, a position he had held since January 1989. Senator Mitchell enjoyed bipartisan respect during his tenure. Senator Mitchell received an undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College and a law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center. He served in Berlin, Germany, as an officer in the US Army Counter-Intelligence Corps from 1954 to 1956. From 1960 to 1962 he was a trial

lawyer in the Justice Department in Washington, DC. In 2000 and 2001, at the request of President Clinton, Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and Chairman Yasser Arafat, Senator Mitchell served as Chairman of an International Fact-Finding Committee on violence in the Middle East. The Committee's recommendation, widely known as The Mitchell Report, was endorsed by the Bush Administration, the European Union and by many other governments. In 2006 and 2007, he led the investigation into the use of performance-enhancing drugs in Major League Baseball. He also served as Chairman of the Special Commission Investigating Allegations of Impropriety in the Bidding Process for the Olympic Games and was the Independent Overseer of the American Red Cross Liberty Fund, which provided relief for September 11 attack victims and their families. Senator Mitchell served as Chairman of the global board of the law firm DLA Piper; Chairman of the board of directors of The Walt Disney Company; a member of the board of the Boston Red Sox; and a director of several companies, including Federal Express, Xerox, Staples, Unilever and Starwood Hotels and Resorts. He also served for ten years as the Chancellor of Queen's University of Northern Ireland; as President of the Economic Club of Washington; and as Chairman of the International Crisis Group.

Andrew Muir is Alliance Party Chief Whip and MLA for North Down. He is leading party efforts for Restoration and Reform of Assembly & Executive including talks with Head of Civil Service and other parties. He previously served on Northern Ireland Assembly Public Accounts and Infrastructure Committees in the last mandate. Aged 47, Andrew was 21 at time of signing of the Good Friday Agreement and campaigned as part of the Yes Campaign whilst at University in Derry~Londonderry where he graduated with a degree in Peace and Conflict Studies at Ulster University in 1999. Andrew was present at Tip O'Neill Memorial Lecture when delivered by Senator Edward Kennedy at The Guildhall in Derry~Londonderry on 9 January 1998.

Prior to joining the Northern Ireland Assembly in late 2019 Andrew served for nearly a decade as Councillor including a term as Mayor of North Down 2013/14 and Group Leader of the local Alliance Party Council group. Andrew is one of three openly gay MLAs and was the first openly gay Mayor in Northern Ireland when elected in June 2013. Before becoming a MLA Andrew worked for Northern Ireland's Public Transport provider Translink as a Senior Project Manager overseeing roll out of multi-million pound Future Ticketing System Project. A keen runner, Andrew has completed ten Marathons with a Personal Best of 3:07. He founded both Bangor and Crawfordsburn free weekly 5k parkruns and serves as Vice President of North Down Athletic Club.

Representative Richard Neal (MA-1) was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, and raised and educated in the City of Springfield, where many immigrants who hailed from Kerry settled upon their arrival in the US. Congressman Neal was first elected to the US House of Representatives in 1988, and over the course of his political career ascended to the Chairmanship of the House Ways and Means Committee. During his time as Chairman, he has been a staunch advocate for

the middle class and played a critical role in navigating the US through the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most trying times economically in recent history. He played a prominent role in the enactment of the CARES Act, legislation that has been hailed by economists as single handedly saving the American economy. He has spearheaded a number of historic legislative achievements, including the CARES Act, the American Rescue Plan, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS Act, SECURE 2.0, and the Inflation Reduction Act. He also serves as Co-Chair of the Friends of Ireland Caucus, where he has advocated for maintaining strong relations between the U.S. and Ireland. His role in bringing about the Good Friday Agreement, ultimately ending the longest period of conflict in Irish history, cannot be understated. Twenty-five years later, he continues to uphold the principles of the accord, ensuring no return to a hard border.

Mike Nesbitt is a four time Member of the Legislative Assembly of Northern Ireland, first elected in 2011. He was Party Leader between 2012 and 2017, during which time he led the Ulster Unionist negotiating team into the Haas O'Sullivan and Stormont House Talks. During that time he chaired the powerful Committee of the Executive Office, scrutinizing the work of the First Minister and deputy First Minister. In 2016, he formed the first Official Opposition since the 1970s, in partnership with the SDLP. Currently, Mike represents his party on the Policing Board of Northern Ireland and is also their Economy Spokesperson. He is currently a chair or trustee of a number of organizations, including the John & Pat Hume Foundation. Previously Mike was a broadcast journalist and news anchor, reporting Northern Ireland's Troubles and peace process, covering events in Belfast, Dublin, London and Washington DC.

Darragh O'Brien T.D. was appointed Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage of Ireland in June 2020. He is an elected TD for the constituency of Dublin-Fingal. Prior to his election to the 30th Dáil in 2007, Minister O'Brien worked mainly in Financial Services and was elected to Fingal County Council in 2004. He was elected to Seanad Éireann (Senate of Ireland) in 2011. He has held various positions within the Oireachtas (Irish Legislature) including Vice-Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, Member of the Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Equality, Defence and Law Reform, Leader of Fianna Fáil in the Seanad, Opposition Frontbench Spokesperson on Dublin, Foreign Affairs and Housing.

Steve Orr has been Chief Executive Officer of Catalyst since 2018. Previously Steve was Director and Co-founder of Connect, Catalyst's not-for-profit network of experienced entrepreneurs, business professionals and top research talent dedicated to the creation and scaling of innovation companies in NI. Steve co-founded Kineticom, Inc a California based technical talent firm in 2000. In 2006 Kineticom was ranked #33 on the Inc 500, the list of the fastest growing privately held companies in the US. Steve has also worked in San Diego and San Francisco, California for S.Com Ltd and S.Com Inc. He is a Fellow of the Irish Academy of Engineering and was awarded an OBE in 2022 for services to innovation.

Meghan L. O’Sullivan is the Jeane Kirkpatrick Professor of the Practice of International Affairs at Harvard University’s Kennedy School. She is the Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs beginning July 1, 2023. Dr. O’Sullivan’s scholarship is at the nexus of traditional disciplines, with particular expertise on how the energy transition and geopolitics intersect. O’Sullivan has served in multiple senior policymaking roles and has advised national security officials in both Republican and Democratic administrations. Dr. O’Sullivan is a member of U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken’s Foreign Policy Advisory Board. Between 2004 and 2007, she was special assistant to President George W. Bush and was Deputy National Security Advisor for Iraq and Afghanistan during the last two years of her tenure. O’Sullivan has been on public company and non-profit boards. She is a Partner at the strategic consulting firm, Macro Advisory Partners, and is the Chair of the North American Group of the Trilateral Commission.