

**-CONFERENCE PROGRAM-**  
**CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA**  
**CONSUMER ASSEMBLY 2009**

**Challenges and Opportunities in a Year of Recession and Political Change**  
**March 12 and 13, 2009**  
**Embassy Suites Convention Center Hotel**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2009**

**8:00 AM                    REGISTRATION (Pre-Function Area)**

**8:00-10:30 AM        GENERAL SESSIONS (Capital C/D)**

**8:00-9:00 AM        KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Introducer:            DeAnn Friedholm  
Director of Health Reform  
Consumers Union

Speaker:                The Honorable Henry Waxman  
United States House of Representatives

**9:00 AM                WELCOME**

Stephen Brobeck  
Executive Director  
Consumer Federation of America

**9:15 – 10:30 AM      CONSUMER ATTITUDES AND CONCERNS**

Moderator:            Katie Smith Sloan  
COO and Senior Vice President, Member Services  
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

Speakers:               Scott Keeter  
Director of Survey Research  
The Pew Research Center

Ed Farrell  
Director  
Consumer Reports National Research Center

**10:30-10:45 AM      BREAK**

**10:45AM-12:00PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**CONSUMER PROTECTION (Capital B)**

Moderator: Susan Grant  
Director of Consumer Protection  
Consumer Federation of America

Speakers: Pastor Herrera  
Director  
Los Angeles County California Department of Consumer Affairs

Mike Coston  
Investigator  
Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Eric Friedman  
Director  
Montgomery County Maryland Office of Consumer Protection

**CONSUMERS, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
(Washingtonian)**

Moderator: Olivia Wein  
Staff Attorney  
National Consumers Law Center

Speakers: Glenn English  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Laurie Johnson  
Chief Economist, Climate Center  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Mark Cooper  
Research Director  
Consumer Federation of America

**CONSUMER CONCERNS ABOUT INTERNET PRIVACY AND  
SECURITY (Capital A)**

Moderator: Linda Sherry  
Director, National Priorities  
Consumer Action

Speakers: Peder Magee  
Senior Attorney  
Federal Trade Commission

Mike Hintze  
Associate General Counsel  
Microsoft Corporation

Ed Mierzwinski  
Consumer Program Director  
U.S. PIRG

**12:15-2:00 PM LUNCHEON AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
(Capital C/D)**

Introductions: Ken McEldowney  
Executive Director, Consumer Action  
President, Consumer Federation of America

Introducer: Stephen Brobeck  
Executive Director  
Consumer Federation of America

Speaker: The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd  
United States Senate

**2:00-3:15 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**LESSENING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE (Capital A)**

Moderator: Ken McEldowney  
Executive Director, Consumer Action  
President, Consumer Federation of America

Speakers: John Horrigan  
Associate Director, Research  
Pew Research Center

Link Hoewing  
Vice President, Internet and Technology Policy  
Verizon

Gene Kimmelman  
Vice President, International Affairs  
Consumers Union

**PERSPECTIVES ON THE CONSUMER MOVEMENT  
(Capital B)**

Moderator/  
Speaker:

Robert N. Mayer  
Professor  
University of Utah

Speakers:

Teresa Schwartz  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Consumers Union

Roberta Baskin  
Investigative Journalist

**THE ROLE OF MEDICAL DEBT IN CONSUMER  
INSOLVENCIES (Washingtonian)**

Moderator:

Travis Plunkett  
Legislative Director  
Consumer Federation of America

Speakers:

Mark Rukavina  
Director  
The Access Project

Richard L. Gundling, FHFMA, CMA  
Vice President  
Healthcare Financial Management Association

Chris Wunder  
President  
The ROI Companies

**3:15-3:30 PM**

**BREAK**

**3:30-5:00 PM**

**GENERAL SESSION (Capital C/D)**

**3:30-4:00 PM            KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Introducer:            Gary Kalman  
Director, Federal Advocacy Office  
U.S. PIRG

Speaker:              The Honorable Jan Schakowsky  
United States House of Representatives

**4:00-5:00 PM            THE BLOGOSPHERE AND CONSUMERS**

Moderator:            Jack Gillis  
Public Affairs Director  
Consumer Federation of America

Speakers:             Frank Ahrens  
Business Editor/Reporter  
The Washington Post

Bill Nichols  
Managing Editor  
Politico.com

Marc Perton  
Executive Editor, Online Media  
Consumer Reports

**5:00-6:00 PM            RECEPTION (Capital A)**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2009**

**8:00-11:45 AM            REGISTRATION (Pre-Function Area)**

**9:00-11:45 AM            GENERAL SESSIONS (Capital C/D)**

**9:00-10:00 AM            HEALTH AND CONSUMER PRIORITIES FOR A NEW  
ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESS**

Moderator:            Christopher Waldrop  
Director, Food Policy Institute  
Consumer Federation of America

Speakers:             Jackie Gillan  
Vice President  
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

Caroline Smith DeWaal  
Food Safety Director  
Center for Science in the Public Interest

William Vaughan  
Health Policy Analyst  
Consumers Union

Rachel Weintraub  
Director of Product Safety  
Consumer Federation of America

**10:00 AM KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Introducer: Gene Kimmelman  
Vice President, International Affairs  
Consumers Union

Speaker: Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein  
Federal Communications Commission

**10:15-10:30 AM BREAK**

**10:30-11:45 AM CONGRESSIONAL CONSUMER PRIORITIES**

Moderator: Ellen Bloom  
Director of Federal Policy and the Washington Office  
Consumers Union

Speakers: David Strickland  
Democratic Senior Counsel  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

Leticia Mederos  
Legislative Director  
Office of Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro

Brad McConnell  
Legislative Assistant  
Office of Senator Richard Durbin

**11:45AM MEETING ADJOURNS**