

**2017  
CONSUMER  
ASSEMBLY**

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**THURSDAY, MAY 11**

- 7:30am**                    **Registration and Coffee** (*Grand Ballroom Foyer*)
- 8:30am**                    **Welcome and Introduction** (*Grand Ballroom*)
- Speaker**                    Stephen Brobeck, Executive Director  
Consumer Federation of America
- 8:45am – 9:15am**        **America’s Current Politics: The Consumer’s Perspective**
- Introduction**             Katie Smith Sloan, President and CEO  
LeadingAge, Inc.
- Speaker**                    Scott Keeter, Senior Survey Advisor  
Pew Research Center
- 9:15am-10:05am**        **Changes in Washington and What They Mean for Consumer Advocates**
- Introduction**             Larry Blanchard, Consultant  
CUNA Mutual Group
- Speakers**                    Rich Galen, Columnist & Republican Strategist  
Mullings
- Mike McCurry, Distinguished Professor of Public Theology  
Wesley Theological Seminary  
Of Counsel, Public Strategies Washington, Inc.
- 10:05am-11:15am**        **The Costs of Not Regulating**
- Moderator**                Rachel Weintraub, Legislative Director and General Counsel  
Consumer Federation of America
- Panelists**                    Lisa Heinzerling, Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., Professor of Law  
Georgetown University
- Mark Cooper, Research Director  
Consumer Federation of America
- 11:15am-11:30am**        **Break**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

- 11:30am-12:45pm**        **Safety Implications in the New Administration** (*Thomas Circle Suite*)
- Moderator**                Ami Gadhia, Assistant Director, Department of Federal Affairs  
American Academy of Pediatrics
- Panelists**                    Jackie Gillan, President  
Advocates for Highway & Auto Safety
- Michael Jacobson, Co-Founder and President  
Center for Science in the Public Interest
- Michael Carome, Director, Health Research Group  
Public Citizen

Rachel Weintraub, Legislative Director and General Counsel  
Consumer Federation of America

**11:30am-12:45pm**      **Are the Appliances and Other Products We Use Spying on Us?** (*National Ballroom: Salon A*)

**Moderator**              Susan Grant, Director of Consumer Protection and Privacy  
Consumer Federation of America

**Panelists**              Ryan McCrate, Associate General Counsel for Digital Legal  
Amazon

John Verdi, Vice President of Policy  
Future of Privacy Forum

Kathryn Montgomery, Professor, School of Communication  
American University

Josh Golin, Executive Director  
Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood

**11:30am-12:45pm**      **Protecting Consumers through Litigation** (*National Ballroom: Salon B*)

**Moderator**              Ira Rheingold, Executive Director  
National Association of Consumer Advocates

**Panelists**              Allison Zieve, Director  
Public Citizen Litigation Group

Lynn Rhinehart, General Counsel  
AFL-CIO

Philip Ziperman, Director, Office of Consumer Protection  
Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia

**12:45-1:15pm**              **Lunch** (*Grand Ballroom*)

**1:15pm – 2:00pm**        **Luncheon Keynote**

**Introduction**            Ed Mierzwinski, Consumer Program Director and Senior Fellow  
U.S. PIRG

**Speaker**                Marta Tellado, President and CEO  
Consumer Reports

## **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**2:00pm-3:15pm**        **What's New in Fraud and What's Being Done to Fight It?** (*Thomas Circle Suite*)

**Moderator**              Rebecca Bowman, Administrator  
Howard County Office of Consumer Protection

**Panelists**              Martha ("Marti") S. Phillips, Esq., CIPP/US, Director, Identity Theft Unit  
Deputy Administrator  
South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs  
Emma Fletcher, Director, Scam and Fraud Initiatives  
BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust

Kati Daffan, Acting Assistant Director, Division of Marketing Practices  
Federal Trade Commission

John Breyault, Vice President of Public Policy, Telecommunications & Fraud  
National Consumers League

**2:00pm-3:15pm**      **Consumer Campaigns to Change Corporate Practices** (*National Ballroom: Salon A*)

**Moderator**      Michael Landis, Litigation Director  
U.S. PIRG

**Panelists**      Jean Halloran, Director of Food Policy Initiatives  
Consumer Reports

Rosemary Shahan, President  
Consumers for Auto Reliability and Safety

Brandon Rees, Deputy Director, Office of Investment  
AFL-CIO

**2:00pm-3:15pm**      **The Future of Net Neutrality** (*National Ballroom: Salon B*)

**Moderator**      Bill Newton, Deputy Director  
Florida Consumer Action Network

**Panelists**      Chris Lewis, Vice President  
Public Knowledge

Olivia Wein, Staff Attorney  
National Consumer Law Center

Diane Holland, Vice President for Law & Policy  
USTelecom

**3:15pm-3:30pm**      **Break**

**3:30pm-4:45pm**      **The Road Ahead for Consumer Financial Protection** (*Grand Ballroom*)

**Moderator**      Rohit Chopra, Senior Fellow  
Consumer Federation of America

**Panelists**      Natalia Abrams, Executive Director  
Student Debt Crisis

Christine Hines, Legislative Director  
National Association of Consumer Advocates

Robert F. Norton, COL, USA (Ret.), Senior Advisor  
Veterans Education Success

**4:45pm**      **Reception** (*National Ballroom*)

**FRIDAY, MAY 12**

**7:30am**      **Registration and Coffee** (*Grand Ballroom Foyer*)

**8:00am**      **Breakfast Dialogue - Challenges to Consumer Protection in States and Strategies to Preserve these Protections** (*National Ballroom: Salon A*)

**Moderator**      Janet Domenitz, Executive Director  
MASSPIRG

**Panelists**      Marceline White, Executive Director  
Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

Cassandra Gould, Executive Director  
Missouri Faith Voices

Liana Molina, Director of Community Engagement  
California Reinvestment Coalition

Sarah Ludwig, Executive Director  
New Economy Project

**9:00am-9:30am**      **State Legislative Keynote** (*Grand Ballroom*)

**Introduction**      Marceline White, Executive Director  
Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

**Speaker**      Delegate C. William Frick  
Maryland House of Delegates

**9:30am-10:30am**      **The Prospects for a Clean, Electric Energy Future**

**Moderator**      Martin Lowery, Executive Vice President Member & Association Relations  
National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

**Panelists**      Sue Kelly, President & CEO  
American Public Power Association

Betty Watson, Senior Manager, Energy Policy  
Tesla

John Howat, Senior Energy Analyst  
National Consumer Law Center

Mark Cooper, Research Director  
Consumer Federation of America

**10:30-10:45am**      **Break**

**10:45am-12:00pm**      **The Future of Investigative Reporting**

**Moderator**      Jack Gillis, Director of Public Affairs  
Consumer Federation of America

**Panelists**      Tom Costello  
NBC News

Josh Meyer  
Politico

Jeff Leen  
Washington Post

Pema Levy  
Mother Jones

Ron Nixon  
The New York Times

**12:00pm**      **Adjournment**