



## Speaker and Panelist Biographies

**Xavier Becerra** serves as California's chief law enforcement officer and has decades of experience serving the people of California through appointed and elected office, where he has fought for working families and worked to create a safe and fair marketplace. He is a consistent champion for consumers. As Attorney General, he has ensured products are safe and well-regulated and that those who try to cheat the system or consumers are held accountable. In fact, during his three years in office, he has secured more than \$2 billion in settlements for California consumers. He has taken legal action against companies like Lenovo and Johnson & Johnson who introduced dangerous consumer products. He has fought for legislation to codify regulations that will keep Californians safer in the financial markets. And today, he's responsible for enforcing one of the cornerstone pieces of consumer legislation in the country -- the California Consumer Privacy Act. A landmark, first-in-the-nation law, the CCPA is expected to help rebalance the power between consumers and companies in the age of Big Data ([see more](#)).

**Lena Belogolova** has over a decade of experience in consumer/user behavior experimentation across industries. From Wall Street to Silicon Valley, her experience ranges from practical applications of this experimentation while a trader at Goldman Sachs to running Y-Combinator's first all-female funded startup -- Venuetastic -- to Facebook's Product Marketing and Sales teams. Lena holds an M.S. in Management, with a focus on Behavioral Economics and Marketing, from the Anderson School of Management at UCLA and a B.S. in Brain and Cognitive Sciences and B.S. in Mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Her research while at MIT was focused on the intersection of computational neuroscience and decision making ([see more](#)).

**Senator Sherrod Brown** is a champion of middle-class families in the Senate - has held more than 300 community roundtables across Ohio's 88 counties with students, local leaders and business owners, entrepreneurs and educators, workers and families to find ways to rebuild our economy. Described as "Congress' leading proponent of American manufacturing," Brown supports a national manufacturing policy that would invest in manufacturing innovation, strengthen our component supply chain, connect workers with emerging industries, and align our trade policies to promote our national interests. He is also working with Ohio's universities, entrepreneurs, and community stakeholders to use Ohio's resources to create new jobs in high-growth industries and make Ohio a national leader in clean energy manufacturing ([see more](#)).

**Senator Richard Blumenthal** is serving his second term as a United States Senator from the State of Connecticut. Senator Blumenthal served an unprecedented five terms as Connecticut's Attorney General, fighting for people against large and powerful special interests. His aggressive law enforcement for consumer protection, environmental stewardship, labor rights, and personal privacy has helped reshape the role of state attorneys general nationwide, and resulted in the recovery of hundreds of millions of dollars for Connecticut taxpayers and consumers each year. A key player in the national fight against Big Tobacco, he helped bring an end to deceptive marketing aimed at children - a victory significantly lowering youth smoking rates, and compelling a multi-billion dollar settlement for Connecticut taxpayers. He also helped lead a coalition of all 50 states that culminated in historic agreements with social networking sites to better protect children from Internet predators ([see more](#)).

**Representative Rosa DeLauro** is the Congresswoman from Connecticut's Third Congressional District, which stretches from the Long Island Sound and New Haven, to the Naugatuck Valley and Waterbury. Rosa serves in the Democratic leadership as Co-Chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, and she is the Chair of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, where she oversees our nation's investments in education, health, and employment. Rosa also serves on the subcommittee responsible for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, where she oversees food and drug safety. At the core of Rosa's work is her fight for America's working families. Rosa believes that we must raise the nation's minimum wage, give all employees access to paid sick days, allow employees to take paid family and medical leave, and ensure equal pay for equal work. Every day, Rosa fights for legislation that would give all working families an opportunity to succeed ([see more](#)).

**Dan Egan** is the Managing Director of Behavioral Finance and Investing at Betterment. He has spent his career using behavioral finance to help people make better financial and investment decisions. Dan is a published author of multiple publications related to behavioral economics. He lectures at New York University, London Business School, and the London School of Economics on the topic ([see more](#)).

**Jack Gillis** is Executive Director of the Consumer Federation of America where he previously served as Director of Public Affairs since 1983. In addition to being CFA's CEO, Gillis serves as an advocate on issues relating to auto safety, auto buying, fuel efficiency and consumer protection. In the early 1980's Jack was cited by the New York Times as a leader in the next generation of consumer advocates. He is the author, co-author or editor of 75 books including The Car Book, The Used Car Book, The Truck, Van and 4x4 Book, and The Car Repair Book, How to Make Your Car Last Almost Forever, The Social Security Book for Women (AARP); The Childwise Catalog: A Complete Guide to Buying the Safest and Best Products for Your Children, The Armchair Mechanic, How to Fly: Consumer Federation of America's Airline Survival Guide, The Bank Book (ed.), The Product Safety Book (ed.) and Money in the Bank (ed.) ([see more](#)).

**Charlie Leocha** is the President and co-founder of Travelers United. He has been working in Washington, DC, for the past ten years with Congress, the Department of Transportation and industry stakeholders on travel issues. He was the consumer representative to the Advisory Committee for Aviation Consumer Protections appointed by the Secretary of Transportation from 2012 through 2018 ([see more](#)).

**Arunesh Mathur** is a graduate student in the Department of Computer Science and the Center for Information Technology and Policy (CITP) at Princeton University. Broadly, he studies the societal impacts of technology. His research spans information privacy, human-computer interaction, machine learning, and technology policy. His recent focus has been towards understanding how companies use dark patterns to steer users into making harmful decisions. Mathur recently participated in a panel about dark patterns, discussing his research. The panel was organized by Senator Warner's office ([see more](#)).

**Kevin Mitchell** founded the Business Travel Contractors Corporation (BTCC) in 1994 with support from CIGNA and 16 other major corporations as a corporate buying group to advance fundamental reforms to the airline industry distribution system. The broad industry shift to net airfares and travel agency fee-based pricing during the 1990s are initiatives BTCC advanced. In 1996, the Business Travel Coalition (BTC) was formed as an advocacy organization to interpret industry and government policies and practices and to provide a platform so that the managed-travel community could influence issues of strategic importance to their organizations. As BTC Chairman, Mitchell writes and speaks on airline competition, travel distribution, passenger issues and aviation system security through the U.S. and has testified before the U.S. Congress and various other governmental bodies some 30 times ([see more](#)).

**Gro Mette Moen** is a project manager on digital policy at the Norwegian Consumer Council (NCC). Moen has a background in media science and from Norwegian politics. She has been the project manager for NCC's projects such as Appfail (on privacy in apps) and the 'Deceived by design' projects where the NCC showed how Google and Facebook manipulate users into sharing personal data. In their last project, launched in January 2020, the NCC focus on adtech and privacy, particularly in mobile apps ([see more](#)).

**Barbara Peterson** has worked as a journalist covering aviation, travel and consumer issues for more than twenty years. A long-time aviation correspondent for Conde Nast Traveler, she has contributed articles to The New York Times, Daily Beast, Wall Street Journal, Afar and Consumer Reports. She has authored or co-authored three books, the most recent of which is Blue Streak: Inside JetBlue, the Upstart that Rocked an Industry. She is a winner of the Lowell Thomas Award for Investigative Reporting and the Gene DuBois Award for Excellence in Travel and Aviation Reporting ([see more](#)).

**Karl Racine** was sworn in as the District of Columbia's first elected Attorney General in 2015 and was reelected to a second term in 2018. Attorney General Racine is honored to serve again and will use the next four years to expand work on priorities, including preserving affordable housing, employing evidence-based juvenile justice reforms, cracking down on slumlords, holding unscrupulous employers accountable for wage theft, and protecting consumers from scams and abusive business practices. He is also committed to making investments in new efforts to protect seniors and other vulnerable residents, interrupt violence in the District, address childhood trauma, and more ([see more](#)).