

Nonprofit Leadership Forum Measuring and Creating Excellence in Schools

Speaker Biographies

Raymond Fisman is the Lambert Family Professor of Social Enterprise and director of the Social Enterprise Program at the Columbia Business School. Professor Fisman received his PhD in Business Economics at Harvard University. He worked as a consultant in the Africa Division of the World Bank before joining Columbia Business School in 1999. His research covers a range of topics, including the impact of corporate social responsibility, the determinants of altruism and global corruption. His work has been published in leading economics journals, including the *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Political Economy*, and *Quarterly Journal of Economics* and has been covered widely in the popular press, from Maureen Dowd's column in the *New York Times* to *al Jazeera* to the *Shanghai Daily*. He also writes a monthly column for the online magazine *Slate*, where he's tackled issues including teacher evaluation in public schools, women and leadership, and the economics of civil war. Professor Fisman's first book, *Economic Gangsters: Violence, Corruption, and the Poverty of Nations* (coauthored with Edward Miguel), was published by Princeton University Press, and he is currently working on a book about the economics of office life, to be published by Twelve in 2012. He has taught nonprofit governance in an Executive Education program for leaders in the arts and teaches the Private Sector and International Development and Managerial Economics courses for EMBA and MBA students.

Joel I. Klein is chancellor of the New York City Department of Education. As chancellor, Mr. Klein oversees a system of 1,631 schools with 1.1 million students, 136,000 employees and a \$21 billion operating budget. He launched Children First in 2002, a comprehensive reform strategy that has brought coherence and capacity to the system and resulted in significant increases in student performance. In the next phase of Children First, Mr. Klein will build on this progress by cultivating teacher talent; expanding school choices so that students attend schools that best meet their individual needs; and innovating to ensure students are prepared for rigorous, real-world opportunities in the 21st century. Formerly chairman and CEO of Bertelsmann, Inc, a media company, Mr. Klein served as assistant U.S. attorney general in charge of the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice until September 2000 and was deputy White House counsel to President Clinton from 1993-1995. Mr. Klein entered the Clinton administration after 20 years of public and private legal work in Washington, D.C. He attended New York City's public schools and graduated from William Cullen Bryant High School. He received his BA from Columbia University where he graduated magna cum laude/Phi Beta Kappa in 1967 and earned his JD from Harvard Law School in 1971, again graduating magna cum laude.

Caroline Hoxby is the Scott and Donya Bommer Professor of Economics at Stanford University, a senior fellow of the Hoover Institution, the director of the Economics of Education Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and a presidential appointee to the National Board of Education Sciences. She is a public and labor economist and a leading scholar in the economics of education. Her research includes studies of college choice, the effects of financial aid, the outcomes of graduates from different colleges, college tuition policy, public school finance, school choice, the effect of education on economic growth and income inequality, teacher pay and teacher quality, peer effects and class size. She also works on topics that fit under the headings of public finance (such as property taxes) and labor economics (such as returns to skills). Prior to Stanford, Hoxby was the Allie S. Freed Professor of Economics and a Harvard College professor at Harvard University. She has a PhD from MIT, studied at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar and obtained her baccalaureate degree from Harvard University. She is currently completing studies on how education affects economic growth; globalization in higher education; peer effects in education; and the effects of charter schools on student achievement.

Jonah E. Rockoff is the Sidney Taurel Associate Professor of Business at the Columbia Business School and a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Professor Rockoff's interests center on local public finance and the economics of education. He has done research on the determinants of property taxation and expenditure in local public school districts, the impact of teachers and teacher certification on student achievement, and measuring the effectiveness of educational policies such as charter schools, school accountability systems, and teacher mentoring programs. His current work focuses on pre-employment indicators of effective teachers, the characteristics of effective school principals, and how information on teacher performance impacts school personnel decisions. He received his PhD in Economics from Harvard University in 2004 and a BA in Economics from Amherst College.

Douglas Staiger is the John French Professor in Economics at Dartmouth College and a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He received his BA from Williams College in 1984 and his PhD in economics from MIT in 1990. Before joining Dartmouth in 1998, he was a faculty member at Stanford and Harvard universities. Dr. Staiger's research interests include the economics of education, economics of healthcare and statistical methods. In the field of education, his current research investigates teacher effectiveness in elementary and secondary education and is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Spencer Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences. In the field of healthcare, his current research investigates the quality of care in hospitals and labor markets for nurses and physicians, and is funded by the National Institute of Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Dr. Staiger was the recipient of the Arrow Award for the best paper in health economics in 2007 and the Eugene Garfield Economic Impact of Medical and Health Research Award in 2008.

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Dr. John B. King, Jr. was recently appointed the senior deputy commissioner for P-12 Education at the New York State Education Department. He brings to this role extensive experience leading urban public schools that are closing the achievement gap and preparing students to enter, succeed in, and graduate from college.

Most recently, Dr. King served as a Managing Director with Uncommon Schools, a non-profit charter management organization that operates some of the highest performing urban public schools in New York and New Jersey. Prior to joining Uncommon Schools, Dr. King was a Co-Founder and Co-Director for Curriculum & Instruction of Roxbury Preparatory Charter School. Under his leadership, Roxbury Prep's students attained the highest state exam scores of any urban middle school in Massachusetts, closed the racial achievement gap, and outperformed students from not only the Boston district schools but also the city's affluent suburbs. Before co-founding Roxbury Prep, Dr. King taught high school history at City on a Hill Charter School in Boston and Saint John's School in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Dr. King earned a BA in Government from Harvard University, an MA in the Teaching of Social Studies from Teachers College, Columbia University, a JD from Yale Law School, and an EdD in Educational Administrative Practice from Teachers College, Columbia University. In addition, Dr. King has served on the board of New Leaders for New Schools and is a 2008 Aspen Institute-New Schools Entrepreneurial Leaders for Public Education Fellow.

James S. Liebman is the Simon H. Rifkind Professor of Law at Columbia Law School. He graduated with a BA from Yale in 1974 and a J.D. from Stanford in 1977. Mr. Liebman served as law clerk to Judge Carl McGowan of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit from 1977 to 1978, and to Justice John Paul Stevens of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1978 to 1979. He was assistant counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund from 1979 to 1985 where he specialized in school desegregation cases. Mr. Liebman joined the Columbia law faculty in 1985 and served as vice dean from 1991 to 1992. From January 2006 to July 2009, he took a partial leave of absence from Columbia Law School to serve as chief accountability officer at the New York City Department of Education. At the Department of Education, Mr. Liebman created the city's accountability system and its Division of Accountability and Achievement Resources. Mr. Liebman is the author of many articles, papers and speeches on public education reform. He served as a member of the New York State Commissioner of Education's Task Force on Educational Excellence and Equity in 1992 and as a member of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York's Committee on Education and Law from 1987 to 1990. In 2002, he was the recipient of the Law & Society Association Article Prize, the National Association of Criminal Defense lawyers Champion of Justice Award and was named a Soros Senior Justice Fellow. While at the NY City Department of Education, Mr. Liebman led the business team that developed the Achievement Resources and Innovation System (ARIS), which received the city's prestigious Overall Excellence in Technology Award for 2009.

Emary Aronson is the managing director of education at the Robin Hood Foundation. Robin Hood supports a variety of schools and education-related programs, which embrace extending the school day and year, strong curricula and high standards and expectations. These schools have well-earned reputations as being among the most innovative and highest performing schools in New York City. In 2008, Robin Hood awarded \$100 million in grants of which more than one third was in education. Robin Hood is a leading funder of charter schools and a founding member of the New York City Charter Center, a public/private partnership with the New York City Department of Education.

Ms. Aronson is also the managing director of the Robin Hood Relief Fund, a \$65 million fund dedicated to addressing the needs of those affected by September 11th. The Robin Hood Relief Fund has committed all of its funds ensuring that those in distress because of the loss of a family member or those low income workers who were displaced by the attacks on the September 11th were able to access services. In the three years of its greatest activity, the Relief Fund supported over 110 organizations, made 190 grants and provided direct gifts to over 3,000 victims' families.

Before joining Robin Hood, Ms. Aronson was the director of education initiatives at the New York City Partnership and Chamber of Commerce. In this role, Ms. Aronson helped develop a \$29 million education reform program as well as manage a youth employment program and a school principal management training program. Prior to her work with the New York City Partnership, Ms. Aronson taught history and economics at the two-year college level.

Ms. Aronson holds a BA in History from Smith College, an MSc in Economic History from the London School of Economics, an MPPM from the Yale School of Management, and a PhD in History from the University of Chicago. She is a member of the board of directors of the Charter Center as well as the Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO), a job training program for ex-offenders.