



Coach Kathy Kemper, CEO and Chief Joshua Bolten



**Institute
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Education**

*Enriching DC's Public Policy Life
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H. E. Ichiro Fujisaki, the Ambassador of Japan,
Ms. Anne Bernanke and Ms. Ina Ginsburg

**The Hon. Joshua Bolten
White House Chief of Staff**

**Invites IFE/INFO Forum
To**

**The White House
December 11, 2008**

For Historical Highlights of President George W. Bush

For the past eighteen years, one of Washington's best kept secrets has been the high-powered, invitation-only forums hosted by Institute for Education founder Kathy Kemper. Known as INFO Policy Roundtables, these exclusive events bring together politicians and journalists, Supreme Court Justices, Cabinet Secretaries, Nobel Laureates, ambassadors and CEOs, professional athletes, composers, and even a Miss America to talk policy and politics over muffins or cocktails. At first off-the-record and always full of friendly banter, Coach Kemper's INFO forums give Washington's elite a chance to put business and partisanship aside and hear from their peers about the important issues of the day.

Some of our Past Speakers

Justice Stephen Breyer
Senator Hillary Clinton
Charles Cook
Senator Tom Daschle
Mayor Adrian Fenty
Fox News, the Beltway Boys, Morton Kondracke
and Fred Barnes
Tom Friedman

Senator Chuck Hagel
Senator John McCain
Justice Sandra Day O'Connor
Justice Antonin Scalia
Senator Charles Schumer
Leonard Slatkin
His Excellency Zhou Wenzhong
Bob Woodward



IFE's Interns, Fellows and Youth Global Citizenship participants
with Chief Joshua Bolten



Mr. James Kimsey, Founder of AOL, Mr. Mark Kimsey, The Kimsey
Foundation and Mr. Mark Tuohey, *Vinson & Elkins LLP*

December 15, 2008

The Chief of the Transition (Kathy Kemper)



Josh Bolten, chief of staff to President Bush, spoke at my IFE/INFO forum last Thursday, at The White House. He reflected on his eight years of service to this Bush administration. He impressed everyone with his graciousness, humor and savvy. With his high-level experience in the financial sector and the government, Josh uniquely understands how Washington operates — his insight allowed President Bush to make policy with a clear sense of the big picture.



As chief of staff for Bush 43, he has confronted criticism ever since he landed the job. Last Wednesday, for example, Republicans blasted him for defending the president's auto bailout plan. It's not his fault, though, that the auto industry crashed this year — the reality is that American carmakers have been in decline ever since the Japanese introduced more competitive models in the 1980s, and their incompetence finally caught up with them.

Josh has served a president with some of the lowest approval ratings in history, and has shown resolve at a time when our economy's in the worst shape that it's been in since the 1930s. Suffice it to say that he's hardly been in an enviable position. Even so, the chief has said that it's his goal to make the transition from Bush 43 to Obama 44 the "smoothest in history." Based on what he told us at the IFE/INFO session, it may indeed go down as the smoothest transition in history. The Bush team is making highly detailed records available to the Obama team — records that chronicle not just its accomplishments and setbacks, but also the mechanisms for making policy on a bipartisan basis. He told us that, incredibly, there's not a single manual that discusses transition dynamics — with all his knowledge, Josh could probably write an authoritative tome himself. With Iraq just beginning to stabilize, Afghanistan still in chaos, and a global economy in ruins, America would be in even greater danger were it not for Josh's wisdom and leadership. Historians will sing his praises years from now when they realize what an exemplary transition he ran.

Josh hosted a breakfast for the incoming chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, at which 13 other former chiefs of staff showed up. They all gave Rahm advice, and Josh said that he was taking notes to ensure that he soaked it all up. When one former chief of staff asked Vice President Cheney to give Mr. Emanuel some advice, he joked, "Control your VP!" It was a very civil gathering in Josh's office around his conference table, which was extended on this historic occasion to accommodate all the former chiefs.

It is precisely this type of behavior that defines civility. You swallow your pride, leave your ego at the door, and put your country first.

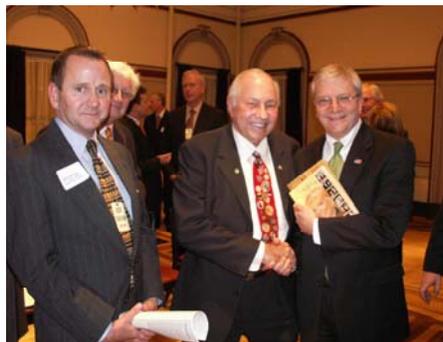
With his quiet dignity and love of America, Josh deserves our utmost respect. Norm Ornstein, the veteran political analyst, summed it up well — "Josh Bolten understood early that this was a unique period, a wartime transition with a serious economic problem. Long before the election, he was planning with both presidential candidates to make sure it would be a smooth one. Thanks to his leadership, it has been the best transition in our lifetimes."

Indeed. Obama should be honored to have Chief Bolten guide his team into the presidency.

Kathy Kemper is founder and CEO of the [Institute for Education](#), a nonprofit foundation that recognizes and promotes leadership and civility locally, nationally and in the world community.



Chief Joshua Bolten, IFE's Intern, Jenny Shore and IFE's Chairman of the IFE's Board of Swards, Ms. Marci Robinson



Chief Bolten with the IFE's Members, Mr. Morty Davis and Mr. Del Galloway



IFE Fellows and Interns at The White House Press Room