

## Guest Speaker:

### **H.E. Dina Kawar | Ambassador of Jordan to the US @AmbKawar**

**Dina Kawar** was appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the United States of America in June 2016.

Ambassador Kawar also served as the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations from August 2014 to June 2016. She has led the Jordanian delegation during Jordan's non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council from 2014 to 2015 and became the first Arab woman to ever preside over the Council. In February 2016, she was appointed by the President of the General Assembly as a co-facilitator for the high-level meeting of the plenary of the General Assembly on the large movement of refugees and migrants to take place in September 2016.

Prior to her position in New York, Her Excellency Dina Kawar served as the Ambassador of Jordan to France from 2001 to 2013, with concurrent accreditation to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and to the Holy See, since 2002. She also served as Ambassador of Jordan to Portugal from 2005 to 2013.

Ambassador Kawar was awarded the Medal of Independence of the first degree by His Majesty King Abdulla II of Jordan and holds a number of decorations including the "Commandeur De La Legion d' Honneur" from France, the "Medalha de D. Afonso Henriques" from Portugal and the "Insignes de Dame de Grand-Croix de l'Ordre de Saint Grégoire le Grand" from the Holy See.

Ambassador Kawar holds a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree in international relations from [Mills College](#), both in the United States. She attended Harvard's Center for International Affairs from 1986 to 1987. She speaks Arabic, French and English.

## Host:

### **Tory Newmyer | PowerPost, *The Washington Post* @ToryNewmyer @PowerPost**

**Tory Newmyer** recently joined the *PowerPost* team to anchor its forthcoming newsletter on financial services and economic policy. This is another in a series of steps to expand and deepen PowerPost's policy coverage this year. Tory joins *The Washington Post* from *Fortune*, where he has worked for the last six-and-a-half years as the magazine's Washington correspondent. There, he wrote a mix of feature-length magazine pieces and web stories on the push and pull between corporate interests and government. Most recently, Tory launched a newsletter, Trumponomics Daily, chronicling the Trump administration's impact on business. Prior to *Fortune*, Tory spent five years at *Roll Call* covering the House leadership, the lobbying industry, and campaign finance issues. He cut his teeth as a local government reporter at the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*. Newmyer has also tackled investigative pieces on earmarks and produced groundbreaking coverage of the influence of money in politics. His work has appeared in *Portfolio*, *The American* and *GQ*. A history major at Columbia University, Tory is a native Washingtonian who now lives in the Shaw neighborhood. He's also a space obsessive and would like to see about reserving a spot on a Blue Origin rocket.

## Guest Bios

### Farhud “Hud” Batmaglich | Xanthus Design

No bio

### Hon. Dr. R. David Edelman | MIT, Director of Tech, Economy and Security @R\_D

Dr. R. David Edelman comes to MIT having distinguished himself as one of the U.S. government’s foremost voices on how technology is changing our economy, national security, and daily lives. An expert on pressing technology challenges facing national security and the global economy, his insights have helped shape national and international policy at the highest levels.

In his most recent role as Special Assistant to the President for Economic and Technology Policy at the National Economic Council (NEC), he led the White House team focusing on the digital economy — including broadband, telecommunications, spectrum, and technology trade — as well as consumer cybersecurity, domestic and international data privacy, high-tech patent and copyright issues, and antitrust/competition.

In his time at the White House he led engagement with hundreds of technology companies around the world; advised the President on a range of emerging technologies such as big data, drones, and autonomous vehicles; and designed and managed over \$15 billion of signature programs focused on technology, education, and economic opportunity.

He was awarded the State Department’s Superior Honor Award for his work on intelligence matters, and was twice the recipient of the Meritorious Honor Award for his United Nations negotiations and development of the nation’s cyber diplomacy strategy. He was previously named one of Forbes’ “30 Under 30” leaders in Law & Policy, and later chosen as a “30 Under 30 All-Star Alumni” — one of only three in the magazine’s history — for his ongoing contributions to national policy.

Edelman holds a bachelor’s degree in History (with honors) from Yale and Master’s and Doctoral degrees from Oxford in International Relations. His dissertation, “Cyberattacks in International Relations,” examined which forces might restrain state use of offensive cyber capabilities

### John Paul Farmer | Microsoft @johnpaulfarmer

John believes in the combined power of technology and cross-sector collaboration to drive positive change throughout society. As the Director of Microsoft’s Technology & Civic Innovation team in New York City, John leads hands-on engagement with governments, non-profits, for-profits, academic institutions, startups, and civic hackers so that they can do more good together than they could apart. Previously, John served as a Senior Advisor for Innovation in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he spearheaded the President’s innovation agenda. Under President Barack Obama, he co-founded and led the Presidential Innovation Fellows program, which attracts top innovators and entrepreneurs from the private sector for focused tours of duty in government, in order to make game-changing progress on projects of national importance. He also served in the Administration as Senior Advisor for Healthcare Reform, working on healthcare information technology such as Blue Button, delivery system reform and economic analyses. John holds an MBA from the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University and an AB with honors from Harvard University.

**Lee Farmer | Senior Project Planner, VHB @soozlili**

Lee Farmer, AICP is an urban planner focused on planning and implementing transportation solutions in support of local and regional urban development goals. Lee is currently Senior Project Planner with VHB, a consulting firm made up of planners, designers, scientists, and engineers who partner with their clients to improve mobility, enhance communities, and balance development and infrastructure needs with environmental stewardship.

Prior to joining VHB, Lee was the Transit Capital Program Manager with the City of Alexandria, Virginia. While at the City, she ensured the successful implementation of the Metroway service, the first bus rapid transit service in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area. She also managed the planning process for the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, which will be the second infill Metro station in the region and will anchor the redevelopment of the former rail yard into a major mixed-use activity center. Prior to joining the City, Lee worked as a consultant with AECOM, where she worked on transit projects at various stages of the planning process.

Lee holds a Master's in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.Phil in Irish Studies from the National University of Ireland, Galway, and a BA in History from Rice University. She is active with the American Planning Association, where she is co-chair of the Northern Virginia Section and serves on the Board of the Virginia Chapter. Lee is a certified professional planner as a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. She also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Silver Bay Association, an historic YMCA conference center in New York's Adirondack Mountains.

**Alex Hoehn-Saric | Charter Communications @hoehnsaric**

Alexander Hoehn-Saric is Senior Vice President, Government Affairs at Charter Communications. Previously, Mr. Hoehn-Saric Policy Director in the office of Federal Communications Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel. Prior to that, he served the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, Senator Barbara Boxer and as a private attorney. Mr. Hoehn-Saric will be based in Charter's Washington, D.C. office and will report to Executive Vice President, Government Affairs, Catherine Bohigian.

"Alex's deep understanding of communications policy and extensive experience at the Federal Communications Commission and in the U.S. Senate, will be a tremendous asset to Charter as we continue to work with our government partners to ensure a business environment that promotes the growth of broadband services and choice for consumers," said Catherine Bohigian. "He will be able to make an immediate impact on our business and I am pleased to welcome him to the team," she added.

His work at the Federal Communications Commission included strategic counsel to Commissioner Rosenworcel, particularly on issues related to media and technology. In addition, at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Mr. Hoehn-Saric focused on issues of privacy and cybersecurity, among others. In the U.S. Senate, he served as Senior Counsel for the *Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance* as well as Communications Counsel for the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation where he worked on the passage of numerous communications and consumer protection laws.

Mr. Hoehn-Saric is a graduate of the University of Chicago and the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law. He currently resides in Maryland with his family.

**Coach Kathy Kemper | Institute for Education @CoachKemper**

**Kathy Kemper** is the Founder & CEO of The Institute for Education. Known as "Coach" to many, she is founder and CEO of the Institute for Education, a non-profit foundation that recognizes and promotes leadership, civility, and finding common ground, locally, nationally, and in the world community. IFE also educates youth for global citizenship with programs that foster intercultural appreciation.

Called Washington's "Networker in Chief" by US News and World Report, Coach Kemper also founded INFO, a program of IFE. INFO is a roundtable public affairs forum that draws diplomats, influential public officials, senior media, gamechangers, and business leaders from both sides of the aisle for debate and discussion. INFO speakers have included Supreme Court Justices, a Vice President, Senators, Nobel laureates, Cabinet secretaries, Ambassadors, Governors, technology titans, and a professional athlete.

A former professional tennis player, Kemper served as head Women's Tennis Coach at Georgetown University from 1978 to 1990. She coached Georgetown's No. 1 player to a four-year undefeated match play streak and to the Big East and NCAA National Woman's Division II title in 1983.

Kemper is a sought-after speaker on issues from Title IX and gender equity due to her unique, insider's view of Washington. She has spent more than 25 years coaching tennis for Washington's powerbrokers and opinion makers—hitting the courts with Supreme Court Justices, members of the United States Congress and United States Secretaries of State through five administrations, at The White House, Senate Court and Embassy courts.

Well known in Washington's diplomatic community, Kemper has received awards and recognition from the Japanese, Swedish and Chinese governments for her commitment to cross-cultural dialogue, friendship, and understanding. Most recently she was honored by H.E. Ichiro Fujisaki, at the Japanese residence. She has been honored by numerous organizations for her leadership, her commitment to promoting collaborative and global dialogue, and her philanthropic efforts.

She has been awarded numerous Woman of the Year honors from various groups. She was named the Prince Sporting Goods' Woman of the Year and received recognition from the National Association of Women in Business. A frequent op-ed writer and columnist, her work has been featured in *The Hill*, *USA Today*, *Roll Call*, *The Washington Examiner*, *Newsday*, *Hurriyet Daily News*, *The Bangkok Post*, *Vietnam Daily*, *Hanoi Times*, *The Globalist*, *The Washington Diplomat*, *Washington Life*, *CCTV*, and *The Huffington Post*. Coach Kemper lives in Washington D.C. and Rancho Sante Fe, California

### **Grace E. Koh | Special Assistant to the President for Technology & Telecom Policy, National Economic Council**

Grace Koh was named the special assistant to the president for technology, telecom, and cybersecurity. White House National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn made the announcement Monday, making Koh the senior staff member in charge of technology and cybersecurity policy.

"We have assembled a best-in-class team of policy advisers to drive President Trump's bold plan for job creation and economic growth," Cohn said. "With their diverse backgrounds and deep knowledge of key policy issues, they will make significant contributions to the nation."

Koh previously served as deputy chief counsel to the House Subcommittee on Communications and Technology of the Energy and Commerce Committee. She also served as policy counsel at Cox Enterprises' Public Policy Office and as an associate for the communications group at Willkie Farr & Gallagher. Koh has experience advising these groups on the legal implications of public policy decisions on data, video, and broadcast services.

In 2015, Koh spoke at the Executive Branch Review Conference about the need to update the Communications Act to account for broadband and the need to make the Federal Communications Commission more transparent.

"This is one of the best places to innovate here in America," Koh said. "We go straight to experimenting, innovation, and trying new things and that is exactly the type of environment, I think, that we want to keep here in America."

**Seamus Kraft | The Open Govt Foundation @seamuskraft @OpenGovFdn**

Seamus Kraft is a communicator and civic activist building new means for successful democracy in the digital age. Since February 2013, he has built The OpenGov Foundation into a dedicated six-person team producing cutting-edge civic software used by elected officials and citizens in governments across the US. Seamus is also a co-creator of the Free Law Founders, a coalition of leaders from New York, San Francisco, Boston, Chicago, and Washington, DC working to open the processes and information of government to access and innovation for all. He is a 2014-2016 Shuttleworth Foundation Fellow and a 2015-2016 Technology and Democracy Fellow in the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard's Kennedy School.

Prior to creating The OpenGov Foundation, Seamus served as Digital Director and Press Secretary for The US House Oversight Committee, where he built one of the most successful digital communications operations in government from the ground up. Seamus's work both in and outside of government has been viewed by millions of people worldwide; in 2016 the American Library Association honored Seamus with their James Madison award and in 2012 TechCrunch named him among its list of the "20 Most Innovative People of 2012." A native of Marblehead, MA, he received his undergraduate degree in classical political philosophy from Georgetown University in 2007.

**Jan Smith | Broadcast Journalist**

**Jan Smith** is an esteemed national news correspondent who covered national and local news for WTTG Television for 12 years. Currently a freelance television journalist, Jan recently completed a series of videos for the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery interviewing the four female Supreme Court Justices. Previously, Jan reported a series on U.S. presidents for National Geographic Television and won a National Headliner's Award for a military pay report for CNN. Jan also moderated a health care show that was part of a Gracie Award-winning series and aired on PBS stations. Jan serves as co-chair for the Partners in Research signature program at Georgetown University Medical Center.

In 2002 *The Washingtonian* magazine named her "Washingtonian of the Year" in recognition of her efforts to increase federal support for cancer research. She is also an accomplished public speaker, emceeding for numerous charitable events and panels. Jan Smith is a faithful and tireless advocate for social and medical equality in our nation's capital.

**James Valentine | TriAlpha Energy, IFE Founder**

No bio