Agenda: Cost-Benefit Analysis and Issue Advocacy Workshop

Policy Integrity will bring together leading practitioners, government officials, and academics for our fourth annual practitioners' workshop on the federal regulatory process. The workshop will be both an introduction to economic analysis and its role in the regulatory process, as well as a nuanced look at cost-benefit analysis: how it is used by administrative agencies, and how it can be used by NGOs in their advocacy. This year’s theme will be the future of regulation after the 2012 election.

9:00 am–9:30 am  Breakfast & Registration

9:30 am–11 am  Welcome, Issue Advocacy, & Cost-Benefit Analysis 101*
Michael A. Livermore  Executive Director, Policy Integrity
Jason Schwartz  Legal Director, Policy Integrity

This session is for practitioners new to cost-benefit analysis and the federal regulatory process. It will identify key access points in the federal administrative process where advocacy groups can use cost-benefit analysis, and will discuss how cost-benefit analysis can be relevant during the course of litigation.

11:00 am–12:30 pm  Panel Discussion: The Polarization of Regulation*
Moderated by Richard L. Revesz, Dean, NYU Law

Participants:
E. Donald Elliott  Partner, Willkie Farr & Gallagher, LLP; Adjunct Professor, Yale Law; former General Counsel at the Environmental Protection Agency
Daniel Cole  Professor of Law and Public & Environmental Affairs, Maurer School of Law at Indiana University
Amy Salzman  Adjunct Professor, NYU Law; former Associate Director for Policy Outreach at the White House Council on Environmental Quality

12:30 pm–1:30 pm  Lunch (provided)

1:30 pm–3:00 pm  Breakout Sessions*
These moderated sessions will allow participants to further explore ongoing, relevant issues in their respective fields. Participants will work closely with experts to develop strategies for incorporating cost-benefit analysis into their advocacy and organizational work. The sessions will also allow for more personalized questioning and focus on topics chosen by attendees.

Session 1: Social Policy - Criminal Justice, Education, & Housing
Michael A. Livermore  Executive Director, Policy Integrity
Denise Grab  Legal Fellow, Policy Integrity

Evidence-based decisionmaking, emphasis on an experimental approach to social policies, and the use of retrospective review to identify the most successful programs can improve the delivery of social services and help advocates defend these programs, especially when governments face growing fiscal constraints. This session will focus on how the use of economic analysis can inform policy reforms in the areas of criminal justice, education, and housing.
Session 2: Jobs and Environmental Regulation
Jason Schwartz  Legal Director, Policy Integrity

High unemployment numbers have put a spotlight on the impact of environmental regulations on jobs—the news is overrun with claims about how many jobs will be “created” or “killed” due to new protections. Given the complexity of the economic system and the uncertainty of the future, no economic model can capture all consequences of implementing environmental protection. This session will highlight the uncertainty surrounding jobs impact analysis while discussing ways to ensure that numbers are more accurately reported to better inform policy choices and avoid misleading the general public.

Session 3: The Politics of Using Cost-Benefit and Public Health Analysis
Kevin Cromar, PhD  Assistant Professor of Environmental Medicine, NYU School of Medicine
Isabelle Bodmer Silverman  Attorney, Environmental Defense Fund

New York City’s air is polluted by soot from home heating oil: Policy Integrity helped the City analyze the health impacts, and worked in coalition with the Environmental Defense Fund and others to petition the Mayor and the City Council for policy changes. This session will discuss how to partner with government agencies to develop a health and economic model to study a problem, and how to meaningfully and effectively incorporate public health and economic analysis into advocacy efforts before regulatory and political bodies.

3:00 pm–4:00 pm  Closing Keynote Address by Nathaniel Keohane

The keynote address will be delivered by Nathaniel Keohane, former Special Assistant to President Obama on energy and environmental issues for the White House's National Economic Council, and current Vice President at the Environmental Defense Fund. Keohane is a nationally respected leader on climate change policy at both the domestic and international levels, and served with the Obama Administration when many important environmental rules, including higher fuel-efficiency standards and controls on mercury pollution from power plants, were adopted.

*CLE Credits will be available for these sessions.