



Speaker Biographies

Introductory Remarks

Lina M. Khan was sworn in as Chair of the Federal Trade Commission on June 15, 2021. Prior to becoming Chair of the FTC, Khan was an Associate Professor of Law at Columbia Law School. She also previously served as counsel to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law, legal adviser to FTC Commissioner Rohit Chopra, and legal director at the Open Markets Institute. Khan's scholarship on antitrust and competition policy has been published in the Columbia Law Review, Harvard Law Review, University of Chicago Law Review, and Yale Law Journal. She is a graduate of Williams College and Yale Law School.

Jonathan Kanter was confirmed on November 16, 2021, as Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division. Throughout his career, Mr. Kanter has been a leading advocate for strong and meaningful antitrust enforcement and competition policy. Mr. Kanter has been a partner in the Washington, D.C. offices of two national law firms and was the founder of a boutique antitrust law firm dedicated to promoting antitrust enforcement. Mr. Kanter began his career as an attorney for the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Competition. He earned his J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis and his B.A. from State University of New York at Albany.

Christi A. Grimm was sworn in as the sixth Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on February 22, 2022, following her nomination by the President and confirmation by the U.S. Senate. As Inspector General, she leads an independent and objective organization of approximately 1,600 auditors, evaluators, investigators, data analysts, attorneys, and management professionals who protect the integrity of HHS programs and the health and welfare of the people they serve. The Office of Inspector General (OIG) oversees more than 100 programs administered by HHS agencies, including the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Food and Drug Administration, and National Institutes of Health, which taxpayers usually devote approximately \$1.5 trillion a year to programs overseen by HHS.

Jonathan Blum serves as the Principal Deputy Administrator and Chief Operating Officer at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), overseeing CMS's program policy planning and implementation and day-to-day operations of the entire agency. Jon has more than 25 years of public- and private-sector experience working in health care policy and administration. Prior to joining CMS, Jon served on several nonprofit boards with missions to improve access and equity to health care and health coverage, including Mary's Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center; the Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County; and the Medicare Rights Center.

Keynote Presentation

Eileen Appelbaum, PhD, is Co-Director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR). Prior to joining CEPR, she was Professor of Economics at Temple University and Distinguished Professor of Labor Studies and Employment Relations at Rutgers University. She is the co-author with Professor Rosemary Batt of the award-winning book *Private Equity at Work: When Wall Street Manages Main Street* and the author of a number of major studies of private equity in health care.

Panel One – The Human Impact of Private Equity in Health Care

Tamar Katz is an Attorney Advisor in the Office of Policy Planning at the Federal Trade Commission. She comes to the FTC with experience at the intersection of private equity and antitrust law. Tamar is a graduate of Columbia Law School and the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Anonymous Nurse is a registered nurse with a background in critical care. After gaining broad experience as a travel nurse in large metropolitan areas, they returned to their local, small, rural hospital, which is owned by private equity. Due to concerns about potential workplace retaliation, they prefer to remain anonymous.

Brian Alexander is a journalist and author whose work has focused on the effects of private equity on people, communities, and businesses. He has been a contributing writer to *The Atlantic*, contributing editor to *Wired*, a contributor to many other magazines and newspapers, and is the author of six books, most recently *The Hospital: Life, Death, and Dollars in a Small American Town*.

Joe Thon is a registered nurse at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, in Lewiston, Idaho. After a private-equity firm acquired his hospital, Joe led a successful organizing drive amongst the hospital's nurses to form a union.

Jonathan Jones, MD, is the current President of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM). He previously served as Professor, Residency Program Director, and Vice-chair of Emergency Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. He has experience in urban and rural medicine as well as with multiple different practice models, including private equity. He currently practices at a tertiary care hospital in Jackson, Mississippi.

Karen Simonton is a certified public accountant who has been working with independent practice groups in various C-suite roles for 30+ years. She is now the CEO of The OrthoForum, which is the largest independent association of musculoskeletal practices in the United States. The OrthoForum is also a founding member of The Coalition for Patient-Centered Care (CPCC), a diverse group of health care industry stakeholders who stand together in opposition to private-equity acquisitions of independent physician practices.

Panel Two – Buyouts in Health Care: Who Wins, Who Loses?

Laura Alexander is a Deputy Director of the Bureau of Competition at the Federal Trade Commission. Prior to joining the FTC, she served as the Director of Markets and Competition at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth. She also previously served as Vice President of Policy at the American Antitrust Institute and was an attorney at Cohen, Milstein, Sellers, & Toll. Laura is a graduate of Reed College and Georgetown Law.

Brendan Ballou is the author of *Plunder: Private Equity's Plan to Pillage America*. He served as Special Counsel for Private Equity in the Justice Department's Antitrust Division. Previously, he worked in private practice, and before that, in the National Security Division of the Justice Department. His work has appeared in the New York Times, the Atlantic, and the Nation.

Zirui Song, MD, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Health Care Policy and Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, where he practices primary care and is on the inpatient medicine teaching service. Also trained as a health economist, Dr. Song's research focuses on health care spending and the impact of financial incentives in the delivery system. This includes provider payment policy, Medicare Advantage financing, employer programs, and private equity acquisitions of hospitals and physicians.

Erin C. Fuse Brown, JD, MPH, is the Catherine C. Henson Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Law, Health & Society at Georgia State University College of Law. In July of 2024, Fuse Brown will be joining the faculty at the Brown University School of Public Health as a Professor of Health Services, Policy & Management with the Center for Advancing Health Policy through Research. She has studied legal and policy options to address the risks posed by private-equity investment in health care entities.

Joseph Dov Bruch, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Public Health Sciences at the University of Chicago. His research focuses on the compatibility of different financial actors with medical expenditure, health care quality, and population health.

Fireside Chat

Rebecca Kelly Slaughter was sworn in as a Federal Trade Commissioner on May 2, 2018. Commissioner Slaughter brings to the Commission extensive experience in competition, privacy, and consumer protection. She builds consensus for a progressive vision, and staunchly advocates for our nation's consumers and workers, particularly those traditionally underrepresented and marginalized. In addition, Commissioner Slaughter strongly supports working families and work-life balance. Before joining the FTC, Ms. Slaughter served as Chief Counsel to Senator Charles Schumer of New York, the Democratic Leader.

Peter F. Neronha is the 74th Attorney General of the State of Rhode Island and leads an office that oversees all felony criminal prosecutions and civil legal matters on behalf of the public. Mr. Neronha's career in public service began in 1996, as a Special Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General. From 2009 to 2017, at the appointment of President Barack Obama, he served as the United States Attorney for the District of Rhode Island. Mr. Neronha graduated in 1985 from Boston College and later from Boston College Law School in 1989. Prior to his career in public service, he worked for the Boston, Massachusetts law firm Goodwin, Proctor L.L.P for seven years.