

Mackinac Center for Public Policy

Introducing Our Experts

The Mackinac Center is a free-market research and educational institute headquartered in Midland, Michigan and with a satellite office in Lansing. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for all Michigan citizens by promoting market-based solutions to state and local policy questions.



FISCAL



Michael D. LaFaive

Senior Director of the Morey Fiscal Policy Initiative
lafaive@mackinac.org

Michael LaFaive is senior director of fiscal policy at the Mackinac Center. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in economics and has published widely on matters of fiscal policy.

His areas of expertise include:

- Privatization
- Minimum wage
- Interstate migration
- Alcohol control, prices and reform
- Cigarette taxes and smuggling
- State economic development



James M. Hohman

Director of Fiscal Policy
hohman@mackinac.org

James Hohman has been researching and commenting on Michigan policy since 2002. He maintains the business subsidy scorecard, which shows how much every legislator has approved and voted against selective business subsidies.

His areas of expertise include:

- Michigan's budget
- Spending
- Road funding
- Michigan economic trends
- Pensions
- Tax policy



EDUCATION



Molly Macek

Director of Education Policy
macek@mackinac.org

Dr. Molly Macek brings nearly two decades of experience in secondary education. She holds a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) and has worked as a teacher and administrator in both private and public schools. She has published studies on education interventions and teacher evaluations.

Her areas of expertise include:

- School funding
- Education choice
- Charter schools
- Preschool



REGULATION



Jarrett Skorup

Vice President for Marketing and Communications
skorup@mackinac.org

Jarrett Skorup has authored studies on occupational licensure, civil asset forfeiture, labor unions and poverty programs. He has worked at the Mackinac Center since 2009 and plays a leadership role in communications and marketing efforts.

His areas of expertise include:

- Occupational licensing
- Minimum wage
- Economic history
- Housing
- Trade
- Civil asset forfeiture



Michael Van Beek

Director of Research
vanbeek@mackinac.org

Michael Van Beek has authored several studies for the Center as well as analysis and commentaries that have been published around the country. He holds a graduate degree from Purdue University.

His areas of expertise include:

- Administrative state
- Auto insurance
- Scope of Practice rules
- Regulatory reform



LEGAL



Patrick J. Wright

Vice President for Legal Affairs
wright@mackinac.org

Patrick Wright has been an attorney at the Center for two decades. He also served as a Michigan Supreme Court Commissioner. He received his law degree at George Washington University and undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan.

His areas of expertise include:

- Constitutional law
- Labor law
- Free speech



Derk Wilcox

Senior Attorney
wilcox@mackinac.org

Derk Wilcox received his law degree from Ave Maria School of Law and also holds a master's in economics from UD-Mercy and a bachelor's in political science and economics from the University of Michigan.

His areas of expertise include:

- Municipal law
- Public sector labor law
- Administrative and regulatory law



ENERGY AND ENVIROMENT



Jason Hayes

Director of Environmental Policy
hayes@mackinac.org

Jason Hayes has three decades of experience in energy and environmental policy. He worked as a park ranger and forester in British Columbia and the energy industry in Canada and the U.S. He holds a Master of Environmental Design degree from the University of Calgary.

His areas of expertise include:

- Energy regulation
- Electricity choice
- Nuclear power, gas, oil and renewables
- Forestry, wildlife and fisheries



Joshua Antonini

Research Analyst
antonini@mackinac.org

Joshua Antonini is a policy analyst in energy and environmental policy. He holds a degree from Hillsdale College.

His areas of expertise include:

- Energy development
- Electricity regulation
- Power grid
- ESG investing



LABOR



Stephen Delie

Director of Labor Policy
delie@mackinac.org

Steve Delie is the director of labor policy and government transparency. Steve is an attorney focusing on public and private sector labor law, government transparency, and constitutional law. His past experience includes serving as general counsel for local Michigan government.

An attorney, Steve's areas of expertise include:

- Collective bargaining
- Right-to-work laws
- Independent contracting
- Constitutional law
- Contract and municipal law
- Open Meetings Act
- Freedom of Information Act
- State and federal labor reform



CRIMINAL JUSTICE



David Guenther

Vice President for Governmental Affairs
dg@mackinac.org

David Guenther is the vice president for government affairs at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. He joined the Center in 2018 as senior strategist for state affairs and built the Center's government affairs capacity.

His areas of expertise include:

- Prison education programs
- Expungement and recidivism
- Overcriminalization

To reach one of the Mackinac Center's policy experts, please email them directly or call us at:

989.631.0900