23rd annual

Immigration Law & Policy Conference

November 16, 2026

MPI MIGRATION POLICY INSTITUTE in partnership with CLINIC and SFS GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY School of Foreign Service Institute for the Study of International Migration

9:00 A.M. ET - WELCOME & KEYNOTE

WELCOME:

- **Soyica Diggs Colbert**, Interim Provost, Georgetown University
- **Andrew Selee**, President, Migration Policy Institute

KEYNOTE:

- **David Holt**, Mayor of Oklahoma City; immediate past President, United States Conference of Mayors

9:45 A.M. ET - State of Play: Immigration Policy at a Tipping Point

This panel will examine how the myriad federal immigration policy and enforcement changes have been greeted by the U.S. courts and the American public, as well as the historical parallels to the current era. The conversation will also touch upon what the midterm election results might suggest for policy change ahead.

Speakers

- **Nancy Foner,** Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York
- **Amy Howe,** Co-Founder, SCOTUSblog; Fellow, Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service
- **Carlos Odio,** Co-Founder, Equis Research
- **Pia Orrenius,** Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
- **MODERATOR: Doris Meissner,** Senior Fellow and Director, U.S. Immigration Policy Program, MPI

11:00 A.M. ET - BREAK

11:30 A.M. ET - The Era of Pervasive Enforcement

Statutory and other tools created during earlier eras—the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) and the 9/11 terrorist attacks—have been used in powerful new ways for immigration enforcement today. Beyond these authorities, the expanded use of surveillance technologies, the tapping of sensitive federal and consumer databases, and the infusion of more than $200 billion for immigration enforcement over four years have given vast new powers and resources to federal immigration enforcement agencies and their state and local partners. This panel will examine these developments as well as the prospects for the United States to transition back to a more balanced approach.

Speakers

- **Phyllis Coven,** Fellow, Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative; former Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

- **R. Gil Kerlikowske,** Former Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection; former Chief of Police, Seattle, WA and Buffalo, NY
- **C. Stewart Verdery, Jr.,** Founder & Partner, Monument Advocacy; former Assistant Secretary for Policy and Planning, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- **Ben Wizner,** Deputy Legal Director and Director, Center for Democracy, American Civil Liberties Union
- **MODERATOR: Muzaffar Chishti**, Senior Fellow, MPI

12:45 P.M. ET - LUNCH

2:15 P.M. ET - Legal Immigration in an Age of Demographic, Skill, and Policy Change

As legal immigration to the United States declines amid bans, processing slowdowns, and increased application fees, the country is also experiencing declining birthrates, workforce aging, and skill needs. This panel will examine current and proposed policies, employer perspectives on the effects of policy change on their workforces, and what the current moment could mean for U.S. competitiveness.

Speakers

- **Julia Gelatt,** Associate Director, U.S. Immigration Policy Program, MPI
- **Lauren Kaori Gurley,** Reporter, *The Washington Post*
- **Doug Rand,** Director, Talent Mobility Fund, a Program of Renaissance Philanthropy
- **Patrick Shen,** Vice President, Immigration Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- **MODERATOR: Anna Maria Mayda,** Professor and Director, Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM), Georgetown University

3:30 P.M. ET - BREAK

3:45 P.M. ET - Impacts on Communities and Providers in a Period of Dramatic Change

As rising immigration enforcement and changing U.S. immigration, health-care, education, and other policies leave their imprint on communities across the United States, this panel will examine the impacts on immigrants and their families, legal services providers, and others working with asylum seekers, immigrant detainees, and other groups.

Speakers

- **Mauricio Calvo,** CEO, Latino Memphis
- **Guerline M. Jozef,** Co-Founder and Executive Director, Haitian Bridge Alliance
- **Matthew Soerens,** Vice President of Advocacy and Policy, World Relief
- **Keren Zwick,** Executive Director, National Immigrant Justice Center
- **MODERATOR: Anna Marie Gallagher,** Executive Director, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.

5:00 P.M. ET - EVENT CONCLUDES

With thanks to conference sponsors BAL and Fragomen.