
SIDNEY SHAINWALD
PUBLIC INTEREST LECTURE

New York Law School
September 16, 2014

A Conversation with

THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI
HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER
AND 60TH SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

PROGRAM

ANTHONY W. CROWELL

Dean and President

Welcome

SYBIL SHAINWALD, ESQ.

Introductory Remarks

CONGRESSWOMAN CAROLYN B. MALONEY

U.S. Representative for New York's 14th District

Introduction

Conversation with

THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

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JAMES F. SIMON

Dean Emeritus

Moderator

ARTHUR N. ABBEY

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Closing Remarks

For Sybil Shainwald, endowing the Sidney Shainwald Public Interest Lecture Series is a meaningful way to pay homage to the extraordinary life and career of her husband. For New York Law School, it is an opportunity to further Sidney's efforts and to honor a man who was invaluable in both his life and work.

NANCY PELOSI



Nancy Pelosi is the Democratic Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives for the 113th Congress. From 2007 to 2011, Pelosi served as Speaker of the House, the first woman to do so in American history. In October 2013, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame at a ceremony in Seneca Falls, the birthplace of the American women's rights movement.

For 27 years, Leader Pelosi has represented San Francisco, California's 12th District, in Congress. She has led House Democrats for a decade and previously served as House Democratic Whip.

As the Democratic Leader for the 113th Congress, Pelosi is focused on strengthening the middle class through job creation, reforming the political system, enacting comprehensive immigration reform and empowering America's women and families. Last summer, she led House Democrats in launching When Women Succeed, America Succeeds, an agenda to ensure that generations of women enjoy the equal opportunities that they deserve – and that American families prosper in today's economy.

Under the leadership of Pelosi, the 111th Congress was heralded as “one of the most productive Congresses in history” by Congressional scholar Norman Ornstein. President Barack Obama called Speaker Pelosi “an extraordinary leader for the American people,” and the Christian Science Monitor wrote: “...make no mistake: Nancy Pelosi is the most powerful woman in American politics and the most powerful House Speaker since Sam Rayburn a half century ago.”

Working in partnership with President Obama, Speaker Pelosi led House passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in early 2009 to create and save millions of American jobs, provide relief for American families, and provide a tax cut to 95 percent of working Americans. With the House Democratic Caucus, Pelosi continues to focus on the need to create jobs in America and prevent them from being shipped overseas.

Speaker Pelosi achieved passage of historic health insurance reform legislation in the House which establishes a Patients' Bill of Rights and will provide insurance for tens of millions more Americans while lowering health care costs over the long term. The new law provides patients with affordable insurance choices, curbs abuses by the insurance industry, strengthens Medicare, and reduces the deficit by more than \$100 billion over the next 10 years.

In the 111th Congress, Speaker Pelosi also led the Congress in passing strong Wall Street reforms to rein in big banks and protect consumers as well as the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which expands educational opportunities and reforms the financial aid system to save billions of taxpayers' dollars. Additional key legislation passed into law included the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to restore the ability of women and all workers to access our judicial system to fight pay discrimination; legislation to provide health care for 11 million American children; national service legislation; and hate crimes legislation. In late 2010, Pelosi led the Congress in passing child nutrition and food safety legislation as well as repealing the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, which prohibited gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military.

Pelosi has made energy security her flagship issue, enacting comprehensive energy legislation in 2007 that raised vehicle fuel efficiency standards for the first time in 32 years and making an historic commitment to American home grown biofuels. In 2009, under her leadership, the House passed the landmark American Clean Energy and Security Act – a comprehensive bill to create clean energy jobs, combat climate change, and transition America to a clean energy economy. The legislation was blocked by Republicans in the United States Senate, but sent a strong signal to the world about the United States' commitment to fighting the climate crisis.

A leader on the environment at home and abroad, Pelosi secured passage of the "Pelosi amendment" in 1989, now a global tool to assess the potential environmental impacts of development. In San Francisco, Pelosi was the architect of legislation to create the Presidio Trust and transform the former military post into an urban national park.

In continuing to push for accountability and transparency in government, under Speaker Pelosi, the House passed the toughest ethics reform legislation in the history of the Congress, including the creation of an independent ethics panel, and increased accountability and transparency in House operations, including earmark reforms. As Speaker, Pelosi led the fight to pass the DISCLOSE Act in the House, which fights a corporate takeover of U.S. elections and ensures additional disclosure; she continues to fight for this legislation today.

Additional key accomplishments signed into law under the leadership of Speaker Pelosi include: an increase in the minimum wage for the first time in 10 years; the largest college aid expansion since the GI bill; a new GI education bill for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars; and increased services for veterans, caregivers, and the Veterans Administration.

Pelosi comes from a strong family tradition of public service. Her late father, Thomas D'Alesandro Jr., served as Mayor of Baltimore for 12 years, after representing the city for five terms in Congress. Her brother, Thomas D'Alesandro III, also served as Mayor of Baltimore. She graduated from Trinity College in Washington, D.C. She and her husband, Paul Pelosi, a native of San Francisco, have five grown children and nine grandchildren.

CONGRESSWOMAN CAROLYN B. MALONEY



Carolyn B. Maloney is recognized as a national leader with extensive accomplishments on financial services, national security, the economy, and women’s issues. Maloney has authored and passed more than 60 measures, including the Credit CARD Act, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act and the Debbie Smith Act. She is a senior member of both the House Financial Services Committee (where she serves as Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets) and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and the Ranking House member of the Joint Economic Committee. In the House Democratic Caucus, she serves as a Regional Whip.

On the House Financial Services Committee, she has worked to modernize financial services laws and regulations, strengthen consumer protections, and institute more vigilant oversight of the safety and soundness of our nation’s banking industry. Maloney served on the historic conference committee for the Dodd-Frank financial reforms, which also created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. As co-founder of the House 9/11 Commission Caucus, Maloney helped author and pass legislation which created the 9/11 Commission and, later, to implement all of the 9/11 Commission’s recommendations for improving intelligence gathering—described as the most influential intelligence bill in decades. Maloney is working to pass legislation to create a National Women’s History Museum on the Washington Mall – the bill has passed the House and awaits action in the Senate.

Maloney has delivered roughly \$5 billion in federal transportation funding to New York City for the construction of the Second Avenue Subway and East Side Access project, and the repair of the Kosciuszko Bridge, all of which run through her district. Maloney has also worked to build affordable housing, relieve overcrowding of public schools and expand park space. With her advocacy and substantial federal support, six affordable senior housing developments have been built in her district. Maloney founded and co-chaired task forces that have led to the creation of new public schools, including the Eleanor Roosevelt High School and numerous elementary schools.

JAMES F. SIMON, DEAN EMERITUS & MODERATOR



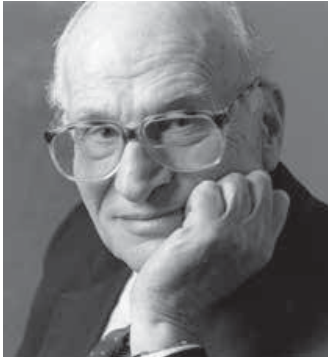
James F. Simon is the author of eight books on American history, law, and politics. His most recent book, FDR and Chief Justice Hughes: The President, the Supreme Court, and the Epic Battle Over the New Deal, has received widespread critical acclaim. Jeffrey Toobin praised FDR and Chief Justice Hughes as an “elegant dual biography of the incomparable FDR and a formidable Chief Justice” and Bob Woodward described it as “a spectacular book, brilliantly conceived and executed.” FDR and Chief Justice Hughes follows the publication of Simon’s Lincoln and Chief Justice Taney: Slavery, Secession, and the President’s War Powers, which was commended by Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. as “exciting and notable” and by Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer as “a riveting, accessible, and ingenious study.” His book, What Kind of Nation: Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, and the Epic Struggle to Create a United States, was named a “New York Times Notable Book” and called “a major contribution” by Joseph J. Ellis, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author.

Additionally, Simon is the author of several award-winning judicial biographies and histories, including Independent Journey: The Life of William O. Douglas, The Antagonists: Felix Frankfurter, Hugo Black and Civil Liberties in Modern America and The Center Holds: The Power Struggle Inside the Rehnquist Court. He has also contributed to the Oxford Companion to United States History and Collier’s Encyclopedia. He has written book reviews for The New York Times, The Washington Post, Stanford University and Columbia University law reviews. He served as an on-camera commentator for the PBS documentary on the history of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Simon is the Martin Professor of Law Emeritus and Dean Emeritus at New York Law School. He received a B.A. from Yale College, a law degree from the Yale Law School, and was the recipient of a Ford Foundation Africa-Asia Fellowship to work and study in India. He was awarded an honorary LL.D. from New York Law School.

Simon has also served as correspondent and contributing editor of “Time” magazine, specializing in legal affairs. He has been a Visiting Lecturer in American Studies at Yale University and a Harvard Fellow in Law and Humanities at Harvard University. He has lectured widely both in the United States and abroad.

SIDNEY SHAINWALD



If every man is the architect of his character, then Sidney Shainwald was a master builder: a man of great integrity, humor, intellect, charm, and kindness, with a lifelong commitment to social justice. Sidney was a rare individual – a man of many accomplishments who not only conceived and discussed ideals, but strove throughout his life to see that those ideals became realities.

Consumerism has become a household word, and CU, which has been termed a unique social invention, is now inextricably woven into the fabric of society. With more than eight million subscribers to its products and services. CU has an annual budget of \$250 million. Remarkably, it is the only social reform organization born in the Depression that has survived.

For Sidney, social justice was the desired result; Consumers Union was the mechanism through which to achieve it. It was much more than a magazine: it was a movement for change. The founders of the organization believed that product testing was a means to organize consumers to promote their welfare. CU's goal was not merely to evaluate products, but to "initiate, to cooperate with, and to aid group efforts of whatever nature – seeking to create and maintain decent living standards for ultimate consumers."

As Sidney later wrote:

The CU then is not to be confused with the CU of today. There were 148 subscribers, 10 staff members whose weekly salary totaled \$100, 350 square feet of office space, and a devoted Board of Directors. From its inception, CU's Board and staff were composed of idealists and iconoclasts. Divisiveness was exacerbated by financial difficulties, necessitating a constant interplay among the Board, the management, and staff on daily policy matters.

At the time of Sidney's retirement, the American prototype had been replicated in over 120 countries. Today IOCU, known as Consumers International, has a membership of over 240 organizations in 120 countries.

SIDNEY SHAINWALD (CONTINUED)

In 1939, at age twenty-two, Sidney wrote his thesis – the first on the subject – “Consumer Product Testing: A Comparative Analysis.” He noted:

A subscription to *Consumers Union Reports* costs three dollars, for which the subscriber is entitled to membership in the organization, which includes one vote in the annual election of directions and in the determination of the future policies of CU, twelve copies of the monthly Reports, and one copy of the *Annual Buying Guide*. The *Annual Buying Guide* is a booklet of some 300 pages, which lists the ratings of products which were tested and about which reports appeared in the magazine. The *Buying Guide* is a compact little booklet of pocket size designed to aid the consumer while performing his or her shopping. The CU Reports may be shown to anyone, but the Buying Guide is confidential and is intended to be used by no one but the subscriber.

CU feels that it has a definite responsibility in reporting on the conditions under which the products are made, since it is the workers who comprise more than 90 percent of the consumers. CU feels that it is not enough to provide consumers with information which enables them to save money by buying one brand of a commodity rather than another; it also wants to help them materially in their struggle as workers, to obtain an honest wage. CU does this by letting consumers know what products are manufactured under good labor conditions so that, when possible, they can favor them in their purchases, and by letting them know what products are produced under unfair conditions, so that consumers can avoid such products. These labor reports supplement the actual ratings as to “Best Buy,” “Also Acceptable,” and “Not Acceptable,” but in no way influence the ratings.

After serving in the South Pacific, Sidney became a partner in a public accounting firm – sharing his desk and political views with I.F. Stone a fellow radical. He was also deeply committed to the arts, and represented some of the greatest artists and entertainers of the twentieth century, including Marc Chagall, Jacques Lipschitz, Naum Gabo, George Grosz, Peggy Guggenheim, Mike Todd, Zero Mostel, David Merrick, Albert and Mary Lasker, Josh Logan, Dinah Shore, Eddie Albert, London Film Productions, Tricolor Films Ltd., Magnum Photos, and the Palestine Economic Corp. He was also the accountant for, and astute investor in, several shows and movies, including *Fanny*, *The Bells are Ringing*, and *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

SIDNEY SHAINWALD (CONTINUED)

When CU asked Sidney to work full-time, he became the Interim Executive Director, Associate Director, an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors, CU's liaison to the Consumer Association of Canada, representative to the Consumer Federation of America and a delegate to the International Organization of Consumers. From Holland to Hong Kong, he gave speeches and presented papers to budding and burgeoning consumer organizations which he visited worldwide. As CU continued to grow through the years, the *Chicago Tribune* noted that "Sidney Shainwald was CU's financial brains since the year after its founding". During Sidney's tenure, CU established three advocacy offices, became involved in the environmental movement, launched *Penny Power*, a magazine for children, fostered educational efforts, and was instrumental in launching the American Council on Consumer Interests. The organization also continued to expand its interest and considerable resources on vital economic, social, and health issues.

In 1980, Sidney paid tribute to the founding president of CU, with whom he worked for more than forty years. He spoke on behalf of the staff: "If Consumers Reports were to make a product evaluation of Colston Warne, it might read something like this: A unique model, a once-in-a-lifetime production, exceedingly efficient.... Definitely top-rated and the best buy ever." The same can be said for Sidney Shainwald.

It is a great privilege to have The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Democratic Leader and 60th Speaker of the House, as the 2014 Sidney Shainwald Public Interest Lecturer.

SIDNEY SHAINWALD PUBLIC INTEREST LECTURERS
(2004 TO PRESENT)

April 22, 2004

Kenneth R. Feinberg, Esq.

Special Master, September 11th Victim Compensation Fund
The Feinberg Group, LLP

June 1, 2005

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Senior Senator from Massachusetts

May 2, 2006

The Honorable Stephen G. Breyer

Associate Justice, United States Supreme Court

October 11, 2007

The Honorable Chuck Hagel

Senior Senator from Nebraska

April 29, 2009

The Honorable Jack B. Weinstein

United States District Court, Eastern District of New York

April 6, 2010

The Honorable Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (Ret.)

United States Supreme Court

March 2, 2012

The Honorable John Kerry

Senior Senator from Massachusetts

September 16, 2014

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

House Democratic Leader and 60th Speaker of the House

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