

IFE/INFO

Public Policy Roundtable

*Featuring Washington's Public Policy Life
Making World Affairs Our Business*



Institute
for
Education

Featuring

Samuel Anthony Alito, Jr

Associate Justice, United States Supreme Court

Introduced by

Martha-Ann Alito

At the United States Supreme Court

First Street NE, Washington, DC

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Public Policy Roundtable



Introduction

Martha-Ann Bomgardner Alito

NMartha-Ann Bomgardner Alito was born July 31, 1953 to Barbara-Ann and B. Gene Bomgardner at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Her peripatetic childhood was spent in the Azores, Texas, France and Maine before her father retired from his Air Force career. Rancocas Valley Regional High School in Mount Holly, New Jersey, provided her longest stay in one location. College studies at the University of Kentucky and a Rutgers University Program in France during her junior year, yielded a comparative literature degree and a Masters of Science in Library Science. Her professional career included Reference Librarian at the Neptune Public Library in New Jersey, Librarian at the United States Attorneys Office in Newark, New Jersey, Head of Reference at the Department of Justice, and Library Director at Congressional Quarterly. All of which were challenging and interesting positions.

After her marriage to Samuel A. Alito and the birth of their two children, Martha-Ann became a full-time homemaker and mother. She was also involved in numerous volunteer activities, including the Environmental Commission in Caldwell, New Jersey, and Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, as well as supporting her children's sporting activities.

Martha-Ann continues in her role as wife and mother while engaging in new volunteer activities including the Wounded Warriors program with Walter Reed Hospital, participating as a judge in the Ethics Bowl at Marymount College in 2008 and at Washington and Lee University in 2009, and serving on the Board of the Children's Inn at NIH. She also plans to continue with her studies in religion and the arts. ■



Special Guest Speaker

Samuel Anthony Alito, Jr.

Samuel Anthony Alito, Jr., Associate Justice, was born in Trenton, New Jersey, April 1, 1950. He married Martha-Ann Bomgardner in 1985, and has two children - Philip and Laura. He served as a law clerk for Leonard I. Garth of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit from 1976-1977. He was Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey, 1977-1981, Assistant to the Solicitor

General, U.S. Department of Justice, 1981-1985, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice, 1985-1987, and U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey, 1987-1990. He was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in 1990. President George W. Bush nominated him as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and he took his seat January 31, 2006. ■

Upcoming Speakers 2011

Invited

Aneesh Chopra
Chief Technology Officer,
United States Government

R. David Edelman
Director,
National Security Council

**The Honorable
Al Franken**
United States Senate

**The Honorable
Kristen Gillebrand**
United States Senate

Jon M. Huntsman, Jr.
Governor of Utah

Dr. Eric Lander
Founding director of MIT/
Harvard Board Institute and its
Genome Biology Program

Kathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police, MPDC

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Public Policy Roundtable

Samuel Anthony Alito, Jr
Associate Justice, United States Supreme Court

Today's Guests

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Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Julia Akerblom

Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Martha-Ann Alito

Farhud Batmanglich
President, Xanthus Design

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Justice Samuel Alito Jr

United States Supreme Court

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Institute for Education, Founder and CEO

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Ryan Lizza

The New Yorker, Discover China 2011

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DEBT AND IMMIGRATION

Kathy Kemper

Founder and CEO, Institute for Education

Posted: 07/29/11 09:17 AM ET

Anders Breivik's rampage in Norway last week has intensified scrutiny of the EU's attitude toward immigration. Many Europeans are increasingly vocal in declaring multiculturalism a failure and complaining that immigrants exploit their generous welfare systems without attempting to assimilate.

America's also in the midst of an important immigration debate — but one that is mind-boggling compared to the one taking place across the pond. While we debate incessantly about how to stop illegal immigration, we barely talk about how to ensure that we continue to attract the world's best: the brightest students, the most productive researchers and the most innovative entrepreneurs. At a time when our leaders can't seem to agree on anything, one would think policies to bring and keep such talent here would earn nonpartisan support (there are some who joke that we should staple a green card to the visa of every immigrant who graduates from an American college or university).

And yet, as the *Financial Times's* Clive Crook put it recently, "If you sat down to design an immigration policy to erode U.S. prosperity, you would struggle to come up with anything better than the current rules...the immigration of skilled workers is especially discouraged — perhaps more so than in any other industrialized country...Unskilled workers, meanwhile, arrive through the country's permeable borders."

In austere economic times like these — we're less than a week away from defaulting on our debt! — our policy-makers have to rank the country's interests (and the threats to those interests) rigorously. A useful thought exercise is to answer the question: What is America's most vital interest, without whose achievement we can't think about other national interests? Most people's answer: Americans' safety.

Ensuring that security isn't, however, just a matter of increasing the defense budget. In reality, defending the homeland requires a continuous flow of the world's best: individuals who understand the changing constellation of threats to our nation; discern which among those will grow more important in the years to come; and design

"hard" systems and "soft" policies to respond to them dynamically.

There are at least two other reasons why immigration is so crucial:

1. It keeps our nation young. Indeed, if — and it's a big if — we're able to sustain our immigrant inflow, we should be able to avoid the demographic challenges that beset the EU and Japan (and which, within another decade or two, will begin to take a toll on China).

2. America, above all, is an idea, perhaps the most important component of which is openness: openness to people, to ideas, to risk taking. An America that closes itself off will guarantee its decline. Harvard University's Joe Nye has argued that "the greatest danger to America is not debt, political paralysis or China; it is parochialism, turning away from the openness that is the source of its strength and resting on its laurels."

The debate over the debt is important. But the debate over immigration gets to who we are and, more importantly, who we will be.