AGENDA

9:00—9:45 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:45—10:15 a.m. Welcome/Framing the Issue: Peter J. Hammer, Professor and Director, Damon J. Keith Center for Urban Studies

10:15—11:00 a.m. Morning Keynote: Congressman Hansen H. Clarke, 13th District of Michigan

11:00 a.m.—12:15 p.m. Panel I: The Emergency Manager: Restructuring Decision Making

Moderator: Justin Long, Assistant Professor, Wayne Law

• Dr. Eric Scorsone, Extension Specialist, State and Local Government Program, Michigan State University

• Michael L. Stampfler, City Manager, Former Emergency Manager for the City of Pontiac

• Councilmember Saunteel Jenkins, Detroit City Council, Detroit

• Dr. Linda Kabooolian, Lecturer, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

12:15—1:30 p.m. Lunch @ McGregor Center

1:30—1:45 p.m. Introduction of keynote speaker by Dr. Robin Boyle, Chair and Professor, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Wayne State

1:45—2:30 p.m. Afternoon Keynote: Dr. Elliott Sclar, Professor and Director, Center for Sustainable Urban Development, Columbia University

2:30—3:45 p.m. Panel II: Detroit’s Municipal Water System: Corporatization of Water Governance Through Privatization

Moderator: Nicholas Schroeder, Executive Director, Great Lakes Environmental Law Center and Adjunct Professor, Wayne Law

• Jim Ridgeway, Vice President, The Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc

• John P. McCulloch, Water Resources Commissioner, Oakland County

• Shar Habibi, Resource Center Director, In the Public Interest

• Alex Beauchamp, Midwest Region Director, Food & Water Watch

3:45—4:00 p.m. Cookie and coffee break

4:00—5:15 p.m. Panel III: Vanguard’s Acquisition of the Detroit Medical Center: Corporatization of Health Care Governance Through Privatization

Moderator: Lance Gable, Professor, Wayne Law

• Marjorie Mitchell, President and Executive Director, MichiganCAN

• Peter Jacobson, Professor of Health Law & Policy and Director, Center for Law, Ethics & Health, University of Michigan

• Dr. Herman B. Gray, M.D., Children’s Hospital of Michigan

5:15 p.m. Closing: John M. Zervos, Symposium Director, Journal of Law in Society

MICHIGAN IN TRANSITION

The national media has been closely watching the social and economic trajectory of Detroit and other urban cities in Michigan. Many efforts to recreate and transform these post-industrial cities have been well documented. Less publicized, however, is a transformation that is occurring throughout the state—the restructuring of governance through privatization and corporatization. Understanding these issues is important because cash strapped cities seek change in governance structure. Transformation in governance structure can be traced across various sectors of Michigan cities. Advocates of corporatized and privatized models see previous models as failed structures and change as the only viable option for system sustainability. However, critics warn that while profit-driven governance structures may shore-up short-term finances, it does so by replacing the social mission of traditional models of governance and shifts accountability from residents to investors.

• Privatization is the process by which management of a publicly owned resource is outsourced or a publicly owned entity is sold to a private entity.

• Corporatization is an approach to resource allocation, whether public or private, characterized by increasingly centralized and hierarchical decision making.

Detroit is at the center of this change, and other parts of the country should take note. Asking the right questions is the first step. Is Detroit in need of corporate restructuring under an emergency manager? Would The Detroit Water and Sewage Department be more efficient under a privatized system? Will the acquisition by a for-profit corporation save the once nonprofit Detroit Medical Center? If transformation is taking place, if existing models of governance in local government, public works and health care are transforming into newer models through complex processes of corporatization and privatization it appears critical that the behavior and objectives of varying governance types be analyzed.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Congressman Hansen Clarke was elected to represent the 13th Congressional District of the United States House of Representatives in November 2010. Congressman Clarke serves on the House Committee on Homeland Security and the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and as the Vice-President of the Democratic Freshman Class. He also is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. Mr. Clarke was elected three times to the Michigan House of Representatives and twice to the Michigan Senate.

Born and raised in the 13th Congressional District, Congressman Hansen Clarke spent most of his life on the lower eastside of Detroit. As the son of an African-American mother and Indian father, he was exposed to diverse experiences and ways of thinking.

After passing the Michigan Bar, Mr. Clarke returned to Detroit and dedicated his career to public service. He has worked on the staff of Wayne County Executive Edward H. McNamara and U.S. Representative John Conyers.

Elliott Sclar is a professor of urban planning. An economist and urban planner, he is the director of the Center for Sustainable Urban Development (CSUD) at Columbia University’s Earth Institute, one of six global centers of excellence supported by the Volvo Foundations of Gothenburg, Sweden. Professor Sclar’s research interests include urban economic development, transportation, and public service economics. Sclar was a co-ordinator of the Taskforce on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers, one of ten task forces set up by the UN Millennium Project to aid in the implementation of the United Nation’s Millennium Development Goals.

He is a nationally recognized expert on privatization: his book You Don’t Always Get What You Pay For: The Economics of Privatization (Cornell 2000) won two major academic prizes: the Louis Brownlow Award for the Best Book of 2000 from the National Academy of Public Administration and the 2001 Charles Levine Prize from the International Political Science Association and Governance magazine for a major contribution to public policy literature.
Professor Solar is also active outside of the classroom. He is a member of the board of directors of Trillium Asset Management, the largest socially responsible investment advisory firm in the United States, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Wainwright Bank and Trust Company, a leading community bank in Boston. Solar is a member of the American Planning Association and the Society of American City and Regional Planning History. Elliot Solar holds a BA from Hofstra University (1963) and an MA from Tufts University (1966). He earned his PhD at Tufts (1972). Prior to his appointment at Columbia University, he was an assistant professor of urban economics at Brandeis University’s Heller School (1972-78).

**PANELS AND BIOGRAPHIES**

Panel I: The Emergency Manager: Restructuring Decision Making

The first panel will compare governance structure under the mayor-council and emergency manager systems of governance. Dr. Eric Scorsone will discuss the causes and consequences of economic stress in Michigan cities. Michael Stampfier will address corporate governance under the emergency manager, focusing on restructuring through hierarchical decision-making and centralization of authority. Council Member Saunteel Jenkins will address governance under the mayor-council system and the importance of community input and deliberative democracy. Dr. Linda Kaboobian will focus on the value of unions, including working with unions for better service delivery.

Dr. Eric Scorsone is an Extension Specialist and faculty member for State & Local Government in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University. Michael Stampfier is Managing Principal of CivicQuest, LLC, an expert in city management and former emergency manager of Pontiac. Council Member Saunteel Jenkins was elected to Detroit City Council in November 2009 and currently serves as chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee and the City Council Rules Special Committee.

Dr. Linda Kaboobian is a Lecturer in Public Policy at the Kennedy School of Government. She works with labor, management and community groups around improved organizational performance and service to diverse communities.


The second panel will address the possible privatization of Detroit’s water and sewage system. Jim Ridgway will focus on how the current system functions. Commissioner John McCulloch will present the suburban perspective on privatization. Shar Habibi will provide insight on competition, valuation and delivery under privatized systems. Alex Beauchamp will contribute with his grassroots expertise of water privatization in Indiana and Chicago.

Jim Ridgway is the Vice President, The Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc and was formerly responsible for all aspects of the operation of the Detroit wastewater treatment plant (at that time, the world’s largest).

John McCulloch served for 10 years as an Oakland County Commissioner prior to being elected Water Resources Commissioner. He was Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for five years and served for eight years on the Drainage Board.

Shar Habibi is the Resource Center Director of In The Public Interest, a national resource center on privatization and responsible contracting and project of the Partnership for Working Families.

Alex Beauchamp is the Midwest Region Director at Food & Water Watch and an organizer working in the Central Region.

Panel III: Vanguard’s Acquisition of the Detroit Medical Center: Corporatization of Health Care Governance Through Privatization

The third panel will address the privatization of health care focusing on the acquisition of the Detroit Medical Center by Vanguard Health Systems. Marjorie Mitchell will talk about health care in Detroit. Peter Jacobson will compare health care governance under private and nonprofit models. Dr. Herman Gray will address the Detroit Medical Center’s continued commitment to charity care.

Marjorie Mitchell is President of Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network (MichUHCAN). Mitchell has acted as an educator and advocate for persons with developmental disabilities for more than 35 years and has worked on the issue of health care reform since the early 1990s and served on the MichUHCAN Board.

Peter D. Jacobson is Professor of Health Law and Policy in the Department of Health Management and Policy, University of Michigan School of Public Health, and Director, Center for Law, Ethics, and Health. His current research interests focus on the relationship between law and health care delivery and policy, law and public health systems, and health care safety net services.

Herman B. Gray, M.D. was named President of Children’s Hospital of Michigan in August 2005. Gray, a pediatrician and child and family advocate, has a long history with Children’s Hospital of Michigan. He has held several positions including pediatric vice chief for education and pediatric residency program director, chief of staff and chief operating officer.