

MCCAIN INSTITUTE EXPERTS GUIDE



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DR. EVELYN FARKAS

Executive Director

@EvelynNFarkas

Dr. Evelyn N. Farkas, executive director of the McCain Institute, has three decades of experience working on national security and foreign policy in the U.S. executive, legislative branch, private sector and for international organizations overseas. In 2019-2020 she ran to represent New York's 17th Congressional District in the House of Representatives. Previously, she was president of Farkas Global Strategies and a senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States and the Atlantic Council and national security contributor for NBC/MSNBC. She served from 2012 to 2015 as deputy assistant secretary of defense for Russia/Ukraine/Eurasia, Balkans, Caucasus and conventional arms control. From 2010 to 2012, she was senior advisor to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe and special advisor to the Secretary of Defense for the NATO Summit. She was the executive director of the Commission on the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism and senior fellow at the American Security Project. From 2001 to 2008, she served as a professional staff member of the Senate Armed Services Committee responsible for Asia Pacific, Western Hemisphere, Special Operations Command, and policy issues including combatting terrorism and export control.

Expertise:

- National security
- U.S. relations with Russia, Ukraine, Iran, Taiwan, Japan, and middle east
- Russian influence
- International relations

Medium:

- TV
- Print/Online
- Radio/Podcast
- Op-Ed



AMB. ROGER D. CARSTENS

Distinguished Senior Fellow

John McCain Freedom for Political Prisoners Initiative

Roger D. Carstens served as the third Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs (SPEHA) at the U.S. Department of State. Over two presidential administrations, Carstens and his office brought over 65 American wrongful detainees and political prisoners home, including managing one of the largest prisoner swaps in history that brought home three Americans and Russian political prisoner Vladimir Kara-Murza, plus 12 others. He also worked to bring Brittney Griner back to the U.S. Prior to assuming this role, Mr. Carstens was a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. He previously served in Amman, Jordan, as the Country Director for a U.S.-based international nongovernmental organization (INGO) that provided humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons. Prior positions include Senior Civilian Advisor on the Commander's Advisory and Assistance Team (CAAT) in Afghanistan; Project Director for an INGO based in Somalia; Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security; and Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Mr. Carstens is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel who served in Special Forces and the 1st Ranger Battalion. He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and holds master's degrees from the U.S. Naval War College and St. John's College. Mr. Carstens is the recipient of the 2023 Robert A. Levinson Excellence in Government Service Award and was selected as a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment.

Expertise:

- Hostage negotiations
- Human rights
- Counterinsurgency
- Humanitarian assistance
- National security
- United Nations entities

Medium:

- TV
- Print/Online
- Radio/Podcast



AMB. CINDY DYER

Chief Program Officer

Ambassador Cindy Dyer is a human rights expert and lawyer with more than 30 years of experience working at the local, national, and international levels. She has held presidentially appointed positions in the Departments of Justice, Defense, and State in both Republican and Democratic administrations and has been unanimously confirmed by the Senate.

She served as the Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the U.S. Department of State. She was nominated to serve in that role by President Joe Biden.

She previously worked at the U.S. Department of Defense serving on the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military (IRC).

She served as the Director of the Office on Violence Against Women at the U.S. Department of Justice. She was nominated to serve in that role by President George W. Bush and was unanimously confirmed by the Senate, responsible for developing the Department's legal and policy positions regarding the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act.

Dyer began her career at the local level serving as a specialized domestic and sexual violence prosecutor in Dallas, Texas for more than 13 years and also served as a weekly hotline volunteer at a local women's shelter for 9 years.

She earned her Bachelor's degree from Texas A&M in Business Administration and Management and her J.D. from Baylor Law School.

Expertise:

- Human trafficking (labor, sex, state-sponsored)
- Prosecution, prevention and services for domestic and sexual assault crimes
- Criminal justice (International and domestic)
- State Department operations

Medium:

- TV
- Print/Online
- Radio/Podcast



PAUL FAGAN

Director, Democracy Programs
@PaulFaganDC

Paul Fagan is the director of the Democracy Programs for the McCain Institute at Arizona State University. In this role, Paul leads the Institute's efforts on U.S. democracy, as well as overseeing projects in Ukraine, Russia and Georgia. Previously, he served as the executive director of the Eastern Congo Initiative (ECI), an organization founded by Ben Affleck that seeks to bring the world's attention to the ongoing situation in that country but also highlight the abundant opportunities for economic and social development. Prior to joining ECI, Fagan worked at the International Republican Institute (IRI), an organization that promotes democracy worldwide by developing political parties, civic institutions, democratic governance and the rule of law. He was IRI's Africa director for nearly four years, overseeing IRI's programs during South Sudan's successful and historic transition to independence; led election observation missions to Nigeria and Somaliland; implemented IRI's first programs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and ushered in IRI's return to Mali. He was also chief of party for IRI's programs in Kenya and Zimbabwe. Earlier while at IRI, he worked on programs in the former Soviet Union and Latin America, serving as the Latin America and Caribbean division deputy director.

Expertise:

- Democracy issues in sub-Saharan Africa
- Global democracy, trends
- Domestic democracy
- Political violence
- Civility in politics

Medium:

- TV
- Print/Online
- Radio/Podcast



SCOTT NEMETH

Assistant Director, Leadership Programs
@ScottWNemeth

Scott Nemeth serves as the assistant director of Leadership Programs at the McCain Institute at Arizona State University.

Prior to the McCain Institute, Nemeth served as the Legislative Strengthening Specialist at the International Republican Institute (IRI). He founded and managed the legislative strengthening portfolio which included two global programs: the U.S. House Democracy Partnership and the Institute for Representative Government. Nemeth has substantial on the ground experience in 35 countries around the world including Lebanon, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Colombia, the Baltics, the Balkans and Southeast Asia.

Prior to joining IRI, Nemeth served as a Legislative Assistant to U.S. Congressman David Valadao and concurrently served as Majority Staff Director for the U.S. House of Representatives Central America Caucus where he built support throughout Congress for aid to the Northern Triangle. Nemeth began his time on Capitol Hill as a Military Legislative Correspondent for U.S. Senator Dan Coats. He previously served as a Field Director for the Republican National Committee and has campaign experience at the local, state and federal level.

Expertise:

- Youth participation in democracy
- Youth pushing back against authoritarianism
- Chinese aggression in Southeast Asia
- Democracy issues in Central America, Columbia, Venezuela

Medium:

- Print/Online
- Radio
- TV, recorded
- Op-Ed



BERIVAN ORUCOGLU

Assistant Director, Human Rights Defenders Program

Berivan Orucoglu is the Assistant Director of the Human Rights Defenders Program at the McCain Institute at ASU. In this role, she works with the Senior Director for Human Rights and Freedom to provide transition assistance to human rights activists forced to flee their surroundings because of threats.

She is a former journalist and served as the senior Communications Advisor to the American Ambassador in Ankara, Turkey. During her time at the Embassy, she regularly organized and supported high level visits to Turkey, winning the commendation of former Vice President Biden, former Secretary of State Kerry, former Secretary Clinton.

Before joining the Embassy, Ms. Orucoglu worked for various media outlets in Turkey, Europe and the U.S. covering major news stories of the last decade. As a diplomatic correspondent, she has traveled to Iraq, Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Gulf States. While based in Brussels, she followed EU, NATO and international summits. She speaks fluent Turkish.

Expertise:

- Human rights issues
- International human rights activism
- Protecting and supporting human rights defenders, journalists in exile
- Violations of freedom of press and freedom of expression

Medium:

- TV
- Radio
- Print/Online
- Op-Ed