

## The Panel

**Trent Lott** is Senior Counsel at the Breaux-Lott Leadership Group at Patton Boggs, and former Senate Majority Leader. He began his career in Congress on the staff of Rep. William Colmer (D-Miss.), chairman of the House Rules Committee, and was elected to Colmer's seat as a Republican in 1972 when Colmer retired. Lott was elected House Republican Whip in 1981 and served in that second-ranking leadership spot until he was elected to the Senate in 1988. He quickly moved into the Senate leadership, elected as Republican Conference Secretary in 1992 as Republican Whip in 1994, and as Senate Majority Leader in 1996. He served as the Senate's 16th Majority Leader until 2002. In 2006 he returned to the leadership as the GOP whip, where he served until his retirement in 2008. He then joined with his colleague, Sen. John Breaux (D-La.) in founding the Breaux-Lott Leadership Group. Lott is author of, *Herding Cats: A Life in Politics* (2006). He earned a B.A. degree, M.S. degree and J.D. degree from the University of Mississippi in Pascagoula.

**Richard A. Baker** is Senate Historian Emeritus, a title the Senate bestowed on him when he retired as Director of the U.S. Senate Historical Office in 2009—a position he held since the office's creation in 1975. He is the author of numerous books and articles on the Congress including a biography of former Sen. Clinton Anderson (D-N.M.), a bicentennial history of the Senate, and *200 Notable Days: Senate Stories, 1787-2002*. He has also taught courses on congressional history for Cornell University and the University of Maryland. He is currently working on a history of the Senate for Oxford University Press. He earned a B.S. degree from the University of Massachusetts; an M.A. degree in history from Michigan State University; an M.S. degree in library service from Columbia University; and a Ph.D. degree in history from the University of Maryland.

**John C. Fortier** is a Research Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. He is the principal contributor to the AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project and executive director of the Continuity in Government Commission. He is author of *Second Term Blues: How George W. Bush Has Governed* (2006); *Absentee and Early Voting: Trends, Promises and Perils* (2006); and *After the People Vote: A Guide to the Electoral College* (2004). He is a political scientist and has taught at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Delaware, Boston College and Harvard University. He earned a B.A. degree from Georgetown University and a Ph.D. from Boston College.

**Janet Hook** is a Congressional Reporter with *The Wall Street Journal's* Washington Bureau where she covers Congress and national politics. Prior to joining the *Journal* she covered the Congress for *the Los Angeles Times*. She began her journalism career as assistant editor for *The Public Interest* in 1978, and in 1983 began reporting for the *Congressional Quarterly*. In 1993 she was awarded the John S. Knight Fellowship Award for Professional Journalists. She is also the recipient of the Everett Dirksen Award for distinguished reporting on Congress and the American Political Science Association's annual award for political reporting in 2002. She earned a B.A. degree from Harvard University.