



## **Biographies of Panelists at Wall Street Reform Field Hearing**

### **PANEL 1:**

#### **Dan Williams, Program Manager, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota Financial Counseling Service**

Dan Williams began at Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota - LSS Financial Counseling in 1998, and in 1999 he began coordinating their statewide Foreclosure Prevention Program. Dan served on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention Association (MMFPA) from 2000-2007 and the Minnesota Home Ownership Center Advisory Council from 2007 to the present. In 2006 he received the 'Foreclosure Response' Award from Minnesota Housing and the Partners in Affordable Housing.

#### **Todd Stevens, General Contractor**

Todd Stevens lives in Brainerd. His hometown is Merrifield. He has been a carpenter and general contractor for twenty-five years.

#### **Ron Elwood, Staff Attorney, Legal Services Advocacy Project**

Ron Elwood has 20 years of experience in state, county and city government, and 10 years experience as a legal advocate for the poor, specializing in consumer, utility and housing issues. He has a J.D. from William Mitchell College of Law, a PhD. from New York University. He lives in Minneapolis.

### **PANEL 2:**

#### **Prentiss Cox, Associate Clinical Law Professor, University of Minnesota**

University of Minnesota Law School, J.D. Clinical Professor Prentiss Cox was an Assistant Attorney General and manager of the Consumer Enforcement Division in the Minnesota Attorney General's Office prior to joining the clinical faculty. Professor Cox has prosecuted numerous nationally recognized cases involving predatory lending and subprime mortgage lending, foreclosure, credit card practices, and telemarketing fraud.

#### **Debbie Hart, owner, ArtWorks Art & Frame**

I have had my retail store for 32 years in downtown Excelsior. Our store name is Artworks Art & Frame, Inc. We sell artists' materials and picture framing and have a small gallery department showcasing local artists. My husband and I both work here full time. I am Minnesota native and mother of four. My husband and I have lived in rural Delano for 16 years. We established the annual Excelsior Art on the Lake festival and for 27 years I was the chair of that event. In my spare time I am a volunteer for the Sherburne County Sheriffs Dept. as a Mounted Patrol Reserve Officer.



**PANEL 3:**

**Michele Kimball, Minnesota AARP State Director**

Michele has worked for AARP since 1991 and has served as State Director of AARP Minnesota since 2000. AARP has nearly 700,000 members in the Minnesota. She also co-led the award-winning AARP Medicare Fraud Team that established a successful national campaign to fight Medicare fraud and abuse in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Justice.

**David Berg**

David Berg lives in Eden Prairie. He formerly worked in the IT industry.

**Fire Chief George Esbensen, Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association**

George Esbensen has been a resident of Eden Prairie since 1984. Since 1986 George has been a member of the Fire Department where he has held the positions of Firefighter, Lieutenant, and Assistant Chief of Operations. George was appointed as the Fire Department's first full-time Chief in September 2002. In addition to his Fire Chief duties he also the Director of Emergency Preparedness. George also oversees the operations of the Building Inspections Department for the City. George has two AAS Degrees from Hennepin Technical College, one in Fire Science Technology and the other in Emergency Management and Homeland Security. George is also a member of HTC's adjunct faculty, teaching degree classes related to Fire Administration and Emergency Preparedness. George is past president of both the Hennepin County Fire Chief's Association and the Metro Fire Chief's Association. In 2006 George served as co-chair of the Legislative Task Force on issues facing volunteer Ems and Firefighters state-wide. The result of this Task Force was to recommend legislative changes to assist local first responder organizations with recruitment and retention issues. George is currently serving on the Governor's Fire and Rescue Shared Services Task Force.



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