

## **Panelist Biographies**

**Gary D. Bass** is the founder and Executive Director of OMB Watch, a nonprofit research and advocacy organization that promotes greater government accountability and transparency and increased citizen participation in public policy decisions. He is well known for assisting nonprofit organizations in better understanding federal rules affecting their groups and constituencies, and in 2003, he created [NPAction](#) as a one-stop website on building nonprofit advocacy. He is also a co-author of the 2007 book [Seen but not Heard: Strengthening Nonprofit Advocacy](#), published by the Aspen Institute. Dr. Bass has been selected as one of the *NonProfit Times* [Power and Influence Top 50](#) for each of the past 10 years; in 2007, he was selected as one of the Federal 100 — the top executives from government, industry, and academia who had the greatest impact on the government information systems community — and in 2008, he received the [Public Access To Government Information Award](#) from the American Association of Law Libraries. An expert on federal budgetary, program management, regulatory and information policy issues, Dr. Bass has published extensively, testified before Congress, appeared on national television and presented to groups across the country. A specific area of expertise is his understanding of the apparatus of government, particularly the executive branch of the federal government.

**John Cavanagh** has been Director of the Institute for Policy Studies since 1998. Before coming to the Institute to run its Global Economy program in 1983, he was an economist with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Health Organization. He has co-authored 12 books and 2 comics on the economy, has written hundreds of articles, and is specialist in popular education. He serves on the boards of the International Labor Rights Forum, the International Forum on Globalization, the Fund for Constitutional Government, and is a member of the Civil Society Committee of the United Nations Development Program.

**Sarita Gupta** is the Executive Director of Jobs with Justice (JwJ), a national campaign for workers' rights and economic justice that consists of over 45 local coalitions in cities across the United States. JwJ local coalitions bring together labor, community, faith-based, and student organizations to address issues impacting working people and their families. JwJ educates working people about the connection between workers' rights and strong communities, and explores innovative community based organizing for economic justice. Prior to becoming the Executive Director, Sarita served as the national field director, overseeing the national field program and leading on strategic programs such as health care justice, organizing and collective bargaining rights campaigns, and immigrant workers' rights. Sarita joined the national JwJ staff in 2002, after serving as the Executive Director of Chicago Jobs with Justice for four years, where she helped build the coalition to over 70 member organizations and unions. Sarita began organizing as a student on campus. She was elected President of the U.S. Student Association (USSA), the nation's oldest and largest grassroots legislative student organization, in 1996. While working at USSA, she was instrumental in the development of the Student Labor Action Project, a project of JwJ and USSA. She serves on the following boards: International

Labor Rights Forum, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, the National Organizers Forum, and the National Planning Committee of the U.S. Social Forum.

**Maya Wiley** is the founder and Director of the Center for Social Inclusion, a national policy advocacy intermediary organization which works to dismantle structural racism. A civil rights attorney and policy advocate, Ms. Wiley graduated from Columbia University School of Law in 1989. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Dartmouth College in 1986. She has litigated, lobbied the US Congress and developed programs to transform structural racism in the US and in South Africa.

Prior to founding the Center for Social Inclusion, Ms. Wiley was a senior advisor on race and poverty to the Director of U.S. Programs of the Open Society Institute, and helped develop and implement the Open Society Foundation -- South Africa's Criminal Justice Initiative. She has worked for the American Civil Liberties Union National Legal Department, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. in the Poverty and Justice Program and the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. She currently serves as Vice Chair of the Tides Network Board and has previously served on the Boards of the Institute on Race and Poverty at the University of Minnesota School of Law, Human Rights Watch and the Council on Foreign Relations.