

**Panelists for Middle Class Prosperity Project Forum on
“Ending the Retirement Savings Drain and Improving Economic Security”**

Panel 1

- **Phillip Ashburn, Former Pac Bell Employee**

Mr. Ashburn was the unwitting victim of bad retirement investment advice from an AIG insurance saleswoman after receiving a buyout from his former employer, Pac Bell. He lives in Northern California with his wife.

- **Christopher Lombardo, Son-in-law of Merlin and Elaine Toffel**

Mr. Lombardo is the son-in-law of the late Merlin and Ms. Elaine Toffel. The Toffels received retirement investment advice from a local bank that resulted in a purchase that cost them tens of thousands of dollars in excess fees.

- **Dr. Antoinette Schoar, Michael M. Koerner (1949) Professor of Entrepreneurship and Professor of Finance, MIT Sloan School of Management.**

Dr. Schoar is an expert in corporate finance, entrepreneurship, and organizational economics who researches venture capital, entrepreneurial finance, corporate diversification, governance, and capital budgeting decisions in firms. She has done several studies on the prevalence and financial impact of conflicted retirement investment advice.

- **Sheryl Garret, CFP, AIF, Founder, Garret Planning Network, Inc.**

Ms. Garret has been dubbed “The All-American Planner” because of her zealous mission to “help make competent, objective financial advice accessible to all people.” She has authored, coauthored or served as a technical editor on over a dozen books and several magazine columns. Ms. Garret has been recognized five times by *Investment Advisor* magazine as “One of the Most Influential People in Financial Planning.”

Panel 2

- **Secretary William Galvin**, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Secretary Galvin is the chief securities regulator for Massachusetts and in that role has earned a national reputation for aggressively protecting investors and has recovered millions of dollars for victims of securities fraud. From adopting first-in-the-nation regulations governing crowd-funding equity to pursuing Ponzi schemes that masquerade as multi-level marketing operations, he has led the way in state oversight of the securities industry. Under Secretary Galvin, Massachusetts was the first state to adopt standards for advisers who want to specialize in financial advice to senior citizens, a previously unregulated, and often abused, area.

- **Sharon Block, Senior Counselor, Department of Labor**

Ms. Block served as a Senior Labor and Employment Counsel for the Senate HELP Committee from 2006 to 2009, where she worked for Senator Edward M. Kennedy. Ms. Block previously served at the National Labor Relations Board as senior attorney to Chairman Robert Battista from 2003 to 2006 and as an attorney in the appellate court branch from 1996 to 2003. She received a B.A. in History from Columbia University and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center where she received the John F. Kennedy Labor Law Award.