

# Mackinac Center for Public Policy

## Introducing Our Experts

The Mackinac Center is a free-market research and educational institute headquartered in Midland, Michigan and with a satellite office in Lansing. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for all Michigan citizens by promoting market-based solutions to state and local policy questions.



### FISCAL



#### Michael D. LaFaive

Senior Director of the Morey Fiscal Policy Initiative  
lafaive@mackinac.org

Michael LaFaive is senior director of fiscal policy at the Mackinac Center. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in economics and has published widely on matters of fiscal policy.

His areas of expertise include:

- Privatization
- Minimum wage
- Interstate migration
- Alcohol control, prices and reform
- Cigarette taxes and smuggling
- State economic development



#### James M. Hohman

Director of Fiscal Policy  
hohman@mackinac.org

James Hohman has been researching and commenting on Michigan policy since 2002. He maintains the business subsidy scorecard, which shows how much every legislator has approved and voted against selective business subsidies.

His areas of expertise include:

- Michigan's budget
- Spending
- Road funding
- Michigan economic trends
- Pensions
- Tax policy



### EDUCATION



#### Molly Macek

Director of Education Policy  
macek@mackinac.org

Dr. Molly Macek brings nearly two decades of experience in secondary education. She holds a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) and has worked as a teacher and administrator in both private and public schools. She has published studies on education interventions and teacher evaluations.

Her areas of expertise include:

- School funding
- Education choice
- Charter schools
- Preschool



### REGULATION



#### Jarrett Skorup

Vice President for Marketing and Communications  
skorup@mackinac.org

Jarrett Skorup has authored studies on occupational licensure, civil asset forfeiture, labor unions and poverty programs. He has worked at the Mackinac Center since 2009 and plays a leadership role in communications and marketing efforts.

His areas of expertise include:

- Occupational licensing
- Minimum wage
- Economic history
- Housing
- Trade
- Civil asset forfeiture



#### Michael Van Beek

Director of Research  
vanbeek@mackinac.org

Michael Van Beek has authored several studies for the Mackinac Center as well as analysis and commentaries that have been published around the country. He holds a graduate degree from Purdue University.

His areas of expertise include:

- Administrative state
- Auto insurance
- Scope of Practice rules
- Regulatory reform



## LEGAL



### Patrick J. Wright

*Vice President for Legal Affairs*  
wright@mackinac.org

Patrick Wright has been an attorney at the Mackinac Center for two decades. He also served as a Michigan Supreme Court Commissioner. He received his law degree at George Washington University and undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan.

His areas of expertise include:

- Constitutional law
- Labor law
- Free speech



### Derk Wilcox

*Senior Attorney*  
wilcox@mackinac.org

Derk Wilcox received his law degree from Ave Maria School of Law and also holds a master's in economics from UD-Mercy and a bachelor's in political science and economics from the University of Michigan.

His areas of expertise include:

- Municipal law
- Public sector labor law
- Administrative and regulatory law



### Steve Delie

*Senior Attorney*  
delie@mackinac.org

Steve Delie is a senior attorney at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and a member of the Mackinac Center Legal Foundation team. He previously served as director of labor policy, policy advisor for Workers for Opportunity and My Pay My Say, and led the Mackinac Center's government transparency efforts as the director of transparency and open government.

An attorney, Steve's areas of expertise include:

- Collective bargaining
- Independent contracting
- Contract and municipal law
- Freedom of Information Act
- State and federal labor reform
- Right-to-work laws
- Constitutional law
- Open Meetings Act



## ENERGY AND ENVIROMENT



### David Stevenson

*Director of Energy & Environmental Policy*  
stevenson@mackinac.org

David has worked on state and national energy/environmental policy for 15 years. He served on the 2016 Trump EPA transition team, wrote the only peer-reviewed study on state carbon taxes, and has led successful coalitions to prevent gasoline carbon taxes.

His areas of expertise include:

- Air quality regulation
- Electric industry regulation
- Carbon capture/carbon taxes
- Renewable energy
- Electric power generation/distribution



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE



### David Guenther

*Executive Director of Workers for Opportunity*  
dg@mackinac.org

David Guenther joined the Mackinac Center for Public Policy in 2018 as senior strategist for state affairs. He built the Mackinac Center's government affairs capacity and served as the vice president for government affairs.

His areas of expertise include:

- Prison education programs
- Expungement and recidivism
- Overcriminalization