



ANNUAL ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP FORUM

Thursday, March 6, 2025 • 8:30 am-2:35 pm

The Embassy Suites by Hilton
Berkeley Heights, NJ



AGENDA

3 CPE & 2 CLE Credits Apply

8:30 am – 9:00 am

Registration and Breakfast

9:00 am – 9:05 am

Welcome

9:05 am – 9:25 am

Banking Outlook

Rob Nichols, President and CEO, American Bankers Association

9:25 am – 10:15 am

Policy Normalization in an Abnormal Economic Cycle

Craig Dismuke, Managing Director, Stifel Financial Corp.

While inflation still lingers above the Fed's 2 percent target, policymakers are increasingly confident about its path forward and have begun the process of normalizing their policy rates. Understand the factors affecting the pace of policy normalization and subsequent expectations for interest rates.

10:15 am – 10:30 am

Networking Break

10:30 am – 11:15 am

The View of New Jersey's Economic Future

Tim Sullivan, CEO, New Jersey Economic Development Authority

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Fiscal Policy at a Crossroads

Maya MacGuineas, President, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget

The national debt is at near-record levels, deficits of over a trillion dollars are here to stay, and interest payments are the fastest growing item in the budget. There are many policy options to improve this trajectory, but our political environment makes it challenging to change course. A discussion on threats, options, and opportunities presented by the national debt.

12:00 pm – 12:55 pm

Networking Lunch

12:55 pm – 1:45 pm

The Next Evolution in NJ Banking: From High Rates to High Value

Alex Matjanec, CEO & Founder, Wysh

As New Jersey banks navigate economic uncertainty, the traditional playbook of competing on rates is showing diminishing returns. Discover how leading institutions are reimagining customer value through embedded protection, exploring current market challenges, innovative protection solutions, and implementation strategies.

1:45 pm – 2:35 pm

A New World: What the Trump Administration Could Accomplish in Banking

Moderator: *Robert Azarow, Esq., Partner, Arnold & Porter's Financial Services and Corporate Groups*

Panelists: *James Bergin, Esq., Partner, Arnold & Porter's Financial Services Group*
Mark Epley, Esq., Partner, Arnold & Porter's Legislative and Public Policy Group

Gain new insights into major banking initiatives from the Trump Administration, including prospects for legislative change, regulatory initiatives, enforcement priorities and change in supervisor attitude.

2:35 pm

Program Concludes