Barney Frank served as a U.S. Congressman from 1981–2013 and as Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee from 2007–2011. While in Congress, Rep. Frank worked to adjust America’s spending priorities to reduce the deficit by providing less funding for the military, thereby protecting funding for important quality-of-life needs at home. In particular, he focused on providing aid to local communities and building and preserving affordable rental housing for low-income people. He was also a leader in the fight against discrimination of various sorts. He championed the interests of the poor, the underprivileged, and the vulnerable, and he won reelection 16 times by double-digit margins.

As Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, Rep. Frank was instrumental in crafting the short-term $700 billion rescue plan in response to the mortgage crisis, and he then worked for the adoption of a sweeping set of financial regulations aimed at preventing a recurrence. He was co-author of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, the regulatory overhaul signed into law in July 2010. He also led passage of the Credit Cardholders’ Bill of Rights Act, a measure that drew praise from editorial boards and consumer advocates.

In 1987 he became the first Member of Congress to voluntarily acknowledge that he is gay, and in 2012 became the first Member of Congress to marry his same-sex partner, James Ready.

He is the author of two books—Speaking Frankly (1992) and Frank: From the Great Society to Same Sex Marriage (2015)—and is the subject of the 2014 documentary Compared to What: The Improbable Journey of Barney Frank. He has taught at Harvard, Boston University, the University of Massachusetts Boston, and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

Peter Gallanis became President of the National Organization of Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Associations (NOLHGA) in April 1999. NOLHGA was formed in 1983 to coordinate the activities of its 51 member state guaranty associations and their member companies (comprising the entire U.S. life and health insurance industry) in connection with insolvencies of multi-state life and health insurers. Mr. Gallanis is generally responsible for all of the financial, legal, strategic, educational, communications, and administrative services that NOLHGA provides to its membership. He is an active member of the insolvency response working groups for a number of major insolvencies.

Prior to joining NOLHGA in 1999, Mr. Gallanis was the Special Deputy Insurance Receiver for the State of Illinois, where he managed the administration of approximately 80 insolvent domestic insurers of all types. He had been Illinois Special Deputy Receiver since 1995 and General Counsel of the Office of the Special Deputy Receiver since 1992. Before that, Mr. Gallanis was a partner in a large law firm in Chicago, where he was in private practice from 1978 through 1991.
Mr. Gallanis also served as Adjunct Professor of Insurance Law at the DePaul University College of Law in Chicago from 1992 until he joined NOLHGA in 1999. He received a Bachelor’s degree from the University of Chicago in 1975 and a law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1978. He is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois.

Mr. Gallanis has frequently participated in trial and appellate court receivership proceedings, both on behalf of parties and as amicus curiae. He has lectured and published often on insurance topics in the United States and in Canada, England, Switzerland, Bermuda, Spain, and Taiwan. In addition, he has testified on insurance legislative proposals before state legislatures and the Congress of the United States.

Any comments by Mr. Gallanis during this program are made solely for the purpose of facilitating open and wide-ranging debate on a variety of topics. His comments may not represent the views or positions of his current or former employers or any past, present, or future clients, and such comments may not reflect the personal views or positions of Mr. Gallanis on any particular issue.