

**WILLIAM P. BARR***TWO-TIME U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL, 2019-2020 & 1991-1993*

One of only two Americans to serve two terms as U.S. Attorney General, William “Bill” Barr represents the pinnacle of political and corporate law and has been among the most influential presences in American politics and policy for more than 40 years. Serving as the 77th and 85th attorney general under Presidents George H.W. Bush and Donald Trump, Barr put forth several programs and initiatives that were viewed favorably by both sides of America’s political spectrum and was hailed as a “throwback to the days when attorney generals would actually talk to you” for his willingness to address the questions others often evaded head on. Barr has chronicled his experiences serving as attorney general under Presidents H.W. Bush and Trump in his memoir, *One Damn Thing After Another*. Described as “vivid and forthright,” the book takes readers behind the scenes of high-profile events from each administration — from the 1992 LA riots to the aftermath of the 2020 election — through the eyes of Barr, who witnessed it all firsthand. Noted for his affable presence, as well as his exceptional candor and quick wit, when speaking, Barr offers audiences an insider’s perspective on watershed moments from two presidential administrations — both occurring during highly transformative periods in American history. As one of few individuals in the room and advising multiple presidents on important policy decisions, Barr draws from his experiences as a prominent political figure and business leader to share a high-level overview of how our current political landscape came to be, as well as address today’s challenges in law and business. Most recently, Barr was confirmed as attorney general under the Trump Administration, a role he held from 2019-2020. It marked his second term in the role. Similar to his first term, Barr launched new initiatives against violent crime, gun violence, and other law enforcement matters, and escalated efforts against Chinese industrial espionage and technology theft. He also initiated a broad antitrust review of large online platform companies and brought the probe into Russian interference in American elections to a conclusion. Barr’s confirmation for his first term as attorney general came in 1991 when then-Attorney General Richard Thornburgh resigned to run for the Senate. Barr first assumed an acting role, and was subsequently nominated and confirmed as attorney general just a few weeks later. During his first term, which concluded in 1993, he established innovative programs to combat violent crime and set significant new enforcement policies in a wide range of areas, including financial institutions, civil rights, and antitrust mergers. Before becoming attorney general, he was appointed deputy attorney general, a role in which he coordinated the country’s counterterrorism activities during the First Gulf War and led the Department of Justice’s response to the S&L Crisis. He received wide bipartisan praise for his professional running of the DOJ. Barr’s prior roles also include assistant attorney general for the Office of Legal Counsel — serving as a sub-cabinet appointee of President H.W. Bush in 1989 — and member of the White House Domestic Policy Staff under President Regan from 1982-1983. Before that, he was a law clerk to Judge Malcolm Wilkey of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit before alternating between private practice and stints in public service. Barr began his career with the CIA from 1973 to 1977, first serving with the Intelligence Directorate and later in the Office of Legislative Counsel. In between terms as attorney general, Barr spent more than 14 years in senior corporate positions at Verizon Communications and GTE Corporation prior to its merger with Bell Atlantic to become Verizon in 2000. Following a corporate tenure in which he helped to negotiate and obtain approval for several mergers, including the merger that formed Verizon, Barr retired from the company and served on several corporate boards of directors, and as “of counsel” at the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis, consulting on legal matters for various corporations.

**PETER ZEIHAN***STRATEGIST, THINKER, FUTURIST*

Peter is a New York Times bestselling author whose first three books — *The Accidental Superpower*, *The Absent Superpower* and *Disunited Nations* — have been recommended by Mitt Romney, Fareed Zakaria and Ian Bremmer. Peter is also a highly sought-after public speaker. With a keen eye toward what will drive tomorrow’s headlines, his irreverent approach transforms topics that are normally dense and heavy into accessible, relevant takeaways for audiences of all types. Peter’s fourth book, *The End of the World is Just the Beginning: Mapping the Collapse of Globalization*, was published in June 2022 and was a New York Times bestseller.



## **ARI FLEISCHER**

*PRESIDENT, ARI FLEISCHER COMMUNICATIONS INC.  
FORMER WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY*

As former White House press secretary, Ari Fleischer was the primary spokesperson for President George W. Bush and delivered the daily White House briefings from 2001 to 2003. He previously served as the spokesperson for the Bush-Cheney presidential campaign. In his almost four years working for President Bush, he served as spokesperson during the historic presidential recount, September 11th, two wars, and the anthrax attack. His best-selling book, *Taking Heat*, details his years in the White House and reached #7 on The New York Times Best Sellers list. Prior to joining the Bush campaign, Fleischer was the national spokesperson and communications director for Elizabeth Dole's presidential campaign. He has also worked on Capitol Hill as a press secretary to three Congressmen and one U.S. Senator. Fleischer is a native of Pound Ridge, New York and a 1982 graduate of Vermont's Middlebury College. Now president of his own firm, Ari Fleischer Communications Inc., he offers advice to clients in the corporate and sports worlds on how to handle the press. He is also a Fox News contributor.



## **CHARLIE COOK**

*FOUNDER OF THE COOK POLITICAL REPORT  
POLITICAL ANALYST FOR THE NATIONAL JOURNAL*

Charlie Cook is widely regarded as one of the nation's leading authorities on U.S. elections and political trends. Charlie founded the independent, non-partisan Cook Political Report in 1984, serving as Editor and Publisher until August 1, 2021 when Amy Walter took over those roles, ownership and management of the venerable newsletter. Charlie will remain as a contributor to the renamed "Cook Political Report with Amy Walter." In addition to lecturing, Charlie will continue to write his weekly column for National Journal and serving as a political analyst for both National Journal and for NBC News. Cook is also a co-author of the 2020 and 2022 editions of *The Almanac of American Politics*. Al Hunt in the Wall Street Journal has referred to Charlie as "the Picasso of election Analysis" while the New York Times has referred to the Cook Political Report as "a newsletter that both parties regard as authoritative." In 2010, Charlie was the co-recipient of the American Political Science Association's prestigious Carey McWilliams award to honor "a major journalistic contribution to our understanding of politics." In 2013 Charlie served as a Resident Fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.



## **BILL SMITH**

*FOUNDER AND CEO, LANDING*

Bill Smith is the founder and CEO of Landing, a technology, logistics, and real estate platform with a mission to make apartment living more comfortable, flexible, and convenient for everyone. With a vertically integrated business model, the company provides a network of fully furnished apartments to its members, allowing them to move across the country hassle-free and on any timeline. Prior to founding Landing, Bill was the founder and CEO of Shipt, a membership-based marketplace, enabling same-day delivery of fresh foods and household essentials across the US. Shipt was acquired by Target in December 2017 and operates as an independent subsidiary serving multiple retailers.



## **STEVEN ENGLE**

*CEO, GRADALIS*

Steven Engle joined Gradalis as Chief Executive Officer in April 2022. Before joining Gradalis, Mr. Engle served as CEO of CohBar, a clinical-stage mitochondria-based therapeutics developer, and CEO and Board Chair of XOMA, an antibody therapeutics company that helped develop products with multiple pharmaceutical companies including Novartis, Merck, Pfizer, and Takeda. Prior to XOMA, Mr. Engle served as CEO and Board Chair of La Jolla Pharmaceutical Company, which was the first to discover the biology of B cell tolerance, developed the first B cell toleragen for lupus patients, and received an approvable letter from the FDA. While at drug delivery systems company Cygnus, he helped gain FDA approval of and launch Nicotrol for smoking cessation. Mr. Engle currently serves on the Board of Prescient Therapeutics Ltd., AROA Biosurgery Ltd, and Author-it Software Corporation. He is a former director of BIO, BayBio and BIOCUM. Mr. Engle holds M.S.E.E. and B.S.E.E. degrees from The University of Texas with a focus in biomedical engineering.



**DAN CUMMINGS**  
*CEO, GOAUTO*

Dan has spent his career in financial and operational roles for non-standard insurance companies. Prior to joining GoAuto Dan was CEO of American Access Insurance Company growing direct written premium from \$20 million to \$380 million. American Access was subsequently sold to Kemper Insurance in April 2021. Prior to American Access, Dan was CFO at Newins Insurance Group, United Equitable Group and American Service Insurance Company. Dan Graduated from Northern Illinois University with a B.S in Accounting and an MBA from DePaul University.



**JEFF PEDERSEN**  
*CFO, SUJA LIFE*

Jeff Pedersen joined Suja Life as Chief Financial Officer in July 2019. Prior to joining the Company, Mr. Pedersen was Vice President of Operations Finance at Constellation Brands (NYSE: STZ), a Fortune 500 company that produces beer, wine and spirits. Mr. Pedersen also served as Director of Finance, Financial Planning and Analysis at Exemplis Corporation, a Private Equity-backed leading designer and manufacturer of office seating products. Mr. Pedersen held several roles at PepsiCo (NASDAQ: PEP), a multinational food, snack and beverage corporation, including Director of Finance, Food Service. Prior to that, he held several positions with the E. & J. Gallo Winery, the largest family owned winery in the United States. Mr. Pedersen received an M.B.A. from the University of Arizona, Eller College of Management and a B.S. in Structural Engineering from the University of California San Diego.



**JON MURCHISON**  
*FOUNDER & CEO, BLACKPOINT CYBER*

Jon Murchison started his career in network engineering and IT operations until entering the intelligence community. With more than 12 years of experience as an NSA computer operations expert and IT professional, he brings a unique perspective to developing cyber defense software. As the founder and CEO of Blackpoint Cyber, Jon drives our efforts to create innovative and efficacious solutions, helping businesses fight back cyberthreats.



**DUSTIN BURKE**  
*MANAGING DIRECTOR & SENIOR PARTNER, BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP*

Dustin Burke is a core member of Boston Consulting Group's Operations practice and global co-leader of BCG's manufacturing and supply chain topic. He leads the firm's Supply Chain AI initiative to combine artificial intelligence and supply chain applications to help companies make their supply chains more efficient and resilient. Dustin's client work focuses on supply chain network optimization, digital supply chain, and distribution & logistics. He has experience advising companies, governments, and investors in consumer goods, retail, industrial distribution, manufacturing, and transportation and logistics. He has been a featured presenter at CSCMP and other supply chain conferences, and a TED speaker. Dustin is a graduate of the University of Virginia and The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his MBA in Marketing & Operations management.



**JASON JENNE**  
*CFO, TRUE TEMPER SPORTS*

Jason Jenne is CFO of the sporting goods company, True Temper Sports; the #1 golf shaft company in the world, and the fastest growing hockey and baseball brand in those respective markets. True Temper has grown revenues from \$80M to over \$200M in the past five years, and has expanded its manufacturing and supply chain from the US, to Canada, Mexico, the EU, China, Korea and Japan. Prior to joining True Temper Sports Jason served in a variety of financial and operational roles for Emerson Electric Company, based in St. Louis, Missouri.

