

About the Niskanen Center

The Niskanen Center works to advance an open society by active engagement in the war of ideas, direct engagement in the policymaking process, and through the courts with amicus briefs and pro bono representation. We develop policy proposals, mobilize other groups to support those proposals, promote those ideas to legislative and executive decision-makers, build short- and longer-term coalitions to facilitate joint action, establish strong working relationships with allied legislative- and executive-branch actors, and marshal the most convincing arguments and information in support of our agenda.

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Niskanen Center (NC)

Description:

The Niskanen Center, which was co-founded by Jerry Taylor and Joe Coon in January 2015, is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) think tank that works to promote an open society ...

Stakeholder(s):

William (Bill) Niskanen :

The Center is named after William (Bill) Niskanen. Bill was a long-time friend whom we knew as chairman of the Cato Institute. Before his time at Cato, Bill was a defense policy analyst at RAND, director of program analysis at the Institute for Defense Analyses, assistant director of the Office of Management and Budget, professor of economics at the University of California at Berkeley, chief economist at the Ford Motor Company, professor of economics at UCLA, and a member (and later, acting chairman) of the Council of Economic Advisers under President Ronald Reagan.

Bill was a personification of the qualities we embrace at the Niskanen Center. He was an exemplary scholar who never let ideology or partisanship color his interpretation of facts and data. He was an idealist but, at the same time, a political realist with a burning desire to improve the state of affairs to whatever extent he could. And he was a man who earned great affection and respect from people across a wide range of governing networks in Washington.

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Vision

An open society

Mission

To advance an open society

Values

Open Society:

a social order that is open to political, cultural, and social change; open to free inquiry; open to individual autonomy; open to the poor and marginalized; open to commerce and trade; open to people who may wish to come or go; open to different beliefs and cultures; open to the search for truth; and a government that protects these freedoms while advancing the cause of open societies around the world.

1. Ideas

Actively engage in the war of ideas

2. Policy

Engage in the policymaking process

We develop policy proposals, mobilize other groups to support those proposals, promote those ideas to legislative and executive decision-makers, build short- and longer-term coalitions to facilitate joint action, establish strong working relationships with allied legislative- and executive-branch actors, and marshal the most convincing arguments and information in support of our agenda.

2.1. Proposals

Develop policy proposals

2.2. Mobilization

Mobilize groups to support our proposals

2.3. Advocacy

Promote those ideas to legislative and executive decision-makers

Stakeholder(s):

Legislative Decision-Makers

Executive Decision-Makers

2.4. Coalitions

Build short- and longer-term coalitions to facilitate joint action

2.5. Relationships

Establish strong working relationships with allied legislative- and executive-branch actors

Stakeholder(s):

Legislative-Branch Actors

Executive-Branch Actors

2.6. Information & Arguments

Marshal the most convincing arguments and information in support of our agenda

3. Litigation

Engage the courts with amicus briefs and pro bono representation

Stakeholder(s)

Courts

Administrative Information

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