

## **Senate Democratic Policy Committee Hearing**

### **“An Oversight Hearing on Waste, Fraud and Abuse in U.S. Government Contracting in Iraq”**

#### **Witness Biographies**

##### **Franklin Willis**

Franklin Willis served in Baghdad, Iraq as the Senior Aviation Official for the Coalition Provisional Authority. He is currently Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the Lynn Institute in Oklahoma City. He spent nearly fifteen years in federal government service, and served as Deputy Assistant Secretary at both the Departments of Transportation and State in the Reagan Administration. After leaving government service, he became Group Vice President at Legal and Environmental Affairs for Rollins Environmental Services, Inc. of Wilmington, DE.

Mr. Willis has lectured on federal contracting and budgeting at numerous conferences and workshops. He graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard and *cum laude* from the University of Michigan Law School, where he served on the Board of Editors of the Law Review. He has been a member of the adjunct faculty at Georgetown University and Georgetown Law School and a lecturer at the University of Michigan Law School.

##### **Don North**

Don North, an independent journalist and producer, is the former Senior Television Executive to the Iraq Media Network. Mr. North career began in Vietnam as a cameraman and, later, as a correspondent for both ABC and NBC News.

Turning from Vietnam to the Middle East, Mr. North studied Arab Nationalism at Columbia University Graduate School where he received a degree in Advanced International Reporting. He then served as NBC News Bureau Chief in Cairo, where he directed “The Carlos Connection,” which won a Gold Medal at the New York Film Festival.

In the mid-1980s and early-1990s, Mr. North reported and produced documentaries in Beirut, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Afghanistan and served as media advisor to Joint Commander Prince Khalid Bin Sultan during the Gulf War. In 1993, he covered the siege of Sarajevo and the Arab news magazine “Al Wasat” and trained television journalists for UNESCO in Bosnia, Romania, Afghanistan, and Egypt. During the NATO war in Kosovo he returned to ABC News as Pentagon correspondent.

In March 2003, Mr. North was embedded with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne First Brigade for the invasion of Iraq and reported to National Public Radio and Canada’s CTV News.

### **Alan Grayson**

Alan Grayson has been a principal at Grayson, Kubli, & Hoffman, P.C. in McLean, Virginia since he founded the firm in 1991. In the area of government contracts law, the firm represents clients in claims, bid protests, false claims actions, audits, and debarments. Prior to starting the firm, Mr. Grayson was a founder and President of IDT Corporation, today a publicly traded billion-dollar telecommunications company.

Mr. Grayson also worked for five years at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver, & Jacobson, a Washington, DC law firm, where he concentrated in government contracts law. He was a law clerk at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit from 1984 to 1985 and at the Colorado Supreme Court from 1983 to 1984.

Mr. Grayson received his B.A., M.A., and J.D. from Harvard. He has been a lecturer at the George Washington University Government Contracts Program and, in addition to his private practice, he is a frequent speaker on government contracts laws.

### **Steve Ellis**

Mr. Ellis is Vice President of Taxpayers for Common Sense (TCS), where he oversees programs and serves as a leading media and legislative spokesperson. An aggressive advocate against waste, fraud, and abuse in government, and a persistent critic of the mounting budget deficit, Mr. Ellis has testified before numerous Congressional Committees and has appeared on national network news programs, including programs on CBS, NBC, ABC, Fox, CNN. He has also been interviewed on National Public Radio.

Mr. Ellis formerly served as an officer in the Coast Guard for six years including tours of duty as a department head and deck watch officer aboard Coast Guard Cutter Sorrel, managing the Coast Guard's inland waterway fleet, and managing a small boat acquisition contract. After leaving the Coast Guard, Mr. Ellis worked at American Rivers and the Coast Alliance on Mississippi River on coastal subsidy issues.

Mr. Ellis received a B.S. in Government from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He has earned both the Coast Guard Commendation Medal and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal.