

TPC Presents Distinguished Speaker John Koskinen

Speaker Biographies

John Koskinen, the 48th IRS commissioner, presides over the nation's tax system, which collects approximately \$3.3 trillion in tax revenue each year. Koskinen manages an agency of about 83,000 employees and a budget of approximately \$11.2 billion. He ensures that the agency maintains an appropriate balance between taxpayer service and tax enforcement and administers the tax code with fairness and integrity. Before this appointment, Koskinen was the nonexecutive chairman of Freddie Mac from 2008 to 2012 and its acting chief executive officer in 2009. Previously, Koskinen was president of the US Soccer Foundation; deputy mayor and city administrator of Washington, DC; assistant to the president and chair of the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion; and deputy director for management at the Office of Management and Budget. Koskinen also spent 21 years in the private sector in various leadership positions, including president and CEO, with the Palmieri Company, helping to turn around large, troubled organizations. He began his career clerking for Chief Judge David L. Bazelon of the DC Circuit Court of Appeals in 1965; practiced law with the firm Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher; and was assistant to the deputy executive director of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. Koskinen also was legislative assistant to New York mayor John Lindsay and administrative assistant to Senator Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut. Koskinen holds a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a law degree from Yale Law School. He also studied international law for one year in Cambridge, England.

Mark Mazur is the Robert C. Pozen director of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. Previously, Mazur was the assistant secretary for tax policy at the US Treasury. Mazur's 25 years of public service includes stints at the Internal Revenue Service, where he was director of the Office of Research, Analysis, and Statistics; the US Department of Energy, where he was a senior adviser to Secretary Bill Richardson and administrator of the US Energy Information Administration; and the Joint Committee on Taxation, the President's Council of Economic Advisers, and the National Economic Council. Mazur received a BA in financial administration from Michigan State University and a PhD in economics, business, and public policy from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.