

Preface

Since its founding nearly 20 years ago, The Constitution Project has worked to protect our constitutional system of checks and balances. We have done so in a variety of ways and contexts, from advocacy to reduce secrecy around national security programs, to efforts to protect the legitimacy and independence of the federal courts, to public education about the proper use and scope of presidential signing statements. In 2009, we partnered with Morton Rosenberg—who served for over 35 years as a researcher and Specialist in American Law at the Congressional Research Service (CRS)—to produce a handbook specifically on congressional oversight and investigation. The result was the first iteration of *When Congress Comes Calling*, which this study now replaces.

We are extremely lucky again to have had the opportunity to work with Mort, who authored the vast majority of what follows. He is a lion in the field of congressional oversight and investigation, and his work on this project has been truly extraordinary.

This study would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of TCP Program Assistant David Janovsky, Senior Counsel Katherine Hawkins, and our indefatigable interns Sierra Brummett, Alyssa Dunbar, Carly Fabian, Rachel Margolis, Andrew Oppong, Erin Quinnan, and Lauren Weiss. We sincerely thank each of them.

We are also extraordinarily grateful to the Hewlett Foundation's Madison Initiative for its generous support for this project.

Virginia Sloan
President

Scott Roehm
Vice President of Programs and Policy

First, and foremost, I must acknowledge the unstinting patience, support and understanding of my wife, Aileen, for this two year delay of my full retirement that allowed me to undertake this important project. Of course my utmost appreciation goes out to The Constitution Project and the Hewlett Foundation for the confidence they have demonstrated in my ability to present the essentials of this consequential topic. My particular thanks go to Scott Roehm for his tireless efforts, legal perceptiveness, editing prowess and infinite patience that translated my rambling legalese into readable and usable expository prose. Finally, I would be remiss in not giving full recognition, appreciation and credit to the literally uncountable number of congressional members and staff that allowed me a Zelig-like presence in their oversight and investigative activities for over 35 years that provided me with the hands-on experiences and insights that I am attempting to pass on in this study.

Morton Rosenberg

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