

# Speaker Bios

**Lauren Schapker** joined the American Road and Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) in July 2019 as vice president of legislative affairs. She is one of ARTBA's primary advocates on Capitol Hill and works with legislators and their staffs to advance transportation construction industry priorities.

Prior to joining ARTBA, Lauren worked at the Portland Cement Association (PCA) beginning in 2009. She led the organization's transportation portfolio through the MAP-21 surface transportation law. She oversaw PCA's grassroots and political efforts, both of which grew significantly under her leadership.

Schapker left PCA in 2014 to open the Washington, D.C., office of the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). For nearly five years, she directed both legislative and regulatory portfolios on a range of infrastructure matters, increasing NGWA's profile with key stakeholders and national media. She helped establish the nation's first groundwater monitoring network, restore tax credits for renewable energy technologies and improve the regulatory climate for rural infrastructure projects.

She began her career at the public affairs and government relations firm Xenophon Strategies, where she focused on transportation and infrastructure issues. She represented cities, counties and school districts seeking federal assistance for infrastructure projects. She also led Xenophon's political fundraising.

A native of Cincinnati, Schapker has a B.S. in finance and an M.A. in political science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She and her husband reside in Alexandria, Va. with their daughter and son.

**Seamus Dowdall** is the associate legislative director for telecommunications & technology on NACo's government affairs team. In this role, Seamus serves as the liaison to NACo's Telecommunications & Technology Policy Steering Committee and advocates directly to federal partners in the Administration and on Capitol Hill to advance policy priorities on issues including broadband deployment and accessibility, wireless technology siting, and emergency communications policy. Seamus also works with county officials from across the country to set organizational priorities and policies for telecommunications & technology issues through hosting regular webinar programming and providing technical assistance resources.

Prior to joining NACo, Seamus held several positions with POLITICO, including roles as customer success manager and account manager for POLITICO's state news networks and POLITICO Pro premium subscription service. Seamus holds a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from Bucknell University, and a master's in public policy (MPP) degree from American University. Seamus is originally from Silver Spring, Maryland and currently resides in the DMV region.

**Jeffrey Soth** is the legislative and political director of the International Union of Operating Engineers, one of North America's largest construction unions. Soth hails from Washington State, where he served as a staffer in both chambers of the legislature and as mayor of his hometown, the City of Snohomish, WA. Soth is a long-time member of Operating Engineers Local 302, Washington, Alaska, and Idaho. He possesses a Bachelor of Arts in economics and a master's degree in political science from Western Washington University.