

WILLIAM N. LAFORGE

Bill LaForge has enjoyed a career in both the public and private sectors spanning the fields of law, government, higher education, and public policy. He is an attorney and registered lobbyist in Washington, D.C., and principal of LaForge Government Relations. He specializes in federal government relations, and represents businesses and other organizations with public policy interests before the United States Congress and federal executive branch agencies. For more than 35 years, Mr. LaForge has been involved with the public policy arena at local, state, and federal levels. As a prosecutor and a deputy chancery court clerk in the Mississippi Delta, a senior congressional policy advisor in Washington, and a private practitioner since 1990, he has extensive experience in governmental relations and public policy advocacy.



On Capitol Hill, Mr. LaForge served as senior legislative counsel to Republican and Democratic lawmakers in both houses of Congress. He was chief counsel of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, and culminated his government career as Chief Legislative Counsel and Chief of Staff to United States Senator Thad Cochran of Mississippi. Previously, he served as Congressional Liaison for the Peace Corps and as a legislative assistant to Mississippi Congressman David Bowen. He has also advised and organized political campaigns for major office holders in both political parties.

Mr. LaForge is a member of the bars of Mississippi and the District of Columbia. He is Past National President of the Federal Bar Association, and a member of the board of directors of the Federal Bar Building Corporation. A frequent speaker on topics of government, public policy, and the operations of Congress, he holds an academic appointment as an adjunct professor at George Washington University, where he has taught courses in the fields of commercial law, public policy, lobbying and business-government relations for 30 years. He has been a visiting professor of law in Russia, Poland, and Bulgaria. He has also served as a trustee of the Delta State University and the Pi Kappa Alpha educational foundations, and he is Past National President of both the Delta State University Alumni Association and the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. He was awarded a Fulbright Specialist teaching fellowship at Penn State University in Russia, and he is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of Law Sciences of that university.

Mr. LaForge grew up in Cleveland, Mississippi, where he attended the public schools and graduated with honors from Delta State University. He earned his law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law, received an LL.M. in international law from Georgetown University, and studied international law at Cambridge University. He received fellowships to study government and public policy in the European Union and at the Kennedy

School of Government at Harvard University, and he is the recipient of an honorary doctorate of laws from the Stetson University College of Law. A daily runner, Mr. LaForge is a veteran of 61 marathons, including 24 Boston Marathons, and he has logged more than 70,000 miles running. He was named 1999 Athlete of the Year by the University Club of Washington. He and his wife, Nancy, have two adult children—Caroline and Clayton. They reside in Oak Hill, Virginia, near Washington, D.C. He is the author of the award-winning book, Testifying Before Congress, a comprehensive treatise on preparing and delivering congressional testimony, published by TheCapitol.Net in 2010.

While a student at Delta State, Mr. LaForge was a faculty scholar, president of the student government association, and charter president of Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honorary society. He was co-founder of the Student Body Presidents' Council of Mississippi, a first-place medalist in national intercollegiate debate, and a Mississippi Youth Congress award winner. He was selected as one of his college fraternity's most outstanding undergraduates in the nation, and was one of the first four students inducted into Delta State's Student Hall of Fame.

As a DSU alumnus, Mr. LaForge has served as national president of the Delta State University Alumni Association and a trustee of the Delta State University Foundation. He was selected Delta State's Alumnus of the Year in 1992, and a charter member of the Delta State University Alumni Hall of Fame in 2007.