Philip K. Howard, Esq. (Guest Speaker)

Philip K. Howard, a partner in the law firm Covington & Burling LLP, is also a well-known leader of legal reform in America. He is the author of Life Without Lawyers (Norton, 2009), as well as the best-seller The Death of Common Sense (Random House, 1995) and The Collapse of the Common Good (Ballantine, 2002), and he is a periodic contributor to the op-ed pages of The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post. He advises leaders of both parties on legal and regulatory reform issues, and wrote the introduction to Vice President Al Gore's book Common Sense Government. He has testified before both houses of the U.S. Congress, regularly speaks at leading institutions (his speech at the 2010 TED conference has been watched by hundreds of thousands of people), and has appeared on major television shows, including Oprah and The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.

In 2002, Howard founded Common Good (www.commongood.org) to fix America’s broken legal and regulatory system. Common Good is launching a campaign, called Start Over, to clean out obsolete law. The Advisory Board of Common Good is composed of leaders from a broad cross-section of American political thought including, among others, former Senators Howard Baker, Bill Bradley, George McGovern and Alan Simpson.

Howard has long been a civic leader in New York. He was Chair of the Committee that installed the "Tribute in Light" Memorial for those who died on September 11th.

Howard grew up in Eastern Kentucky, the son of a minister, and lives in Manhattan with his wife Alexandra. They have four children.