

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

LUNCHEON PANELISTS



Consistently named one of Lansing's Most Effective lobbyists by lawmakers and capitol insiders, **Wendy Block** is the senior vice president of business advocacy for the Michigan Chamber.

Wendy leads the organization's extensive legislative and political operations as well as member engagement activities. She is the organization's chief lobbyist and is known for her deep policy knowledge, unwavering ethics and forthrightness, and commitment to pragmatic public policy.

Wendy has worked in and around Lansing's political circles for over two decades and has her pulse on key business issues before the Michigan Legislature. Before joining the Chamber, Wendy held several policy-related positions in the Michigan House and Senate.

In addition to being named one of Lansing's "Most Effective Membership Organization or Association" lobbyists many years running (most recently again in 2023), Wendy was recognized in Crain's 2022 50 Names to Know in Lobbying.

Wendy holds a B.A. from Loyola University in Chicago, Illinois. She is a graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organization Management (IOM), the Leadership Michigan program and the Leadership Development Program (LDP) at the Center for Creative Leadership.



Jon Baselice currently serves as the Vice President of Immigration Policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and joined the Chamber in June 2014. He works with member companies to form Chamber policy positions on various issues and advocates for sensible immigration policies before Congress and the executive branch agencies.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Jon served as an advisor to Senator Rubio for three and a half years. In that capacity, he held a very important position as one of the Senator's lead immigration advisors during the Senator's involvement with the Gang of 8 and his push for comprehensive immigration reform legislation in the 113th Congress.

Jon is an attorney and he is licensed to practice in the states of New York and Florida. He obtained his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law and he completed his undergraduate education at Syracuse University where he majored in Economics and Political Science and was a member of the Syracuse Orange football team.

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Thomas (Tom) Jalics is a Vice President and Senior Portfolio Manager at Fifth Third Bank. Tom will develop, recommend, and execute investment programs designed to achieve the objectives of clients within Fifth Third Private Bank. Tom has more than 19 years of experience in the financial services industry in various investment management roles.

Prior to Fifth Third, Tom worked at Key Private Bank (KPB), where he was the Head of Equity Research and was responsible for managing KPB's proprietary equity strategies, third party equity managers, as well as an in-house equity derivatives team.

Prior to Key, Tom was an Equity Research Analyst at National City Corporation and an Associate in its Finance Leadership Development Program.

Additionally, Tom is a sought-after industry expert and commentator having been quoted often in the media including Bloomberg Business News, Reuters, The Economist, and The Cleveland Plain Dealer. Tom has also appeared on television and radio including Bloomberg (Television, Radio, and Business News), CNBC, The Wall Street Journal and CBS Radio Chicago.

Tom has a BA in Chemistry and Economics from Miami University and an MBA from the University of Chicago. He has earned his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) professional designation. He is a board member of CFA Society of Cleveland and served as its President in 2015-2016.

A proud native Clevelander, Tom grew up in Rocky River and made the move across the Cuyahoga as an adult where he and his family reside in Shaker Heights.



John Melcher has been chief operating officer at Crystal Mountain since 2017. Prior to that, he enjoyed a 25-year career at Fifth Third Bank and most recently served as vice president of Commercial Banking, where he worked with Crystal Mountain for about fifteen years.

He serves on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the BEST Benzie County Leadership Team, is a reserve lieutenant with the Traverse City Police Department and a patroller with Crystal Mountain's Ski Patrol.

Melcher has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Denison University in Grandville, Ohio, and an MBA from the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. He and his wife Beth have two children.