

William N. LaForge

Professor LaForge is President of Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. Previously he taught at George Washington University in Washington, DC, as an adjunct member of the faculty from 1982 until 2013. His course offerings included Commercial Law, Business & Public Policy, and Business Representation & Lobbying in the MBA/MPA program. He also served as a summer institute faculty director and adjunct faculty member at Georgetown University where he taught a course in Business-Government Relations for ten years.

An attorney by training and a registered federal lobbyist, Mr. LaForge spent 37 years in Washington, D.C., in both government and the private sector, and he has extensive experience in legal, government, and public policy arenas. For twelve years, he served in senior staff positions in both houses of the United States Congress, where he worked both for Democrats and Republicans. He was staff director for a U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee, served as Congressional Liaison for the Peace Corps, and culminated his government career as Chief of Staff for United States Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS). He was a prosecutor early in his career.

In the private sector, Mr. LaForge was a member of law and public affairs firms in Washington from 1990 until 2013. Immediately prior to assuming the Delta State presidency, he was the principal of LaForge Government Relations. His practice was exclusively federal government relations and public policy advocacy, and he represented and lobbied on behalf of business and municipal clients with public policy interests before the U.S. Congress and federal agencies. He is licensed to practice law in the Washington, DC and in the State of Mississippi, and he is admitted to practice before a number of state and federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court.

A frequent speaker on the topics of business-government relations and the operations of Congress, Mr. LaForge is past national president of the Federal Bar Association. His undergraduate degree is in history from Delta State University, and his J.D. is from the University of Mississippi School of Law. He earned an LL.M. in international and comparative law from Georgetown University, studied international law at Cambridge University, and received fellowships to study government and public policy in the European Union and at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He received an honorary doctorate of laws from the Stetson University College of Law.

This is Mr. LaForge's fifth visit to Lublin. He has previously taught short courses at KUL in the law of contracts, in business/government relations, in business/commercial law, and in testifying before Congress. He has been a visiting professor of law at The University of National and World Economy in Sofia, Bulgaria, and at Perm State University in Perm, Russia, twice as a Fulbright Scholar.

An avid daily runner for 42 years, Mr. LaForge has completed 61 marathons, including 24 Boston Marathons, and he has logged more than 75,000 miles running. He is the author of the award-winning book, Testifying Before Congress, a comprehensive treatise on preparing and delivering congressional testimony.