KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

EUGENE ROBINSON
Pulitzer Prize-winning Columnist, The Washington Post and Political Analyst, MSNBC

Gene Robinson has the ear of inside-the-beltway political insiders. With more than 25 years of reporting experience, his incisive political commentary is welcome on news programs such as MSNBC’s Hardball, The Rachel Maddow Show and NBC’s Meet the Press. Widely recognized for his uncanny ability to speak truth to power, Robinson is a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer who brings audiences a tested perspective on today’s political news.

In his various roles at The Washington Post and while reporting abroad, Robinson has witnessed firsthand the revolution taking place online and in the 24/7 news cycle and has seen how the news media is influencing American culture. He is one of the most prominent African-American intellectuals on the culture scene and author of Disintegration: The Splintering of Black America (2010).

STEVE SCHMIDT
Political Analyst, MSNBC and Renowned Political Strategist

Combining expertise, passion and a laser focus, Steve Schmidt provides audiences with a candid insider’s perspective of today’s political headlines. Schmidt served as senior strategist for Senator John McCain’s 2008 presidential campaign and is featured and played by Woody Harrelson in the HBO movie Game Change, adapted from the best-selling book by the same name chronicling the campaign. Prior to serving as campaign manager for the re-election of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006, Schmidt was a member of the White House senior staff as deputy assistant to the President and counselor to the Vice President. Schmidt also served as one of the top strategists on President George W. Bush’s 2004 re-election.

Today, he serves as a political analyst for MSNBC and is Vice Chairman for Public Affairs for Edelman, the world’s largest independent public relations firm.