Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Witness Disclosure Requirement - "Truth in Testimony"
Required by House Rule XI, Clause 2(g)(5)

1. Your Name: Michael Best		
2. Your Title: Senior Policy Advocate		
3. The Entity(ies) You are Representing: Consumer Federation of America		
4. Are you testifying on behalf of the Federal, or a State or local government entity?	**Yes**	**No** X
5. Please list any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts or payments originating with a foreign government, that you or the entity(ies) you represent have received on or after January 1, 2013. Only grants, contracts, or payments related to the subject matter of the hearing must be listed. N/A		
6. Please attach your curriculum vitae to your completed disclosure form.		

Signature: [redacted] **Date:** 5/23/16

Michael Best

[redacted]

EXPERIENCE

CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA, Washington, DC
SENIOR POLICY ADVOCATE, 5/2013—Present
Promoted from POLICY ADVOCATE, 6/2015

Policy Analysis and Research

Detailed research in many areas including state and federal law, federal appropriations and regulatory processes. From research, draft written product for diverse audiences including press releases, letters to Congress and regulatory agencies, staff memos and in-depth reports for release by the organization.

Support collaborative efforts, often technical in nature, in a variety of areas including financial services, product safety, and consumer protection. Specializing in quickly becoming expert on new programs and issues, tracking new research and rulemaking/regulatory developments, and preparing appropriate and accessible briefing materials.

Evaluate trends and potential new research areas, particularly on issues that impact low income and vulnerable groups, by reaching out to experts and advocacy groups and drafting background and proposals for future programming and work.

Selected Published Reports

Public Views on Paid Tax Preparation: Strong Public Support for New Consumer Protections to Prevent Errors and Fraud
January 2016, First author
Issue brief detailing results of a national poll.

Protecting Consumers at Tax Time: Federal and State Efforts to Address Common Problems Associated with Paid Tax Preparation
January 2015, First author
Report on state of regulation of paid tax preparers at both federal and state level along with policy recommendations. Worked closely with Financial Services Director.

ATVs on Roadways: A Safety Crisis
March 2014, Second Author
Conducted fifty-state review, analyses and interpretation of laws governing all-terrain vehicle use on public roads. Later updated research to include laws governing recreational off-highway vehicles on roads as part of a comment on a proposed rule. Worked closely with Legislative Director.

Uninsured Drivers: A Societal Dilemma in Need of a Solution
March 2013, Second author
Fifty-state legal research on penalties for driving without mandatory insurance. Worked with Executive Director.

Outreach and Media

Congressional outreach and meetings, lending support and flagging other issues of interest to organization.

Draft press releases to highlight organization's work and raise issue profiles among public and policymakers.

Recruit stakeholders to participate in tele-press conference and joint press releases managed and drafted by the Senior Policy Advocate.

On-the-record expert in print and radio interviews.

Invited panelist on regulation of paid tax preparer issue.

Speaker on webinar and at expert committee regarding off-highway vehicle fatality data and related original legal research.

Develop web content to highlight and represent work in easily digestible and accessible format.

Project Management

Lead advocate on promoting the regulation of currently unregulated paid tax preparers to protect vulnerable and low income consumers at the state level. This work, which recently resulted in an 18 month grant extension, focuses on developing strong stakeholder relationships to build a coalition around the issue, including best practice and strategy sharing, and and includes the following responsibilities:

- Identify and establish strong relationships with state and national stakeholders and organizations (including advocacy groups and industry) interested in the issue.
- Provide technical assistance to grantees, establish desired outcomes, and track results of sub-grant allocations.
- Schedule, convene, and lead stakeholder meetings to discuss policy problems and solutions.
- Prepare briefing materials for group members and leadership and provide technical assistance.
- Update stakeholders on federal-level developments and the potential for impact on state work.
- Build consensus in areas where some stakeholders may have different perspectives and priorities.
- Track contacts and interactions with stakeholders.
- Track and report on outcomes and deliverables to internal leadership and funders both informally and through drafting updates required under grant.

Develop and implement organization's annual policy resolution process including timeline planning, the organizing and convening of diverse stakeholders, working to expand the reach and scope of the process, facilitating a series of calls and meetings to build consensus around member priorities to reflect the evolving needs and priorities of vulnerable consumers.

Streamlined organizations lobby reporting process, resulting in a decrease in staff resources necessary to complete work, and mentored junior staff in taking over new process.

Support collaborative efforts through research, editing and drafting of documents, attending meetings, representing organization on a variety of issues and collaborating with other staff.

SELF, Washington, D.C.
CONSULTANT, 10/2012 – 5/2013
Clients: SEIU, CKR Analytics

Developed model legislative and regulatory language by identifying and adapting state best practices for use in other jurisdictions.

Wrote and delivered briefing materials on behalf of clients with audiences ranging from internal leadership, to outside parties such as client coalition partners, journalists and academics.

Wrote and delivered presentations and associated materials for clients and their partners on the history of, consumer behavior, and regulatory environment within a highly regulated industry.

Responded to client requests for information regarding state and federal regulation, legislative activity, and oversight of a highly regulated industry with an impact on vulnerable populations.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, Washington, DC
LEGAL INTERN, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE, 3/2012— 6/2012

Conducted legal and policy research on issue areas and proposed legislation that could impact vulnerable populations.

Prepared briefing materials for ranking member, Representative George Miller, and for other committee members for use in committee hearings.

Staffed meetings with external advocates, constituents, and other stakeholders on range of issues related to proposed legislation.

Analyzed key differences between existing and proposed legislation and programs, including changes to appropriation levels of programs across years.

CHANGE TO WIN, Washington, DC
ATTORNEY-RESEARCHER, 5/2007 — 7/2011

Led meetings with advocates and other stakeholders on policy and program strategy to build coalitions around mutual interests.

Prepared and delivered briefings to coalition members on policy proposals.

Presented and produced written products detailing policy recommendations to elected officials, political staff, policymakers, and national advocacy groups.

Developed workshop for national convention featuring the work of organization and its partners on range of issues.

Prepared talking points for organization leadership.

Drafted proposed policy solutions that would benefit low income and vulnerable populations after deep technical analysis of federal and state statutes, regulations, rules, and funding streams.

Developed position statements demonstrating the relevance to and impact on working families of a wide array of issues, including income inequality, climate change, and campaign finance.

Responded to information requests from senior leadership ranging from discrete questions to long-range research and analysis.

EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALS

BAR ADMISSION, Massachusetts, 2006

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW — BOSTON, MA
Juris Doctor, May 2006

- Teaching Assistant, Spring 2006
- Poverty Law Clinic, Summer 2005

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY — BOSTON, MA
Bachelor's of Science Summa Cum Laude, Philosophy, May 2002