POLICY PROJECTS


Instructors may find the policy topics listed below helpful in developing their own lists. Finding a score or two of project topics prior to the beginning of the course may seem daunting, but it can be done fairly easily in the course of reading local and national newspapers, magazines such as the Economist and Regulation, and articles in policy journals, and through visits to think tank web sites.

Projects for 2010 randomly assigned from the following list:

In Wisconsin, 17 year olds are considered adults for purposes of the prosecution of crime. However, adolescent may differ from adults in terms of their ability to reason and anticipate consequences. Does this argue for keeping 17 year olds in the juvenile justice system? Should the dividing line be solely based on age, or should it depend on person-specific measures of maturity? Client: Chair, Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice

The United Nations program, Safe Access to Firewood and Alternative Energy in Humanitarian Settings (SAFE), will provide energy efficient stoves refugees and internally displaced persons in 36 countries. Although the program is primarily aimed at reducing the risk to women and girls who must collect firewood, the more efficient stoves also have potential value in curbing global climate change. Should a followup program aimed at increasing the use of more efficient stoves by resident populations be implemented? Client: Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

Should Wisconsin change its laws concerning the marketing of raw milk? Chair, Assembly Committee on Agriculture

At many Madison intersections, pedestrians must press a button to activate a walk sign. Pedestrians arriving even immediately after the stoplight has changed cannot activate the walk sign. In addition, pedestrians must often step into mud or snow to reach the button and touching the button may expose the pedestrian to infection. Should Madison automate all walk signs? Client: Madison Common Council

Minors who participate in sexting, the electronic sharing of nude photographs of themselves, violate Wisconsin laws against child pornography. Should these laws be changed to distinguish between sexting and other types of child pornography? Chair, Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice
Asian carp have spread into Midwestern rivers and now pose a threat to the Great Lakes, especially through the Chicago Canal, which links the Mississippi River basin to Lake Michigan. What steps should be taken to lessen the threat? *Chair, Great Lakes Commission*

The 1984 National Organ Transplant Act prohibited commerce in organs by making it unlawful for any person knowingly to “acquire, receive, or otherwise transfer any human organ for valuable consideration for use in human transplantation if the transfer affects interstate commerce” (Title III, Sec. 101a). In recent years, the organ transplant system has accepted altruistic kidney donations—undirected live donations. Should the 1984 act be amended to relax the ban on commerce in live-donor kidneys? *Client: Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions*

Should Wisconsin create a system for the legal use of marijuana for medical purposes? *Client: Chair, Assembly Committee Health and Healthcare Reform*

Should Wisconsin replace the direct election of Supreme Court justices with an appointment process? *Client: Chair, Assembly Committee on Judiciary and Ethics*

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has been criticized for its management of the state deer herd. Should the department change the processes through which it establishes goals and designs policies to pursue them? *Client: Secretary, Department of Natural Resources*

Considerable benefits accrue from breast feeding infants. However, less than half of Wisconsin babies are being breast fed at six months. Recently changes in law have established a right for breast feeding in public. Should Wisconsin take additional steps to encourage breast feeding? *Client: Chair, Assembly Health and Healthcare Reform Committee*

Nanotechnology is being increasingly used in the design of drug delivery systems. Does the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have adequate resources for assessing the safety of these products within the existing regulatory framework? *Client: Director, National Nanotechnology Coordination Office*

Several school districts in Wisconsin sponsor virtual schools. Are virtual schools being appropriately regulated? In particular, do they offer potential savings for Wisconsin primary and secondary education? *Client: Chair, Senate Education Committee*

Should Wisconsin require school districts to adopt policies to reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity? *Chair, Senate Education Committee*

On December 8, 2009, the Office of Management and Budget issued an Open Government Directive that, among other things, required federal agencies to post at least three high-value data on the web and register them with Data.gov. What executive branch policies should be established to expand public access and use of agency data beyond this initial requirement? *Client: Director, Office of Management and Budget*
Should the issuing of entry visas into the United States be shifted from the Department of State to the Department of Homeland Security? *Client: Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism*

The Office of Human Subjects Research in the Department of Health and Human Services has responsibility for implementing federal regulations governing research involving people. The office has been criticized in the past for requiring universities and other research organizations to impose overly stringent requirements on low-risk research. Should regulations be issued to redirect the mission of the Office of Human Subjects Research toward higher risk clinical research and away from lower risk social science research? *Client: Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services*

In 2002 the U.S. "T" visa program for victims of human trafficking established a procedure for attaining permanent residency status for certain trafficking victims who cooperate with law enforcement agencies to prosecute those responsible for their enslavement. Should the “T” visa program be modified to make it more effective? *Client: Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice Office of Legal Policy*

Should federal civil forfeiture laws be amended to provide greater protection for the property of those not involved in criminal activity and those charged but not convicted of crimes? *Client: Chair, U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee*

Should policies be adopted to discourage Wisconsin school districts from employing zero-tolerance policies? *Chair, Senate Education Committee*

Most vaccines manufactured in the United States use chicken eggs as a growing medium. Consequently, the manufacturing process is always slow and costly, and it is difficult when viruses adversely infect chickens as well as humans. Newer technologies, including reverse genetics and mammalian cell culturing, offer the prospect for faster and less costly vaccine production. Should federal policy be changed to speed the introduction of new vaccine technologies? *Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Health, U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce*

On September 5, 2007 the Department of Health and Human Services published in the *Federal Register* Phase III of its implementation of the physician self-referral prohibition in Section 1877 of the Social Security Act. Do these regulations adequately and appropriately curb physician incentives for overuse of services for Medicare patients? *Client: Chair, U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee*

In an Issue Brief published by Resources for the Future, Howard Kunreuther and Erwann Michel-Kerjan suggest that the National Flood Insurance Program introduce long-term policies for property that will come under increasing risk if global climate change results in rises in sea level. Consider their proposal as well as other possible reforms to the flood insurance program to create stronger incentives for adaptation by property owners. *Client: Chair, Select Committee on*
Should the federal government create a domestic “peace core” to promote arts and music in public schools?  *Client: Ex Officio Congressional Representatives, National Council on the Arts*

**Projects for 2009 randomly assigned from the following list:**

The CapStat program provides extensive access to data on government operations and local conditions in Washington, D.C.  Should any components of the CapStat program be implemented in Madison, Wisconsin?  *Client: Mayor, City of Madison*

Household batteries (those used in flashlights, portable radios, etc.) contain metals and other substances that pose toxic risks when they are disposed of after use.  Should Wisconsin create a recycling program for household batteries?  *Client: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources*

Wisconsin currently allows people who fear that they will not be able to make mental health care decisions in their own best interests during future episodes of mental illness to implement psychiatric advanced directives through the delegation of power of attorney.  Should Wisconsin change its laws with respect to psychiatric advanced directives?  *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services*

Wisconsin maintains a public accessible registry of people convicted of certain sex crimes.  Assess the operation of the registry and consider possible improvements.  *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Corrections*

Wisconsin currently elects Supreme Court Justices.  Should the electoral process be modified or replaced with an appointment system?  *Client: Chair, Assembly Committee on Judiciary and Ethics*

Poor dental care can result in other health problems.  Do residents of Wisconsin have adequate access to dental care?  What state interventions could improve access?  *Client: Chair, Assembly Committee on Health and Health Care Reform*

Should Wisconsin adopt new policies to reduce drunk driving?  *Client: Chair, Assembly Committee on Public Health*

Should Wisconsin adopt policies to promote the safe disposal of expired or otherwise unwanted prescription drugs?  *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources*

Previous increases in the number of people imprisoned are leading to increases in the number of people returning to society.  Many observers of the criminal justice system have concerns about the effectiveness of the parole system in helping those released from prison become productive members of society.  Some researchers have suggested that special courts, called re-entry courts,
be created to supervise people released from prison. Should Wisconsin establish a re-entry court in Milwaukee or other urban areas?  

Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Corrections

Should Wisconsin raise taxes on wine, beer, and spirits to raise revenue and reduce the social costs of alcohol consumption?  

Client: Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

In light of the current fiscal stress in Wisconsin should the rate or coverage of the sales tax be changed?  

Client: Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

On July 30, 2008 the Board of Governors of Federal Reserve System published final rules in the Federal Register to amend Regulation Z, which governs mortgage lending. Do these rules go far enough in ensuring that another mortgage crisis will not arise in the future? Specifically, should mortgage originators face financial penalties for mortgages that go into default within some period of origination?  

Client: Chair, House Committee on Financial Services

Assess the current privacy rights enjoyed by U.S. citizens and legal residents when they cross the border. Specifically, what rights should citizens have with respect to the electronic information stored in their computers?  

Client: Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security

How should federal farm subsidy programs be changed to place effective caps on payments to individual and corporate farmers?  

Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Should the United States extend “country of origin” labeling to processed foods?  

Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

What role if any should the federal government play in increasing the availability and effectiveness of science and mathematics teachers in primary and secondary education?  

Client: Chair, House Committee on Education and Labor

What role if any should the federal government play in increasing the supply of nurses to the U.S. health care system?  

Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

The Obama transition team proposed spending $250 million per year in creating public-private business incubators. Develop alternatives for implementing this proposal.  

Client: Director, White House Office of Urban Policy

The Obama transition team has set a goal of having one million plug-in hybrid cars on the road by 2015. Consider options for promoting this goal.  

Client: Chair, President’s Council on Environmental Quality

Although some major pharmaceutical companies have voluntarily limited the promotional
benefits they provide to physicians, and some medical and educational institutions have set their
own restrictions and implemented disclosure rules for their employees, concerns remain that
some physicians are unduly influenced by their connections with pharmaceutical companies.
Should the federal government regulate the relationship between physicians and pharmaceutical
companies?  *Client: Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services*

Some hospital-contracted injuries and illnesses are no longer reimbursed under Medicare Part A.
Should this approach be expanded to create stronger incentives for hospitals to reduce risks to
their patients?  *Client: Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department
of Health and Human Services*

Should U.S. copyright laws be changed to facilitate the digitization of out-of-print and other
originally printed material?  *Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and
Intellectual Property, House Committee on the Judiciary*

Should the Federal Communications Commission require cable television providers to adopt ala
cart or theme-tiered pricing for end users or otherwise restrict the bundling of channels.  *Client:
Chair, Federal Communications Commission*

Almost a quarter of Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicare Advantage (formerly
Medicare + Choice) rather than the standard Medicare fee-for-service plan. Medicare Advantage
has been criticized on a number of grounds. Its provisions were modified in 2008.  Should they
be further modified?  *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
Pensions*

The Qattara Depression in Egypt is a geological formation with a depth of as much as 133 meters
below sea level.  Since early in the Twentieth Century, geologists have suggested the possibility
of generating electricity by piping water for the approximately 60 miles from the Mediterranean
Sea to the Qattara Depression.  [See H. Sirry Bey (1929) The Qattara Power Scheme.
*Geographical Review* 19(2), 290-292.] Should this project be pursued?  *Client: President, World
Bank*

Should the Obama Administration continue implementation of a missile defense system in
Eastern Europe?  *Client: U.S. Secretary of State*

Projects for 2007 randomly assigned from the following list:

A number of nations have expressed concern about the Japanese “scientific” whaling program
(JARPA II).  What position should the United States take on this issue, either through the
International Whaling Commission, or otherwise?  *Client: Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans
and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State*

Do international laws adequately promote the prevention and mitigation of oil spills?  *Client:
International Oil Spill Conference 2008*
What steps, if any, should the World Health Organization take to speed the use of the human papillomavirus vaccine in developing countries? *Client: Director-General, World Health Organization*

Hospitals must dispose of large quantities of unused pharmaceuticals. Sometimes hospitals simply put them down the drain, raising concerns about their active ingredients ending up in water tables, lakes, and streams. The concern is greatest for antibiotics, but there may be risks associated with other drugs as well. The problem is complicated because of regulations imposed by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration. Should the Department of Health and Human Services develop more stringent national standards on the disposal of pharmaceuticals? *Client: Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services*

Judges in Wisconsin take a variety of approaches to support the collection of fines: revocation of drivers’ licenses, imposition of jail time, and referral to collection agencies. The Dane County circuit court recently stopped imposing jail time. Should there be statewide guidelines or policies on sanctions against those with outstanding fines? *Client: Chief Justice, Wisconsin Supreme Court*

Some Wisconsin municipalities are attempting to impose residential restrictions that would effectively bar convicted sex offenders from living within their boundaries. Review Wisconsin policies concerning restrictions on convicted sex offenders. Specifically, should the state preempt local residential restrictions? *Client: Chairperson, Wisconsin Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Corrections, and Privacy*

Some residents have raised concerns that Madison is not “pedestrian friendly.” Is there a problem? If so, what should the city do about it? *Client: Mayor Dave Cieslewicz*

The SAGE program provides aid to school districts to reduce class sizes for low income children in grades K to 3. In 2006-07 expenditures will be almost $100 million. Should the SAGE program be continued, expanded, contracted, or modified? *Client: Chairperson, Wisconsin Senate Committee on Education*

In 2006 deaths and illnesses resulted from people consuming spinach infected *E. coli*. Should the Food and Drug Administration change any of its policies to reduce the risk of similar problems in the future? *Client: Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration*

On December 11, 2006 the Food and Drug Administration proposed rules to expand access to experimental (investigational new) drugs for use in treatment. Consider the desirability of the proposed rule and possible alternatives to it. *Client: Chair, United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions*

Should Wisconsin adopt restrictions on the use of cell phones in moving vehicles? *Client:*

Policy Analysis Projects, D. Weimer, page 7
Chair, Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Transportation

Should the “super-priority” provisions of federal bankruptcy law be revised to provide greater protection for workers’ pensions? Client: Chair, Senate Judicial Committee

An influenza pandemic would place great demands on the health care system. Review Wisconsin’s plans for providing hospital beds during an influenza pandemic and consider possible alternatives for increasing the number that would be available. Client: Wisconsin Homeland Security Council

In December 2006, the FCC issued an order intended to eliminate unreasonable barriers to entry into the cable market. Should the FCC take further steps to increase competition in the provision of multichannel video programming? Client: Chairperson, Federal Communications Commission

The Wisconsin deer population is about 50 percent above the established goal. Consider changes in hunting restrictions and other policies that would help meet the goal. Client: Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture funds a school breakfast program. Nationally, about 45 percent of children from low income households participate. In Wisconsin, the participation rate for poor children is only 29 percent. Should Wisconsin take steps to increase participation in this program? Client: Chairperson, Wisconsin Senate Committee on Education

Should Madison restrict the number of liquor licenses issued in the downtown area? Client: President, Madison Common Council

In 2005 Wisconsin stopped indexing its gasoline tax for inflation. Should Wisconsin reinstate indexing or take any other steps to increase revenues for funding highways? Client: Chairperson, Wisconsin Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Focus on Energy provides some assistance to farmers considering the installation of anaerobic manure digesters. Should the state take additional steps to speed the introduction of this technology? Client: Chairperson, Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Agriculture

The Department of Energy’s Off-Site Source Recovery Project was created to provide a disposal option for unwanted greater-than-class-C-radiation sources. Consider changes in the project to speed the retirement of blood irradiators employing Cesium 137 compounds. Client: Chair, United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

What, if anything, should the federal government do to increase the supply of nurses in the United States? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
In 2004 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency published a rule setting limits on wastes generated by fish farms. Do these regulations adequately address the environmental impacts produced by this industry? Client: Chair, Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture

Historically, private firms extracting oil and gas from off-shore sites have paid a royalty to the federal government equal to 12.5 percent of its value. In recent years there have been a variety of adjustments to this basic rate to encourage exploration and development, especially in the Gulf of Mexico. Should the current structure of off-shore royalty payments be changed? Client: Chair, United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Assess Wisconsin funding of special education. In particular, should Wisconsin adopt a funding mechanism similar to the McKay program in Florida, which provides funding as vouchers to students with disabilities rather than to school districts? Client: Chairperson, Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Education

Projects for 2006 randomly assigned from the following list:

Southeast Asia, especially the Malacca Straits, experiences dozens of acts of maritime piracy annually. At the prompting of the United States, Thailand has stepped up its patrols in the area, but there is concern about its capabilities to provide adequate protection to shipping. What further steps should the international community take to reduce the incidence of piracy? Client: Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization

Many states have facilitated the creation of a “211" telephone number to provide a single contact number for people seeking social services or volunteer opportunities. What role, if any, should the federal government play in expanding the availability of “211" nationwide? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

In the United States almost 100,000 persons die each year from medical errors. Consider policy alternatives aimed at reducing medical errors in hospitals. Client: Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Department of Health and Human Services

What, if anything, should the federal government do to increase the supply of nurses in the United States? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Law currently bans federal funding for needle exchange programs. Should this ban be lifted? Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Health, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Twenty-five years ago the Senate passed what is known as the Bayh-Dole Act, which established a framework for the patenting of discoveries by universities. Should the act be amended to mandate non-exclusive licensing? Client: Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

What, if anything, should the United States do to further international efforts to require
transparency in contracts between oil companies and developing nations. *Client: Undersecretary for Democracy and Global Affairs, Department of State*

The recent approval of BiDil for use by African Americans suggests the potential benefits of racial inclusion in drug studies. Should federal laws or regulations be changed to promote the inclusion of greater numbers of racial minorities in clinical trials? *Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Health, House Committee on Energy and Commerce*

Natural disasters often leave people homeless and in need of temporary housing. Review the strategies currently used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide temporary housing to disaster victims. Should the rules governing Section 8 housing vouchers be modified to facilitate its use in the provision of temporary housing? *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs*

Payments to drug companies through Medicaid are based on poorly defined average wholesale prices. A recent Government Accountability Office study found considerable variation and overpayment in the states it studied. Should Medicare drug payments be made on some other basis? *Client: Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce*

In December 2005, the World Trade Organization called for elimination of cotton export subsidies in 2006 and faster cuts in other cotton subsidies than in other agricultural subsidy programs. How should the United States respond? *Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Production and Price Competitiveness, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee*

Some U.S. corporations have engaged in “corporate expatriation,” moving their headquarters overseas to avoid corporate taxes. Others reduce or avoid taxes altogether through the creation of offshore subsidiaries. Consider policies to restrict such tax avoidance. *Client: Chair, Joint Committee on Taxation*

Automobile manufacturers currently receive credits toward their Corporate Average Fleet Economy (CAFE) standards for producing flex-fuel vehicles that can use E85 as well as conventional gasoline. Should this incentive be changed? *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources*

Many Americans fear identity theft. Should financial institutions and credit bureaus have greater responsibility for making identity theft more difficult or less costly to correct? *Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit, House Committee on Financial Services*

In 2002, a so-called sham surgery study cast doubt on the efficacy of arthroscopic surgery to treat the pain and dysfunction of osteoarthritis of the knee. How should the Department of Veterans Affairs use such information? Should it play an active role in supporting such studies? *Client: Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans Affairs*
Does current Wisconsin law provide an appropriate balance between the privacy interests of persons and insurance underwriters with respect to genetic testing? *Client: Chairperson, Assembly Committee on Insurance*

The University of Wisconsin currently sets tuition for out-of-state students substantially higher than for in-state students. Is this differential desirable for graduate programs? *Client: Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities*

A proposal to open a hunting season on feral cats recently sparked considerable controversy. Should Wisconsin adopt policies to reduce the number of feral cats? *Client: Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources*

Does Wisconsin’s Budget Stabilization (Rainy Day) Fund have adequate rules for accumulation and disbursement? *Client: Co-Chairs, Joint Committee on Finance*

In June Governor Doyle signed the Pseudoephedrine Law. Should additional steps be taken to reduce the manufacture and use of meth-amphetamines in Wisconsin? *Client: Chair, Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Homeland Security*

New vaccines to protect against the human papillomavirus, which causes cervical cancer, are about to enter the market. These vaccines appear to be most effective if administered to children prior to the onset of puberty. Assuming that the vaccine advisory committee of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that child vaccination, what actions, if any, should be taken in Wisconsin to implement this recommendation? *Client: Administrator, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services*

Wisconsin has a large number of small rural school districts that are under severe financial pressure. Should the state take actions to facilitate or encourage the merger of small school districts? *Client: State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction*

Approximately half of Medicaid expenditures in Wisconsin go toward long term care for the elderly. Should Wisconsin change its policies to slow the rate of growth in these expenditures? *Client: Chairperson, Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long-Term Care*

The University of Wisconsin-Madison continues to be concerned about binge drinking by students. Binge drinking also has some negative impacts on the City of Madison. What, if anything, should Madison do to address binge drinking? *Client: Mayor, City of Madison*

Subject to some age limitations, juveniles charged with felonies in Wisconsin can be waived from juvenile court to adult court. Should restrictions be placed on these waivers to reduce the number of juveniles who end up in the adult criminal justice system? *Client: Chair, Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Homeland Security*
Projects for 2005 randomly assigned from the following list:

What policies should major league baseball adopt to discourage the use of performance enhancing drugs such as steroids?  *Client: Commissioner of Baseball*

Every three years the University of Wisconsin-Madison must renew its Federal Wide Assurance (FWA) for human subjects research with the Office of Human Research Protection, Department of Health and Human Services. The current FWA requires all research, not just that funded by the federal government, to be subjected to review by a campus institutional review board (IRB). Should the FWA be revised to exclude some non-federally funded social science research involving low risk to human subjects from IRB review?  *Client: Vice Chancellor for Research*

Halloween crowds have caused public order problems on Madison’s State Street in recent years. What policies should the City of Madison adopt to reduce the seriousness of these problems in the future?  *Client: Madison Mayor*

Should Wisconsin change the way it deals with shortages of influenza vaccine?  *Client: Administrator, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services*

There are currently six reportable sexually transmitted diseases in Wisconsin. Should the list of reportable diseases and its associated policies be modified?  *Client: Administrator, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family Services*

The Department of Natural Resources has established Disease Eradication Zones and Heard Reduction Zones in response to the detection of chronic wasting disease in Wisconsin deer. Should policies for implementing eradication and reduction be changed?  *Client: Secretary, Department of Natural Resources*

Insurance regulations in Wisconsin requiring multiple employer welfare arrangements (MEWAs) either to obtain third-party coverage or to register as insurers in order to provide health insurance have hindered the cooperative provision of health insurance by small businesses. Should state laws be changed to facilitate MEWAs?  *Client: Chairperson, Assembly Committee on Insurance*

Property taxes in Wisconsin place financial pressure on some retirees and low income home owners. Consider state policies that could help reduce this pressure.  *Client: Chairpersons, Joint Committee on Finance*

The development of wind power in Wisconsin has been slowed by community opposition to the creation of wind farms. Should laws or administrative procedures be changed to make it easier for landowners to lease sites for wind farms?  *Client: Chairperson, Senate Energy and Utilities Commission*

Wisconsin currently charges a flat annual registration fee of $55 per passenger vehicle. Should fees be based on vehicle weight, age, value, or other characteristic?  *Client: Chairperson, Senate*
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Approximately $250 million dollars in sales taxes on internet purchases by Wisconsin residents go unpaid annually. Should the state take any steps beyond participation in the Streamlined sales Tax Project to collect these taxes?  
Client: Secretary, Department of Revenue

Several states have changed their governing the release of information in adoption records to adult adoptees. Should Wisconsin adoption record laws be changed? 
Client: Chairperson, Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging, and Long Term Care

Are Wisconsin regulations governing tattoo and body piercing establishments and practitioners appropriate? 
Client: State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases, Department of Health and Family Services

Should the Department of Regulation and Licensing be authorized to provide more information to the public about complaints and malpractice suits filed against Wisconsin physicians? 
Client: Chairperson, Senate Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging, and Long Term Care

The Patent and Trademark Office has a backlog of over a half-million patent applications to review. Should the patent review process or extent of coverage be modified? 
Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property, House Judiciary Committee

What strategies and policies should the federal government adopt to revitalize the nuclear power industry? 
Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, House Energy and Commerce Committee

Should the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act be amended to require the Food and Drug Administration to make greater use of post-marketing surveillance (Phase IV studies)? 
Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Health, House Energy and Commerce Committee

Is the current regulation of direct-to-consumer advertising of prescription drugs appropriate? 
Client: Administrator, Food and Drug Administration

The Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act (P.L. 108-216) authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to states and other entities to reimburse live organ donors for their travel and other expenses. How should the Secretary implement this law? 
Client: Director, Division of Transplantation, Department of Health and Human Services

Should the Federal Communications Commission be prohibited from making further reductions in the spectrum allocated to amateur radio operators? 
Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Hospital Quality Initiative now makes some information about hospital treatment patterns
available to the general public. What should be the next steps in developing this hospital report card? *Client: Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services*

In recent years there have been shortages not just of influenza vaccine but of several others as well. Should federal policies be changes to reduce the likelihood of such shortages in the future? *Client: Chair, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee*

A tradeable credits system for fuel economy standards would require automakers that do not meet Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards to purchase credits from automakers that have exceeded standards. Should a tradeable credits system be adopted? *Client: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*

The Energy Policy Act of 2002, which was not adopted, included provisions for a Federal Renewable Portfolio Standard, which would have required utilities to certify that percentages of their residential electricity is generated from non-hydro renewable sources. Should a standard of this sort be adopted? *Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality, House Energy and Commerce Committee*

The Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration share responsibilities for ensuring the safety of food. Each is subject to a variety of laws that hinder the allocation of resources to minimize risks. Should a Food Safety Administration, such as that called for in S. 2910, be created? *Client: Chair, Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee*

Should the Federal Water Pollution Control Act be amended to allow for the establishment of wetland mitigation banks to allow for the creation of credits for new wetlands to offset wetland losses? *Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee*

Should the Forest Service be directed to change its policies regarding the prevention and control of forest fires? *Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health, House Resources Committee*

Internet Protocol (IP) telephony raises issues about universal service contributions. Should charges be imposed on either IP telephony generally or IP telephony connecting to conventional telephone networks? *Client: Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission*

Many landlords do not install meters for individual apartments. One reason may be that, if a landlord installs more than 15 such meters and bills tenants for their individual water use, then the landlord is considered to be selling water and is subject to the full regulatory requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Should relevant regulations be revised to encourage tenant-level metering of water? *Client: Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency*

Should the United States encourage South Africa to seek listing of its endemic abalone
(Perlemoen) in Appendix III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora? **Client: Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans, Fisheries, and Marine Conservation, Department of State**

The European Commission previously proposed closing the North Sea cod fishery to allow for species recovery. The Fisheries Council recently issued a policy for 2005 that involves reductions in fishing days and other regulations. Should the Commission seek further protections for the North Sea cod fishery? **Client: European Commission**

It now appears that a vaccine providing at least some protection against malaria will be available soon. How might it be used effectively to reduce the burden of malaria in the poorest countries of the world? **Client: Director-General, World Health Organization**

**Projects for 2004 randomly assigned from the following list:**

Excessive and improper use contribute to the problem of antibiotic resistance. What, if anything, should the federal government do to reduce the extent or consequences of antibiotic resistance? **Client: Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education and Welfare**

Federal regulations governing human subjects research are applied broadly. Some critics charge that the regulations do not adequately protect subjects in medical research. Other critics charge that the regulations are inappropriately applied to social science research involving negligible risks to people. Can the current system administered by the Office of Human Subjects Research be improved? **Client: Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget**

A number of states and localities, as well as the International Plumbing Code, recognize that the optimal ratio of bathroom facilities for women to men in public buildings is larger than one. Are Wisconsin laws and regulations governing “potty parity” for public facilities appropriate? **Client: “Wisconsin Women = Prosperity Initiative,” Office of the Lieutenant Governor**

Walking down State Street brings one in contact with panhandlers. Should the City of Madison adopt any additional policies to regulate public begging? **Client: Mayor David Cieslewicz**

The discovery of “mad cow disease” in Washington State has raised questions about the adequacy of public policies to prevent it and keep it from infecting consumers. Some policies have already been changed. Are the policies now in place adequate? In particular, should the ban on the use of cow parts in cow feed be extended to feed for other animals? **Client: Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry**

The music recording industry lost considerable good will in its crackdown on internet music sharers. It will not be long before a large enough number of people have sufficient bandwidth and computer memory to make the sharing of pirated movies over the internet common. What policies should be advocated by the Motion Picture Association of America to deal with this...
potential problem? *Client: Jack Valenti, President, Motion Picture Association of America*

Health stores and other outlets sell a variety of dietary supplements. Do current regulations provide consumers with adequate protection against possible health risks from use of such supplements? *Client: Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration*

Recent corporate accounting scandals have prompted some calls for mandatory auditor rotation of the sort used in Italy and some other countries. Should publicly traded corporations be required to periodically rotate their accounting firms? *Client: Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission*

In 2001, the Institute of Medicine released a report calling for greater availability and advertising of “less hazardous cigarettes” (LHCs). Should the federal government adopt policies to encourage LHCs? *Client: United States Surgeon General*

In the wake of 9-11, the federal government instituted temporary regulations of and subsidies for insurance coverage of losses to commercial buildings from terrorism. What role should the federal government play in the market for terrorism insurance? *Client: Secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury*

Corporate reporting, even if done electronically, typically is in a traditional print format that makes the extraction of date time consuming and costly. A number of public agencies, including the Bundesbank, UK Inland Revenue, and the U.S. Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, now require firms to submit reports in the eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL). Should policies be adopted to make this the standard reporting form for publicly traded U.S. corporations? *Client: Chair, Securities and Exchange Commission*

Pharmaceutical companies typically avoid testing drugs on pediatric patients because of ethical concerns and the relatively small monetary gain from being able to indicate pediatric use in labeling. Consequently, many pediatric patients must be treated “off label.” Section 111 of the Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act provided some incentives in the form of patent extensions. Should stronger incentives be created to encourage pharmaceutical companies to engage in more pediatric testing? *Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Health, House Committee on Energy and Commerce*

The so-called “Paragraph IV” certification under the Hatch Waxman Act requires firms wishing to market generic versions of drugs whose (20 year) patents have expired to notify originating firms. If the originating firm files a legal challenge, then the FDA automatically stays approval of the generic drug for 30 months regardless of merit. Should the generic laws be changed to eliminate this automatic delay? *Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Health, House Committee on Energy and Commerce*

Under the North American Free Trade Agreement, the U.S. must eliminate barriers to sugar imports from Mexico by 2008. Consider options for a broader elimination of import restrictions
on sugar. **Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Production and Price Competitiveness, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry**

Wisconsin has been a leader in encouraging organ donation. Currently, there is proposed legislation to provide a tax deduction for live organ donors. Take a fresh look at public policies to encourage live donation in Wisconsin. **Client: Chairperson, Assembly Committee on Health**

Recent years have seen an expansion of the Wisconsin prison system. Nonetheless, capacity limitations require Wisconsin to contract with out-of-state prisons for correctional services. Consider alternatives for eliminating out-of-state incarceration for Wisconsin felons. **Client: Chairperson, Assembly Committee on Corrections and the Courts**

Obesity is associated with a number of health risks. Many believe these risks are heightened when obesity begins in childhood. Should the State of Wisconsin take any steps to encourage school districts to address the problem of childhood obesity? **Client: State Superintendent, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction**

Many scientists see the day when xenotransplantation will be technically feasible. Concerns have been raised, however, that endogenous retro-viruses may cross species boundaries. How should the U.S. regulate xenotransplantation? **Client: Chair, Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Xenotransplantation, Department of Health and Human Services**

The Department of State is planning to require applicants for visas to the United States to be fingerprinted. Should this policy be implemented? **Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**

The highway fatality rate in Wisconsin could be reduced if more people used their seat belts. Should the state adopt policies, such as those set out in Assembly Bill 90, to encourage greater seat belt use? **Client: Chairperson, Assembly Committee on Highway Safety**

General contractors in Wisconsin need only pay a small registration fee and carry liability insurance to conduct business. In some cases, general contractors shift these requirements to homeowners. Should Wisconsin change the way it regulates general contractors? **Client: Chairperson, Assembly Committee on Small Business**

The federal government provides subsidies for ethyl alcohol production. Should the State of Wisconsin provide additional subsidies? **Client: Chairperson, Assembly Committee on Economic Development**

On October 17, 2003 the Wisconsin Attorney General issued an informal legal opinion that exclusion of contraceptives from coverage under employment-based group health insurance that otherwise covers drugs violates the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act. Should the Commissioner of Insurance implement this decision or seek legislative clarification? **Client: Wisconsin Commissioner of Insurance**
The Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission is currently considering restrictions on the use of phosphorous-containing lawn fertilizer. Does this approach make sense? Should the Department of Natural Resources either encourage or discourage counties from adopting this approach? **Client: Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources**

In 1996, the federal government created medical savings accounts to provide a vehicle for tax free saving toward medical expenses. The law required that medical savings accounts be used in conjunction with high deductible insurance policies. It also placed many restrictions on eligibility and did not make the program permanent. Some of these restrictions have been removed with the introduction of the new health savings accounts. Should health savings accounts be made a more accessible and larger part of federal health policy? **Client: Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services**

Should the Federal Government create national identity cards and mandate their use for particular purposes? **Client: Chair, House Select Committee on Homeland Security**

Should federal agricultural programs be restructured to place caps on the amount of subsidy that can be received by individual feed grain farmers? **Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Production and Price Competitiveness, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry**

Some critics of New Source Review (NSR) regulations argue that they discourage firms from replacing existing plants that produce high levels of pollution. Should the Environmental Protection Agency revise the NSR regulations to remove disincentives for investment in new plants? **Client: Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency**

Ritalin and other psychiatric drugs are widely prescribed to children with attention deficit disorder (ADD). Some school districts even require students diagnosed with ADD to take these drugs as a condition for participation in special education programs. Should the federal government adopt policies to better control the use of these drugs? **Client: Chair, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, House Committee on Education and Workforce**

**Projects for 2003 randomly assigned from the following list:**

Review the regulation of deer and elk farms in Wisconsin. Specifically, should regulatory authority be transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Natural Resources? **Client: Office of the Governor**

On December 9, 2002 the State of Wisconsin issued an interim planning document on implementing pre-event smallpox vaccination activities. If the population of the state becomes exposed to an outbreak of smallpox, the Governor will have to make decisions concerning vaccination of the general public. When and how should public vaccinations be implemented? **Client: Office of the Governor**

The new secretary of the Department of Natural Resources wishes to take a fresh look at policies
for dealing with Chronic Wasting Disease in the Wisconsin deer population.  *Client: Secretary, Department of Natural Resources*

It is likely that the University of Wisconsin will face cuts in funding from the state.  Consider alternatives for raising additional revenue for the system through tuition increases.  *Client: President Katherine Lyall*

Develop alternatives for reducing funding provided by the State of Wisconsin to local school districts for primary and secondary schooling from existing revenue sources.  Your alternatives should involve substantial reductions in the projected deficit.  *Client: Office of the Governor*

Develop alternatives for increasing the amount of revenue raised by the Wisconsin sales tax.  *Client: Secretary, Department of Revenue*

Currently, the gambling compacts between the State of Wisconsin and the eleven federally recognized Tribes have durations of five years.  In the future, should compacts have longer durations?  *Client: Secretary, Department of Administration*

School districts spend over $1 billion annually on the 12 percent of students classified as disabled.  Some observers have raised concerns that the designation of disability is inappropriately being extended to include low-achieving students.  Should the State of Wisconsin adopt policies to limit the growth in the numbers of students qualifying for special education programs?  *Client: Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction*

Does Wisconsin have appropriate laws and adequate enforcement capability for combating identity theft?  *Client: Attorney General*

Should Wisconsin adopt laws to restrict the use of cell phones while driving motor vehicles?  *Client: Chair, Assembly Committee on Highway Safety*

Pharmaceutical manufacturers often charge lower prices for exports than for similar products sold domestically.  There have been several bills introduced in Congress to allow wholesalers or retailers to re-import exported drugs into the United States.  Should such re-importation be allowed?  *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions*

Currently, airport gate checks are being conducted for randomly selected passengers boarding all flights.  Should these checks be eliminated, based on some sort of profiling, limited to selected flights, or otherwise modified?  *Client: Chair, House Select Committee on Homeland Security*

Many cities incur substantial costs in responding to false alarms from burglar alarm systems that place calls to 911.  Cities have responded in a variety of ways, such as through education programs or fines.  Select one major American city and assess alternatives for dealing with its cost of false alarms.  Your detailed analysis should be specific to the selected city, but presented so that it could be a demonstration of useful analysis for other cities.  *Client: Director, Office of Research*
Pharmaceutical firms advertise prescription drugs in television commercials. Review the appropriateness of the regulatory framework governing this type of advertising. **Client:** Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration

Federal regulatory agencies are required by the Administrative Procedures Act to keep dockets of comments made in response to proposed regulations. Should all federal agencies be required to post complete dockets on web pages to facilitate greater public access? **Client:** Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget

The Orphan Drug Act was intended to reduce the costs and increase the benefits to pharmaceutical firms that developed drugs for rare diseases. Most significantly, the act gives firms seven years of market exclusivity for their orphan drugs. The current operational definition of rare disease is a disease that affects fewer than 200,000 patients. Should any provisions of the Orphan Drug Act or the operational definition of rare disease be modified? **Client:** Chair, Subcommittee on Health, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Wisconsin has been a leader in encouraging the donation of transplant organs. Should the state adopt any additional laws to encourage either cadaveric or live organ donation? **Client:** Office of the Governor

Review Wisconsin laws and regulations governing home schooling. Do they provide an appropriate framework? **Client:** Assembly Committee on Education

Should Wisconsin license direct-entry (lay) midwives? **Client:** Chair, Assembly Committee on Health

Should the State of Wisconsin encourage or facilitate local law enforcement officials obtaining security clearances so that they have greater access to classified information relevant to stopping terrorist attacks? **Client:** Attorney General

Several hundred thousand suits have been filed against firms by workers, including may who show no adverse health effects, exposed to asbestos. These suits threaten many of the firms with bankruptcy. Should Congress modify the current tort system to achieve more efficient or more equitable compensation of those harmed by asbestos? **Client:** Chair, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. Senate

In November 2002, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services published quality measures for all certified nursing homes in the country. What should be the next steps in this initiative? For example, should more data be collected or reported, risk-adjustment be implemented, or presentation changed? **Client:** Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

**Projects for 2003 randomly assigned from the following list:**
Since 1975 Wisconsin local governments have been allowed to use “tax incremental financing,” which allows property taxes to be diverted to subsidies for development. It now applies to some $6 billion dollars in property. Should tax incremental financing be eliminate, modified, or expanded?  
Client: Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Commerce

Wisconsin wineries do not pay sales tax on wine shipped to buyers in 13 states with which Wisconsin has tax reciprocity laws. Does this arrangement require any modifications? 
Client: Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Revenue

Should Wisconsin laws governing minimum markups for retail gasoline be changed? 
Client: Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection

Should Wisconsin take any steps to encourage the generation of electricity from manure? 
Client: Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

During the 2000 season approximately 953 thousand hunters harvested over 618 thousand deer in Wisconsin. Nevertheless, there were over 20 thousand car crashes involving deer and the Department of Natural Resources asserts that the estimated deer population of 1,818,000 is too large. Should the DNR adopted policies to reduce the size of the herd?  
Client: Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

Several states have taken steps to make marijuana available to people suffering from specific diseases. A Wisconsin group, Is My Medicine Legal Yet?, has been advocating the legalization of medical marijuana in Wisconsin. Should Wisconsin change its laws to make marijuana available for medical purposes?  
Client: Chairperson, Assembly Committee on Health

Critics of the 21 year-old minimum legal drinking age charge that it encourages college students and other young adults to experiment with alcohol in dangerous ways. Some have suggested that a “learner’s permit” be introduced that would allow those over 18 but under 21 years old to consume alcohol under restricted conditions. Develop and analyze alternatives for allowing limited access to alcohol for those between the ages of 18 and 21 in Wisconsin. 
Client: Chairperson, Assembly Committee on Public Health

Airborne pollution has been increasing the amount of mercury in lakes around the world. Game fish often have high concentrations of mercury. Although these levels of mercury usually do not pose a health risk to adults, they can harm fetuses. Wisconsin residents consume more than the national average of game fish. Some ethnic groups in Wisconsin have very high rates of game fish consumption. Should the current system of fish consumption advisories be changed? 
Client: Secretary, Department of Natural Resources

Breast feeding is generally considered superior to bottle feeding in terms of the health of the child. Although a majority of women begin breast feeding, only a small fraction continue beyond a few months. Should Wisconsin adopt any policies to encourage the prevalence or duration of breast feeding?  
Client: Administrator, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Family
Services

Should Wisconsin create a contractual arrangement that would allow same-sex couples to have some or all of the legal benefits of marriage? *Client: President, Action Wisconsin*

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services publishes a consumer guide for nursing homes. How effective is this report card? Is there a more useful design for providing Wisconsin residents useful information about the quality of nursing homes? *Client: Secretary, Department of Health and Family Services*

Beginning in 1993, Wisconsin legislature authorized school boards to establish charter schools. In 1997, the legislature authorized the City of Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Area Technical College to create charter schools. Should the legislature further expand the number of organizations that are authorized to establish charter schools? *Client: Chairperson, Senate Committee on Education*

Some Wisconsin school districts have considered moving to a year-round calendar as an alternative to building new facilities to handle increased enrollments. Should the legislature take any steps to encourage or discourage year-round schooling? *Client: Chairperson, Assembly Committee on Education*

Although one elk herd now appears established in Wisconsin, elk hunting is currently not allowed. Consider alternatives for introducing elk hunting in Wisconsin. *Client: Secretary, Department of Natural Resources*

Since 1987 the number of inmates in Wisconsin prisons has quadrupled. The corrections budget has also increased greatly. Consider alternatives, including revision of the “truth in sentencing” law, for reducing the growth in the size of the prison population. *Client: Chairperson, Senate Committee on Economic Development and Corrections*

Vaccination guidelines currently call for children to receive the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine once between the ages of 12 and 15 months (primary vaccination), and again between the ages of 4 and 6 years (secondary vaccination). The current goal of the Department of Health and Family Services is to increase the proportion of children in Wisconsin receiving a primary vaccination by age 2 years to 90 percent. Develop alternatives for making progress toward this goal. *Client: Director, Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Department of Health and Family Services*

The U.S. Department of Energy recently issued and then withdrew new efficiency standards for residential air conditioners. Should the current standards, issued in 1992, be modified? *Client: Secretary, Department of Energy.*

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations recently issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provide protections to some kinds of health-
related information. However, the rules only apply to Web sites that are run by health care providers, health insurance plans, or health care clearinghouses that process health insurance claims. Yet most health Web sites do not fall under the regulations. Thus, data generated by Web use, such as seeking information about particular medical conditions, may not be covered by the regulations. Should policy be changed to extend protections to information generated from the use of such Web sites? Client: Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

The Environmental Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 established the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards. Should Congress direct the Department of Transportation to change any of the major provisions of the CAFE Standards? In particular, should sport utility vehicles be treated as passenger vehicles rather than as light duty trucks? Client: Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

An increasing number of kidney donations come from live, rather than cadaveric, donors. Until recently, most live kidney donations were made by relatives or friends of the recipients, though this could occur only if there were sufficiently close antigen matches. Consider options for allowing donors, whose organs do not sufficiently match their intended recipients, to make unrestricted donations in return for giving priority to their intended recipients for cadaveric organs. Client: United Network for Organ Sharing

Should the antitrust exemption currently enjoyed by professional baseball be modified? Client: Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Although commercial whaling has been banned since 1986, Norway and Japan continue to harvest substantial numbers of whales. Should the ban be modified or supplemented with regional sanctuaries as proposed by Australia and Brazil? Client: International Whaling Commission

Should the federal government alter its policies concerning the ownership of fossils found on federal lands? Client: Secretary, Department of the Interior

In 1999, the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species allowed a one-time sale of stockpiled ivory from selected countries. Should the United States support further sales of ivory as a way of subsidizing elephant reserves? Client: Chair, President’s Council on Environmental Quality

Current federal law and regulations restrict the importation of pharmaceuticals for use by individuals. Should these restrictions be modified? Client: Chairman, Subcommittee on Health, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Projects for 1998 randomly assigned from the following list:

United Airlines recently announced plans to enforce stricter restrictions on carry-on luggage. Should the Federal Aviation Administration change its regulations regarding the setting and enforcement of carry-on luggage policies by airlines? Client: Commissioner of the Federal
Women often complain that they must often wait in much longer lines than men to use rest rooms at public facilities such as stadiums, arenas, and public buildings. What actions, if any, should New York State take to achieve greater "potty parity" at places of public gathering? *Client: Commissioner, New York State Division of Human Rights*

Some states, including New York, require residents to pay sales tax on items purchased overseas and declared to customs. Should the federal government prohibit, permit, facilitate, or discourage such efforts? *Client: Chairman, House Commerce Committee*

New York State currently requires that registered motor vehicles undergo safety inspections each year. Should New York change the timing, content, or process of motor vehicle inspection? *Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Motor Vehicles*

Many states have adopted "charter school" that allow teachers, parents, or others to establish publicly funded schools that operate under more flexible regulations than those applied to school districts. Should New York State adopt a law to permit the creation of charter schools? *Client: Governor George Pataki*

Should New York State changes its policies governing the establishment of paternity for babies born to unwed teenagers? *Client: Commissioner, Office of Children and Family Services, New York State Department of Family Assistance*

Should New York State allow its dairy farmers to join the federally-authorized compact among six New England states intended to increase the price of drinking milk? *Client: Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Markets*

Should New York State legalize the medical use of marijuana? *Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Health*

Sport fish in many bodies of water in New York State contain chemicals that may be harmful to those who eat them. The risks appear to be especially great to pregnant women. Should the Department of Health change the way that it gathers and disseminates information about these risks? *Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Health*

The Speaker and the Chair of the Higher Education Committee of the New York State Senate recently appointed a blue-ribbon panel to study need-based financial aid for New York State college students. Frame and evaluate options for revising the state's Tuition Assistance Program. *Client: Paul Volcker and Clifton R. Wharton, Jr., Co-Chairs, Commission on New York State Student Financial Aid*

Several hundred school districts in the United States are currently under court orders to achieve greater racial desegregation. Some of these court orders have been in effect for many years.
Should uniform criteria for ending court orders be established by federal law? *Client: Chairman, Senate Committee on the Judiciary*

The Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act of 1992 imposed restrictions on the sale of tobacco products in vending machines and strengthened enforcement against sales of tobacco products to minors in New York State. Recently, legislation passed the New York State Senate that would impose penalties on minors for possession of tobacco products. Should the Assembly adopt this legislation or make any other revisions to the 1992 law? *Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Health*

Objections are often raised to the rating factors, such as age and sex, that are used by underwriters to set premiums for automobile insurance. Should New York State require insurers to base premiums on milage as a substitute or supplement for some currently used rating factors? *Client: Superintendent of Insurance, New York State Insurance Department*

The New York State Public Service Commission has responsibility for regulating the quality of telephone services. Consider options for improving the way it monitors, assesses, and disseminates information on service quality. *Client: Chairman, New York State Public Service Commission*

The Office of Professional Medical Conduct investigates complaints against New York State physicians and places information about its affirmative findings in the public record. Should information on complaints as well as findings be part of the public record? Should greater efforts be made to disseminate findings to the public? *Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Health*

Many people who move to New York State complain about the complexity of real estate transactions. In particular, they complain about the various lawyers (for the seller, buyer, and mortgage holder) who must participate in closings on residential properties. Can the process be streamlined and still protect the interests of the various parties? *Client: Director, Governor's Office of Regulatory Reform*

New York State drivers' licenses currently allow their holders to indicate their willingness to donate organs upon death. Should New York State take any additional steps to increase the harvest of transplant organs? *Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Health*

Groups of indigenous people in Alaska, Washington State, and Canada traditionally hunted whales for subsistence. Several of these groups wish to renew whaling. Under what conditions, if any, should the International Whaling Commission allow whaling by indigenous peoples? *Client: International Whaling Commission*

Maryland recently adopted a strategy of "coerced abstinence" that involves frequent drug tests, escalating sanctions for failing them, and treatment for addiction for prison parolees and people on probation. Should New York State adopt a policy of coerced abstinence? *Client:*

Policy Analysis Projects, D. Weimer, page 25
Residents and zoning boards often block the creation of group homes for the mentally retarded in residential neighborhoods. Should New York State take any action to facilitate the opening of such group homes in residential neighborhoods? **Client: New York State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council**

The Clinton Administration has proposed extending Medicare eligibility to early retirees. Consider alternatives for making health insurance more affordable for those who retire before they qualify for Medicare. **Client: Chairman, Senate Special Committee on Aging**

Breast feeding is generally considered superior to bottle feeding in terms of the health of the child. Although a majority of women begin breast feeding, only a small fraction continue beyond a few months. For example, a recent study found that while almost 60 percent of women in the Rochester area initiate breast feeding, less than 20 percent continue through six months. Should New York State adopt any policies to promote breast feeding? **Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Health**

The Jones Act requires that all shipping between U. S. ports be done using U. S. ships and crews. Should it be repealed or revised? **Client: Legislative Affairs Office, National Association of Manufacturers**

Should the federal government expand, reduce, modify, or eliminate the tax subsidies that it provides to ethanol as a fuel additive? **Client: Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources**

Tom Golisano, independent candidate for governor, has proposed the elimination of tolls on the New York State Thruway. Evaluate this proposal. **Client: Director, New York State Division of the Budget**

**Projects for 1997 randomly assigned from the following list:**

Since January 1994 federal law has limited the flush volume of new residential toilets to 1.6 gallons. (The old industry standard was 3.5 gallons per flush.) Some critics have charged that this restriction reduces the level of sanitation and, because of multiple flushes, may have only marginal benefits in terms of reductions of the use of water. Should this law be changed? **Client: Chair, U. S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works**

Since 1909 Canada and the United States have jointly managed a number of issues with respect to Lake Ontario. An important issue in recent years, especially to those who own property on the lakeshore, is the level of the lake. Please develop and analyze alternative guidelines for setting target levels that can be used by the joint commission that oversees the outflow of lake water. **Client: International St. Lawrence River Board of Control**
Should the United States remove the penny as a unit of currency?  
*Client: Secretary, U.S. Department of the Treasury*

Authority for the residential rent control program in New York City must be periodically renewed by state legislation. The 1997 debate over renewal was particularly acrimonious. Propose and analyze alternatives for phasing-out rent control in New York City that might facilitate comprise before the current extension expires.  
*Client: Office of the Governor*

Since 1991 the New York State Department of Health has rated hospitals and surgeons in terms of risk-adjusted mortality rates for coronary artery bypass surgery. Should similar "report cards" be introduced for other medical procedures?  
*Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Health*

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PL 104-193). Congress authorized the disbursement of $1 billion in bonuses between 1999 and 2003 to states that perform well in moving people from welfare to work. Develop and analyze alternative procedures for awarding the bonuses.  
*Client: Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services*

Republican Lieutenant Governor Betsy McCaughey Ross joined with Democrats in the legislature to push legislation that would have require health insurance companies to cover some experimental medical treatments. Although the bill was stopped in the Senate, it is likely to be revived in the next session. What policy should New York State adopt with respect to the coverage of experimental treatments by health insurers?  
*Client: Superintendent, New York Department of Insurance*

Many Internet users complain about "SPAM," electronic mass-mailings done for commercial purposes. Should the federal government take any actions to make it easier for the administrators of Internet sites to exclude SPAM?  
*Client: Chair, U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Communications*

There is some evidence that the use of a cellular telephone in a moving automobile increases the risk of an accident. Should New York State change its motor vehicle laws in any way to discourage the use of cellular telephones in moving vehicles?  
*Client: New York State Commissioner of Motor Vehicles*

Oregon has organized elections in which all ballots are submitted by mail. Should New York State institute "voting by mail" for elections to local offices and school boards?  
*Client: Office of the Governor*

A number of police and fire departments around the country have purchased portable defibrillators (devices used to give electric shocks to revive victims of cardiac arrest) for their vehicles. Should New York State encourage, discourage, or regulate the use of defibrillators by police and fire departments and by the general public?  
*Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Health*
The Corporation for Public Broadcasting now receives less than 15 percent of its annual revenue directly from the federal government. Should the Corporation seek to free itself completely from reliance on the government for general support? *Client: President, Corporation for Public Broadcasting*

Critics of the 21 year-old minimum legal drinking age charge that it encourages college students and other young adults to experiment with alcohol in dangerous ways. Some have suggested that a "learner's permit" be introduced that would allow those over 18 but under 21 years old to consume alcohol under restricted conditions. Develop and analyze alternatives for allowing limited access to alcohol for those between the ages of 18 and 21 in New York State. *Client: Office of the Governor*

Review New York State regulations governing home schooling. Should they be revised to make it easier for parents to home school? *Client: Regents of the University of the State of New York*

Review New York State laws concerning the granting of unlimited tenure to primary and secondary teachers. Should decisions concerning the granting of unlimited tenure be left to local school boards? *Client: Regents of the University of the State of New York*

Rising automobile insurance rates in California prompted several analysts to propose replacing the mandatory purchase of basic liability coverage with provision paid for through a special gasoline tax -- anyone buying gasoline in the state would thus contribute into the liability fund. California residents could purchase additional coverage above that provided through the gasoline tax. Should New York State adopt a pay-at-the-pump liability insurance system? *Client: Superintendent, New York Department of Insurance*

Cities, counties, and states often provide large subsidies to attract professional sports teams or to keep them from leaving for other jurisdictions. These subsidies impose tax burdens that transfer wealth from the general public to franchise owners. Should the federal government heavily tax the imputed value of these subsidies in an effort to discourage local governments from providing them? *Client: Chair, U.S. Congress Joint Committee on Taxation*

Review the information that the Federal Aviation Administration provides to the public about the performance (on-time arrival and safety) of airlines. Develop and analyze alternatives for increasing the value of this information to consumers. *Client: Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration*

Public libraries increasingly provide Internet access to their patrons. Should libraries take any steps to reduce the exposure of children to Internet material that would be judged inappropriate for them if it were available in print format? *Client: Executive Director, American Library Association*

Candidates in U.S. presidential and congressional elections must report the sources of their campaign contributions to the Federal Election Commission. Under the current reporting system campaign contributions received in the months just prior to the election are not publically
available until after the election is over. Should the election laws be changed to require "real-time" posting of contributions on Internet web-pages?  

Client: President, Common Cause

Only about 20 percent of prescription drugs currently on the market in the United States have been tested on children. The Clinton Administration is currently considering regulations that would require more extensive pediatric testing of new drugs. Develop and analyze alternatives for providing doctors with better information about dosages, safety, and effectiveness of drugs potentially beneficial to children. Client: Director of Research, Children's Defense Fund

Should the Indian Regulatory Gaming Act of 1988 be amended to discourage, encourage, or regulate Internet gambling operations based on tribal lands? Client: Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

The federal government has established regulations concerning the crash protection provided by bumpers on motor vehicles. Light trucks and recreational vehicles often have bumpers much higher from the ground than automobile bumpers so that collisions tend not to be bumper to bumper. Should the federal government adopt regulations that would result in a larger fraction of vehicles having bumpers at the same height? Client: Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

The current policy toward combatants in the former Yugoslavia requires the arrest and prosecution of war criminals. As the indictments are often secret, however, many Bosnian Serb officials refuse to cooperate with the peace process because they fear they will be arrested if they meet with international officials. Should the war criminal policy be modified or abandoned? Client: U.S. Department of State

Projects for 1996 randomly assigned from the following list:

Should New York State take actions to increase the vaccination rate for children and teenagers against the major childhood diseases? Client: New York State Department of Health

Immigrants from Korea, China, and Mexico often establish what sociologists call "rotating savings and credit associations," which typically involve groups of about ten to twenty persons agreeing to contribute a fixed amount of money to a common pool each month. The amount collected each month is then allocated by some mechanism to one member. Often the amounts received are used to start small businesses. Should New York State take any actions to either discourage or encourage the formation of such associations? Client: New York State Department of Economic Development

Should New York State lower the minimum legal age for drinking alcoholic beverages to 18 years? Client: Governor's Office

Regulations currently limit the domestic and international marketing of encryption programs that would increase the security and privacy of Internet communications. Should these regulations be
eliminated? Client: Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

Does the 1994 Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act provide an adequate framework for the regulation of food supplements? Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources

Should the U.S. build a ballistic missile defense system? Client: Chair, House National Security Subcommittee on Military Research and Development

It has been estimated that various tax "loopholes" cost the federal government $400 billion annually in lost revenue. Evaluate alternatives for closing loopholes to raise at least $50 billion additional tax revenue annually. Client: Chair, House Ways and Means Committee

The 1978 Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act sets conditions under which utilities are required to purchase electricity from independent power generators. Should these conditions be changed? Client: Chair, House Energy and Commerce Committee

The New England ground fishery was once an abundant source of cod, haddock, and yellowtail flounder. Currently, however, stocks of these fish are at record lows. Should the 1976 Magnuson Fishery and Conservation Act be revised to provide a better framework for management of the New England Ground fishery? Client: Chair, House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee

Should the federal government alter its policies concerning the ownership of fossils found on federal lands? Client: Secretary, Department of the Interior

California has imposed a tax on cigarettes to fund anti-smoking advertising. Should New York State adopt a similar approach? Client: New York State Department of Health

Should the United States continue to support the international ban on trade in ivory? Client: President's Council on Environmental Quality

What role should the State of New York play in dealing with the risks posed by residential radon exposure? Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health

Should New York State make a greater effort to establish paternity in cases of illegitimate births to teenage mothers? Client: New York State Department of Social Services

Should New York State change its policies governing the practice of midwifery? Client: Committee on Health, New York State Assembly

Evaluate the teacher certification system used in the State of New York. Client: Chair, Committee on Education, New York State Senate

In 1992 the Department of Agriculture recommended that poultry be routinely irradiated to reduce
the health risks of bacterial infection. The proposal was rejected. Reconsider the recommendation.  
*Client: Secretary, Department of Agriculture*

Should New York State adopt laws similar to those in Minnesota that allow students to attend public schools in districts other than the ones in which they live? *Client: New York State Board of Regents*

Evaluate the Department of Agriculture's regulation of the lemon industry (Marketing Order 910).  
*Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry*

Should New York State adopt policies to discourage the use of disposable diapers? *Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*

Review the Food and Drug Administration's regulation of the direct advertising of prescription drugs to consumers. *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources*

Evaluate import quotas and related federal programs affecting the domestic sugar market. *Client: Chair, House Committee on Agriculture*

Should New York State prohibit the use of sex as a rating factor in automobile insurance? *Client: New York State Superintendent of Insurance*

Should the federal government regulate the disposal of the batteries used in flashlights, radios, and other consumer products? *Client: Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency*

Governor Pataki has recently taken actions to restrict advertising for New York State's lotteries. To what extent should advertising for state-run gambling be restricted? *Client: Division of the Lottery*

Should New York State take steps to encourage higher rates of mammography? *Client: Commissioner, Department of Health*

In view of the public health issues surrounding the spread of HIV, should New York State change laws governing prostitution? In particular, should prohibition be replaced with some form of regulation? *Client: Commissioner, Department of Health*

In 1992 the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration banned the sale of silicone gel-filled breast implants. Recent studies suggest that silicone implants may not be related to previously suspected health risks. Should the FDA lift or modify its ban? *Client: Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration*

Businesses operating in New York State continue to have concern about the high costs of workers' compensation insurance. How might the current system be changed to reduce its costs? *Client: Governor's Office*
Recent studies suggest that many birth defects of the central nervous system could be avoided if susceptible women consumed more folic acid prior to pregnancy. Should the federal government require that folic acid be added to some staple food? *Client: Surgeon General, Department of Health and Human Services*

**Projects for 1995 randomly assigned from the following list:**

Does the Indian Regulatory Gaming Act of 1988 provide an adequate framework for regulating gambling offered by tribes? *Client: Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior*

Since the federal government introduced provisions for the seizure of property related to certain crimes under the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, many states have adopted similar forfeiture laws. Should the New York State forfeiture law be altered to better protect the rights of innocent people? *Client: Director of Criminal Justice, Office of the Governor*

Provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act place restrictions on the disciplinary measures schools can apply to disabled students. Can the provisions be revised to strike a better balance between protection of the rights of the disabled and the general educational function of schools? *Client: Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor*

Should the Endangered Species Act be revised to require that compensation be given to landowners who are restricted in the use of their property because it provides habitat for endangered species? *Client: Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior*

Should New York State modify its laws and regulations that require health and education professionals to report suspected cases of the maltreatment of children? *Client: Chairman, New York Senate Committee on Children and Families*

What role, if any, should New York State play in facilitating the provision of information on the quality of nursing homes to consumers? *Client: Director, Office for the Aging*

Should New York State require school districts to provide systematic information to the public about educational outcomes? *Client: New York State Department of Education*

Should Congress revise the Americans with Disabilities Act to restrict private party suits, especially with respect to mental disabilities? *Client: Chairman, Senate Committee on Education and Labor*

Should the framework under which the Food and Drug Administration regulates medical devices be revised? *Client: Chairman, Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee*
New York State ranks hospitals and cardiac surgeons in terms of their success in heart bypass surgery. Can the ranking process and its use be improved? Client: New York State Department of Health

Should the federal government return the choice of highway speed limits to the states? Client: Chairman, House Committee on Public Works and Transportation

New York State mandates community rating with respect to health insurance. Does this policy require modification? Client: Superintendent, New York State Insurance Department

What role, if any, should the federal government play in the development and application of quality assurance measures for Health Maintenance Organizations? Client: Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration

Consider alternatives for privatizing the electromagnetic spectrum. Client: Chairman, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

Consider alternatives for reducing the costs of the State University of New York through the closing of campuses. Client: SUNY Board of Trustees

Should New York State take steps to encourage higher rates of mammography? Client: Commissioner, Department of Health

Consider alternatives for New York State to reduce Medicaid costs through enrollment of those eligible in Health Maintenance Organizations. Client: Commissioner, Department of Health

The Jones Act requires that all shipping between U. S. ports be done using U. S. ships and crews. Should it be repealed or revised? Client: Legislative Affairs Office, National Association of Manufacturers

Recent studies suggest that many birth defects of the central nervous system could be avoided if susceptible women consumed more folic acid prior to pregnancy. Should the federal government require that folic acid be added to some staple food? Client: Surgeon General, Department of Health and Human Services

In 1992 the Department of Agriculture recommended that poultry be routinely irradiated to reduce the health risks of bacterial infection. The proposal was rejected. Reconsider the recommendation. Client: Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Should New York State adopt policies to discourage the use of disposable diapers? Client: Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation

Evaluate the harvesting and allocation of human kidneys as transplant organs. Client: Director, National Institutes of Health
International treaties banning the harvesting of certain species of whales have resulted in their populations reaching sufficient numbers so that it may be possible to renew harvesting them without threatening their extinction. What policy should the United States propose with respect to the harvesting of renewed species? Client: President's Council on Environmental Quality

Current copyright law and its enforcement have raised the costs of photocopied course materials at colleges and universities. Should the laws be changed to strike a better balance between the interests of copyright owners and the effective educational use of copyrighted materials? Client: Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee

Projects for 1993 randomly assigned from the following list:

Does the Indian Regulatory Gaming Act of 1988 provide an adequate framework for regulating gambling offered by tribes? Client: Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior

Recent studies suggest that many birth defects of the central nervous system could be avoided if susceptible women consumed more folic acid prior to pregnancy. Should the federal government require that folic acid be added to some staple food? Client: Surgeon General, Department of Health and Human Services

Since the federal government introduced provisions for the seizure of property related to certain crimes under the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, many states have adopted similar forfeiture laws. Should the New York State forfeiture law be altered to better protect the rights of innocent people? Client: Director of Criminal Justice, Office of the Governor

What mental health benefits, if any, should be included in the basic health insurance package proposed as part of the Clinton administration's health care reform? Client: Ira Magaziner, Senior Advisor to the President for Policy Development

In 1992 the Department of Agriculture recommended that poultry be routinely irradiated to reduce the health risks of bacterial infection. The proposal was rejected. Reconsider the recommendation. Client: Secretary, Department of Agriculture

How should the fees charged for grazing on federal land be set? Client: Secretary, Department of the Interior

Should New York State adopt laws similar to those in Minnesota that allow students to attend public schools in districts other than the ones in which they live? Client: New York State Board of Regents

What dental benefits, if any, should be included in the basic health insurance package proposed as part of the Clinton administration's health care reform? Client: Ira Magaziner, Senior Advisor to
Review the Food and Drug Administration's regulation of the direct advertising of prescription drugs to consumers. **Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources**

Evaluate import quotas and related federal programs affecting the domestic sugar market. **Client: Chair, House Committee on Agriculture**

Should New York State prohibit the use of sex as a rating factor in automobile insurance? **Client: New York State Superintendent of Insurance**

Should the federal government regulate the disposal of the batteries used in flashlights, radios, and other consumer products? **Client: Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency**

A disproportionate number of children in foster care in New York State are black. Should the state revise its policy of discouraging adoption of black children by white parents? **Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Social Services**

New York State often provides grants to local jurisdictions to help fund the construction of sports stadiums. What guidelines should be used in deciding which such grants are appropriate? **Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Economic Development**

Should New York State eliminate or restrict awards for "pain and suffering" in tort cases? **Client: Governor's Office**

Should New York State encourage, discourage, or ignore local restrictions on the use of plastic containers by the "fast food" industry? **Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

**Projects for 1992 randomly assigned from the following list:**

The Agriculture Department dispenses about $200 million dollars annually through its Market Promotion Program to subsidize the advertising of U.S. agricultural products in foreign markets. Should this program be continued? **Client: Director, Office of Management and Budget**

On June 19, 1985 the Supreme Court struck down a 1985 federal law that required states without approved disposal sites for low-level radioactive waste by 1996 to take legal possession of the wastes. What policy should the federal government now adopt toward low-level radioactive waste disposal? **Client: Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency**

Between 1980 and 1988 the number of passenger "emplanements" in the U.S. more than doubled. Yet no new airports have opened since 1974 and only one new airport is under construction. Should the federal government play a more active role in expanding airport capacity? **Client:
HIV appears to be spreading among intravenous drug users through the sharing of hypodermic needles. Should New York State change its laws to make sterile needles more available to intravenous drug users? *Client: New York State Department of Health*

It is likely that the size of the United States military will be reduced over the next ten years. Should the Marine Corps be eliminated or substantially reduced in size as part of this reduction? *Client: Chair, House Armed Services Committee*

Should the federal government adopt policies to encourage greater use of natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel? *Client: Secretary, Department of Energy*

California has imposed a tax on cigarettes to fund anti-smoking advertising. Should New York State adopt a similar approach? *Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health*

Should New York State legalize the use, possession, cultivation, or sale of marijuana? *Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health*

Should New York State adopt policies to encourage greater use of natural gas as a motor vehicle fuel? *Client: Secretary, Department of Energy*

California has imposed a tax on cigarettes to fund anti-smoking advertising. Should New York State adopt a similar approach? *Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health*

Should New York State legalize the use, possession, cultivation, or sale of marijuana? *Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health*

Should the United States continue to support the international ban on trade in ivory? *Client: President's Council on Environmental Quality*

International treaties banning the harvesting of certain species of whales have resulted in their populations reaching sufficient numbers so that it may be possible to renew harvesting them without threatening their extinction. What policy should the United States propose with respect to the harvesting of renewed species? *Client: President's Council on Environmental Quality*

Evaluate the Orphan Drug Act of 1983. Is new legislation desirable? *Client: Chair, House Subcommittee on Health and Environment*

What role should the federal government play in supporting undergraduate college education? *Client: Chair, House Committee on Education and Labor*

Evaluate the Food and Drug Administration regulations governing the testing and marketing of breakthrough drugs such as those used to treat AIDS. *Client: Chair, House Subcommittee on Health and Environment*

What role should the State of New York play in dealing with the risks posed by residential radon exposure? *Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health*

Should the federal government regulate the use of the bovine growth hormone in the raising of dairy cows? *Client: Chair, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, U.S. House of Representatives*
Evaluate the federal price support program for rice. *Client: Chair, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, U.S. House of Representatives*

Should New York State change its policies to attempt to reduce the incidence of pregnancy among unmarried teenagers? *Client: New York State Department of Health*

The New York State legislature recently passed legislation requiring the use of community rating in the setting of health insurance premiums. Should the legislation be revised or repealed? *Client: New York State Commissioner of Insurance*

Many researchers believe that too few women have regular mammograms. Should New York adopt policies to encourage mammograms? *Client: New York State Department of Health*

Should New York State change its policies governing the practice of midwifery? *Client: Committee on Health, New York State Assembly*

Should New York State alter its policies to increase the rate at which teenagers complete high school? *Client: New York State Commissioner of Education*

Currently pesticides not approved for use in the United States can be exported for use abroad. Should so called "circle-of-poison" legislation be passed to prevent the export of pesticides not approved for use in the United States? *Client: Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency*

The federal Asbestos Hazard and Emergency Response Act has led public and private schools to undertake the removal of asbestos. Should the act be rewritten to encourage schools whose asbestos is adequately sealed within structures to not remove it? *Client: President's Council on Environmental Quality*

Evaluate the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency concerning the disposal of waste oil. *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works*

Should the federal government require firms to grant parental leave? *Client: President, National Organization of Women*

Should the Federal government change its policies governing the provision of cable television and other video services? *Client: Chair, Federal Communications Commission*

Should New York State alter its regulations governing the sale and advertising of wine coolers? *Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Health*

Evaluate the policies of the State of New York concerning the disposal of medical wastes. *Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health*

Evaluate the teacher certification system used in the State of New York. *Client: Chair, Committee*
Should the federal government change the Civil Service System so that agencies can more easily hire employees for contracts of fixed duration? *Client: Office of Management and Budget*

Should the McCarran-Furguson Act be repealed or substantially revised? *Client: Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee*

**Projects for 1991 randomly assigned from the following list:**

Evaluate New York State's laws governing prostitution in light of the spread of AIDS. Should New York State allow brothels? *Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health*

Evaluate the harvesting and allocation of human kidneys as transplant organs. *Client: Director, National Institutes of Health*

Evaluate the Department of Agriculture's regulation of the peanut industry. *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry*

Should New York State change its policies to encourage or facilitate the recycling of newspaper? *Client: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*

Evaluate federal regulations governing the disposal of lead-acid batteries used in automobiles. *Client: Environmental Protection Agency*

The current allocation of the electro-magnetic spectrum may be holding back the introduction of new communications technologies. Consider proposals, including H.R. 1407, for increasing access to the spectrum by users of new technologies. *Client: Office of Management and Budget*

Review the Food and Drug Administration's regulation of the direct advertising of prescription drugs to consumers. *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources*

Evaluate the Department of Agriculture's wool and mohair program. *Client: Office of Management and Budget*

Evaluate import quotas and related federal programs affecting the domestic sugar market. *Client: Chair, House Committee on Agriculture*

Develop and evaluate alternatives for raising an additional ten billion dollars annually through the federal personal income tax. *Client: Chair, House Ways and Means Committee*

Should the federal government promote the development of a standardized nuclear reactor design for commercial electricity generation? *Client: Department of Energy*
Should New York State prohibit the use of sex as a rating factor in automobile insurance? **Client: New York State Superintendent of Insurance**

Should the federal government regulate the disposal of the batteries used in flashlights, radios, and other consumer products? **Client: Environmental Protection Agency**

Current federal policy prohibits most cities from dumping sewage sludge in the ocean. New York and other cities that still dump will soon be prohibited from doing so. Should the dumping prohibition be continued? **Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works**

Should the federal government adopt policies that would require all patients admitted to hospitals to be tested for the HIV virus? **Client: Centers for Disease Control**

Evaluate federal regulation of the dairy industry. **Client: Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry**

Should regulations governing the labeling of food products be changed to require that the percentage of calories derived from fats be listed? **Client: Food and Drug Administration**

Evaluate federal policies intended to preserve wetlands in light of recent debate over their definition. **Client: President's Council on Environmental Quality**

The 1978 Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act requires that utilities purchase electricity generated by independent firms. Should the act be modified to require utilities to give access to their transmission lines so that independents can sell electricity directly to commercial and industrial customers? **Client: Chairman, Energy and Power Subcommittee, House Committee on Energy and Commerce**

Should the federal government take a more active role in promoting immunization against childhood diseases. **Client: Chairman, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources**

Should the federal government expand or modify the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program? **Client: Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Hunger**

Should the federal government sell the Naval Petroleum Reserve? **Client: Office of Management and Budget**

Should the federal government develop a national earthquake insurance program? **Client: Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Should the United States seek to modify the United States-Japan Semiconductor Agreement which regulates the importation of computer memory chips from Japan. **Client: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce**
Propose and evaluate policies for transferring the ownership of public housing to tenants. *Client: Department of Housing and Urban Development*

Should all new televisions sold in the U.S. be required to have an internal device to permit the hearing-impaired to receive close-captioning? *Client: Office of Management and Budget*

**Projects for 1990 randomly assigned from the following list:**

Evaluate the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency concerning the disposal of waste oil. *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works*

What role should the federal government play in the regulation of cable television? *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Technology*

Federal law currently prohibits telephone companies from offering cable television and other video services. Should the prohibition be lifted? *Client: Chair, Federal Communications Commission*

Evaluate the National Vaccine Program. Is new legislation needed? *Client: Chair, House Subcommittee on Health and Environment*

Evaluate the Food and Drug Administration regulations governing the testing and marketing of breakthrough drugs such as those used to treat AIDS. *Client: Chair, House Subcommittee on Health and Environment*

What role should the State of New York play in dealing with the risks posed by residential radon exposure? *Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health*

Should the federal government play a role in encouraging the development and use of biodegradable plastics? *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works*

What role should the federal government play in reducing the infant mortality rate in the United States? *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources*

Should the administration support more stringent minimum fleet average mileage standards (CAFE) for automobile manufacturers? *Client: Chair, President's Council on Environmental Quality*

Should campaign laws be changed to reduce the apparent advantage enjoyed by incumbent members of the House of Representatives? *Client: President, Common Cause*

What role should the federal government play in supporting undergraduate education? *Client: Chair, House Committee on Education and Labor*
Evaluate the effectiveness of the Medicaid program as a safety-net for ensuring the availability of long-term nursing care for the elderly. *Client: Chair, House Select Committee on Aging*

Should the federal government require firms to grant parental leave? *Client: President, National Organization of Women*

Should the anti-trust protections given the insurance industry by the McCarran-Ferguson Act be modified? *Client: Chair, House Committee on the Judiciary*

Should the federal government preempt state laws governing product liability? *Client: Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce*

Should the State of New York discourage the use of non-biodegradable disposable diapers? *Client: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*

About a dozen states now employ "shock incarceration" — correctional boot camps that provide highly disciplined, intense, and short-term experiences for inmates as a substitute for longer prison terms. What role should "shock incarceration" play in the New York State correctional system? *Client: Director, Criminal Justice, New York State Executive Department*

Increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide and other gases may be contributing to global warming caused by a "greenhouse" effect. One way to slow the increase in the growth of atmospheric carbon dioxide is to expand the world's forest acreage. Evaluate the potential for modifying the Conservation Reserve Program of the Food Security Act of 1985 (PL 99-198) to expand U.S. forest acreage. *Client: Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry*

Evaluate the teacher certification system used in the State of New York. *Client: Chair, Committee on Education, New York State Senate*

Evaluate the policies of the State of New York concerning immunization against childhood diseases. *Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health*

Should the State of New York change its policy concerning safety inspections of automobiles? *Client: Chair, Committee on Transportation, New York State Senate*

Assess and evaluate the use of sex as a rating factor in insurance sold in the State of New York. *Client: Chair, Committee on Insurance, New York State Senate*

Evaluate the policies of the State of New York concerning the disposal of medical wastes. *Client: Office of Public Health, New York State Department of Health*

Evaluate federal regulations governing the sale of reconstituted milk. *Client: Chair, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, U.S. House of Representatives*
Should New York State alter its regulations governing the sale and advertising of wine coolers? 
*Client: Commissioner, New York State Department of Health*

The Jones Act requires that all shipping between U.S. ports be done using U.S. ships and crews. Should it be repealed? *Client: Legislative Affairs Office, National Association of Manufacturers*

Evaluate the rules proposed by the Federal Aviation Administration concerning travel by infants on commercial airline flights. *Client: Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget*

Develop and evaluate alternatives for reducing the federal deficit by selling assets such as the federal power authorities. *Clients: Robert Strauss and Drew Lewis, Co-Chairman, National Economic Commission*

RJR Nabisco Inc. and other companies have developed "smokeless" cigarettes. How should this new product be regulated by the Food and Drug Administration? *Client: Dr. Frank E. Young, Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration*

Should public policy encourage greater participation by private enterprise in the exploration and commercialization of space? If so, how? *Client: Representative Robert A. Roe, Chairman, House Committee on Science, Space and Technology*

Evaluate the Food and Drug Administration regulations governing the testing and marketing of medical devices. *Client: Representative Henry A. Waxman, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Health and Environment*