

About the Authors

JAMES D. GWARTNEY was a Professor Emeritus of Economics at Florida State University, where he remained until his passing in January 2024. He was a founding author of *Economic Freedom of the World* (publication and index). He co-authored *Economics: Private and Public Choice* (Cengage/South-Western Press, 2022), a widely used principles of economics text that will soon enter its 18th edition. He also co-authored the economics primer, *Common Sense Economics: What Everyone Should Know about Wealth and Prosperity* (St. Martin's Press, 2016). His publications appeared in both professional journals and popular media such as the *Wall Street Journal* and the *New York Times*. He served as Chief Economist of the Joint Economic Committee of the US Congress during 1999–2000. In 2004, he was the recipient of the Adam Smith Award of the Association of Private Enterprise Education for his contribution to the advancement of free-market ideals. He is a past President of the Southern Economic Association and the Association for Private Enterprise Education. He held a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Washington.

ROBERT LAWSON holds the Jerome M. Fullinwider Centennial Chair in Economic Freedom; he also is director of the Bridwell Institute for Economic Freedom at the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Cox School of Business. He earned his Ph.D. and M.S. in Economics from Florida State University and his B.S. in Economics from the Honors Tutorial College at Ohio University. He has authored or co-authored over 100 journal articles, book chapters, and policy reports. With Benjamin Powell, he is co-author of the Amazon best seller, *Socialism Sucks: Two Economists Drink Their Way through the Unfree World* (Regnery Publishing, 2019). Prof. Lawson is past-president of the Association of Private Enterprise Education, a Senior Fellow at the Fraser Institute, and a member of the Mont Pelerin Society. He was awarded the Adam Smith Award from the Association of Private Enterprise Education in 2019.

RYAN MURPHY is a Research Associate Professor in the Bridwell Institute for Economic Freedom at SMU Cox School of Business. He received his B.A. in Economics from Boston College and M.S. and Ph.D. in Economics from Suffolk University. His research has appeared in publications such as *Economica*, *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, *Public Choice*, *Public Health*, and *Contemporary Economic Policy*. He is the author of *Markets against Modernity: Ecological Irrationality, Public and Private* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019).