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He has published eleven books, including *The People's Money*, *Metropolitan Resilience in a Time of Economic Turmoil*, *Cityscapes and Capital* and *The Dynamics of Federalism*, and over 80 articles on urban finance, capital budgeting, federalism, transportation policy, infrastructure, urban development and fiscal policy; since 1991, he has written the annual City Fiscal Conditions report for the National League of Cities. He has delivered more than one hundred papers and speeches and received funding from John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the National Research Council, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Pew Charitable Trusts, Brookings Institution, CEOs for Cities, National League of Cities, Chicago Community Trust, U.S. Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, and elsewhere.

He has served on a variety of professional organizations, including NASPAA (Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration), the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, the Metropolitan Planning Council (Chicago), the Pension Committee of the Civic Federation, and the Urban Land Institute.

He is the 2019 recipient of the Aaron Wildavsky award for a lifetime contribution to the study of budgeting and financial management from the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management of the American Society for Public Administration, the Donald Stone Distinguished Scholar award from the Section on Intergovernmental Administration and Management of the American Society for Public Administration (2015), and the Daniel Elazar Distinguished Scholar Award, from the Section on Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations of the American Political Science Association (2011).=

He earned a B.A. in Latin American Studies from the Pennsylvania State University and a Ph.D. in Government from the University of Texas at Austin in 1980.