



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Derek Cressman is a senior fellow at The Poplar Institute, a think tank devoted to government accountability, and a consultant to good government groups working across the country. From 2003–2006, he founded and ran TheRestofUs.org, a nonpartisan watchdog of the role of money in politics that monitored Arnold Schwarzenegger’s campaign fundraising more closely than anyone.

Cressman is one of the nation’s leading experts on applying spending and contribution limits to big money in politics with experience in researching and analyzing data, drafting legislation, creating and implementing strategies to enact reforms into law, defending campaign finance statutes from legal challenge, and enforcing the law. Both the U.S. Senate and federal courts have relied upon Cressman’s expert testimony regarding campaign finance reform. He has helped craft campaign finance and ethics ballot initiatives in four states.

Cressman has been quoted in *The New York Times*, *USA*

Today, *Associated Press*, *Los Angeles Times*, *CNN Headline News*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Sacramento Bee*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *San Diego Union Tribune*, *Orange County Register* and numerous other news outlets. His columns about money in politics have appeared in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *The Hill*, *Minuteman Media*, *The Oregonian*, *Albuquerque Tribune*, *Orlando Sentinel*, *Tompaine.com*, and the *Washington Times* among other publications.

Cressman has worked professionally on democracy issues since 1995 when he served as the State Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs) Democracy Program Director. With the PIRGs, Cressman helped write and edit many reports on money in politics, including *Soft Money Shuffle*, *Carpetbagger Cash*, *Pushing the Limit—The Impact of Raising Federal Limits on Contributions to Campaigns*, *Lone Star Election Laws*, *Look Who's Not Coming to Washington*, and *Contribution Limits and Competitiveness*. In 2005, Cressman authored two reports examining democracy in Ohio, *Safe Seats*, *Dangerous Democracy* and *Making Safe Seats Safer*. He authored sections for the *Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court*, published by Facts on File (2004) and the *Initiative and Referendum Almanac*, by Carolina Academic Press (2003).

In 2001, Mr. Cressman served as an election observer in Somaliland, Africa, with the Initiative and Referendum Institute.

Cressman graduated *cum laude* from Williams College where he won the Richard M. Krouse prize in political science. After growing up in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and residing for five years in Washington, D.C., he now lives with his wife and family in Sacramento, California.