

## PANELIST BIOS – Panel 1



### Rebecca Bell-Martin (CONFIRMED)

Research Professor  
School of Government and Public Transformation ITESM

Dr. Rebecca V. Bell-Martin is a political scientist and Research Professor in the School of Government at el Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey. She earned her PhD from Brown University and has a decade of experience studying Mexican politics. Her research focuses on the intersection of politics and public security, with emphasis on the political dynamics of criminal violence. Rebecca regularly contributes to policy discussions in both countries and has advised policymakers on issues related to US-Mexico security relations.



### Tony Payan (CONFIRMED)

Director  
Center for the United States and Mexico

Tony, Ph.D., is the Françoise and Edward Djerejian Fellow for Mexico Studies and director of the Center for the United States and Mexico at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy. He is also a professor of social sciences at the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez in Mexico. Between 2001 and 2015, Payan was a professor of political science at The University of Texas at El Paso. His research focuses primarily on border studies, particularly the U.S.-Mexico border.



### Juan Carlos Barrón Pastor (CONFIRMED)

Researcher and Academic Secretary  
Centro de Investigaciones sobre América del Norte (CISAN)

Professor Barrón received his Ph.D. and his Master's in Development Studies from the University of East Anglia School of International Development in the United Kingdom. He received his Bachelor's in Business Administration from UNAM's School of Accounting and Business Administration. He is a Conacyt National Researcher candidate, and currently leads the "Mass Media in North America: Mexico in the U.S. and Canadian Social Imaginary" project at the CISAN.



### José Díaz-Briseño (CONFIRMED)

Editor  
Reforma's MexicoToday

José is currently the Washington correspondent for Reforma. He is also spearheading the creation of a new English-language news product by Reforma called Mexico Today. His reporting with Reforma covers mostly U.S.-Mexico affairs: trade policy, immigration, counternarcotics, tourism, and border security.