

**Kevin A. Sabet, Ph.D.**  
Cambridge, MA • Twitter: @KevinSabet

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE**

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Internationally recognized authority on drug policy and consultant to numerous government and non-governmental organizations, including the United Nations. Former official at the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) during three U.S. Administrations, including unprecedented political appointments in both the Obama White House (from 2009-2011 as Senior Policy Advisor to the Director) and Bush White House (2003-2004 as Speechwriter). Current fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Substance Abuse Solutions. Doctorate in public policy analysis from Oxford University with emphasis on drug policy, drug prevention, drug enforcement, and legalization. Experience in drug policy analysis, writing for publication, public speaking, speech writing, diplomacy, and external affairs. Unique international drug policy and diplomatic experience. Regular appearances in the media. Skills in the creation and dissemination of anti-drug strategies.

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## **EDUCATION**

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<b>Doctorate of Philosophy, Social Policy</b> <i>University of Oxford</i> (Recipient of George C. Marshall Scholarship) Thesis title: "Toward reducing total harm: Analyzing drug policies in Baltimore and New York"	<b>2004-2007</b>
<b>Master of Science, Comparative Social Policy</b> <i>University of Oxford</i> (Recipient of George C. Marshall Scholarship) Thesis title: "Defining American drug policy: Is all policy local?"	<b>2001-2002</b>
<b>Bachelor of Arts, Political Science (minor Public Policy)</b> <i>University of California, Berkeley</i> Graduated with High Honors	<b>1997-2001</b>

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## **FULL-TIME WORK EXPERIENCE**

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<b>Consultant, Private Practice, <a href="http://www.kevinsabet.com">www.kevinsabet.com</a> &amp; Twitter: @KevinSabet</b> (Founding Member of the Public Policy Solutions Group, <a href="http://www.policysolutions.org">www.policysolutions.org</a> ) Consultant to various governments and non-governmental organizations on drug policy issues, including a Senior Policy Advisor post with the United Nations (full list of clients issued upon request). Over five-dozen completed projects with various community-based organizations.	<b>Present</b>
<b>Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, Center for Substance Abuse Solutions</b> Fellow and researcher at multi-disciplinary center focused on helping policymakers make informed decisions on drug addiction issues.	<b>Present</b>
<b>The White House, Executive Office of the President</b> (Political Appointment in the Administration of Barack H. Obama; Top-Secret Security Clearance) <b>Office of National Drug Control Policy</b> <i>Senior Policy Advisor to the Director</i> Senior Advisor to the Director of ONDCP, Gil Kerlikowske. One of three principal writers of the President's inaugural <i>National Drug Control Strategy</i> . Involved in all major policy decisions, liaised regularly with the Domestic Policy Council and Office of the Vice-President. Often represented the office to the media and in	<b>2009-2011</b>

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official meetings. Specific lead on marijuana, “medical” marijuana, legalization, synthetic drugs, drugged driving, and international and United Nations issues.

**The White House, Executive Office of the President** **2003-2004**  
(Political Appointment in the Administration of George W. Bush)

**Office of National Drug Control Policy**

*Senior Speechwriter*

Served as strategist, writer and editor for public pronouncements, including memos, speeches, press conferences, position papers, and other material.

**The White House, Executive Office of the President** **2000**  
(Schedule B Appointment in the Administration of William J. Clinton)

**Office of National Drug Control Policy**

*Writer/Analyst, Office of Strategic Planning*

Focused on specific research and writing projects, including a revision of the Clinton Administration’s position on drug legalization.

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**SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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Sabet, K.A. and Kerlikowske, R. G. (2011). Commentary on Voas et al.: Drug-Free Roadways – Can We Get There From Here? *Addiction*.

Sabet, K.A. and Caulkins, J. (2011). Drug Abuse Warning Network. In Mark Kleiman and James Hawden (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Drug Policy*. Sage Publications. [Total of eight entries in this publication.]

Sabet, K.A. and Johnson, B.J. (2008). Marijuana treatment admissions did not decrease after aggressive arrest policies were implemented in New York City. *Justice Research and Policy*.

Sabet, K.A. (2007). The local matters: A brief history of the tension between federal drug laws and state and local policy. *Journal of Global Drug Policy and Practice*, 4, 1.

Sabet, K.A. (2006). The (often unheard) case against marijuana leniency. In Mitch Earleywine (Ed.), *Pot Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Sabet, K.A. (2006). Harm Reduction and Heroin Maintenance in Vancouver. In *AT ISSUE: HEROIN*, Michigan: Thomas Gale, p. 7.

Sabet, K.A. (2005). Making it happen: The case for compromise in the federal cocaine law debate. *Journal of Social Policy and Administration*, 39, 2, pp. 181-191.

Sabet, K.A. (1999). *Cannabis sativa* as a medicinal application: The need to distinguish between isolated cannabinoids and smoked marijuana. *Addictions*, Vol. 1999, p 10.

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**SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES**

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Author of newspaper opinion-editorials appearing in scores of newspapers since 2000: e.g. *AP-New York Times Syndicate, Washington Post, San Francisco Chronicle, Los Angeles Times, Vancouver Sun, San Jose Mercury News, International Herald Tribune, Seattle Times*.

Featured in news articles: *San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury-News, USA Today, Los Angeles Times, Oakland Tribune, Orange County Register, Teen People, Rolling Stone*.

Appeared as guest/consulted for news content in major media outlets in the US and UK including: BBC, CNN, CNBC, ABC, CBS, NBC, WebMD.com, HBO, CNN Headline News International, BBC-4, BBC-Oxford, and scores of ABC, NBC, FOX, and CBS affiliate television and radio stations.

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## **SELECTED LEADERSHIP AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

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Over 50 guest lectures delivered at major universities

Invited testimony to the United States Congress:

- December 1996: Entry on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee record on the topic of “medical marijuana”
- June 1999: Entry on the U.S. House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources record on topic of the “drug legalization”
- July 1999: Entry on the U.S. House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources record on the topic of “harm reduction”

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## **AWARDS**

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George C. Marshall Scholarship (2001)

- One of forty national winners of prestigious three-year scholarship offered by the British government to US scholars. Initial pool of over 100,000 applicants.

Warr-Goodman Scholarship (2005 and 2006)

- Single award winner of Oxford college scholarship given to most promising doctoral student (won twice).

National Institutes of Health Behavioral Sciences Training Pre-doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellowships (2006-2008)

- Appointed as a pre-doctoral (2006-2007) and post-doctoral (2007-2008) scholar at the National Development and Research Institute (NDRI) to research drug policy under Bruce Johnson, Ph.D.

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## **REFERENCES (INQUIRE FOR CONTACT INFORMATION)**

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Gil Kerlikowske, Director, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy  
Dr. Alan Leshner, Chairman, American Academy for the Advancement of Science  
Dr. Robert DuPont, Former Drug Czar and Founding Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse  
Gen. Arthur Dean, Chairman and CEO, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)  
Prof. Jonathan Caulkins, Carnegie Mellon University  
Prof. George Smith (Ret.), Department of Comparative Social Policy, University of Oxford  
Prof. William K. Muir (Ret.), Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley