

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Edgar O. Olsen

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Ed Olsen is a professor of economics at the University of Virginia where he has served as department chairman. He received his doctorate from Rice University and has been a postdoctoral fellow at Indiana University, an economist at the Rand Corporation, a project associate in the Institute for Research on Poverty and a visiting professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin, and a visiting scholar at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Ed's teaching and research has focused on public policy issues, especially the welfare system. Within this broad area, his research specialty is low-income housing policy. He has published papers on housing markets and policies in professional journals such as the *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, and *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, and he wrote the chapter on empirical housing economics in the North-Holland *Handbook of Urban Economics* and the chapter on low-income housing programs in the recent National Bureau of Economic Research volume on means-tested transfers in the United States.

Ed has been a consultant to HUD during six administrations, the GAO on their recent study comparing the cost-effectiveness of housing vouchers and construction programs, the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance on the shelter allowance in their TANF Program, and the U.S. Department of Justice in fair housing litigation concerning the public housing program. In recent years, he has testified on low-income housing policy before U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, the U.S. House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity of the Committee on Financial Services, and U.S. House Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census of the Committee on Government Reform.

Ed served on the Board of Editors of the *American Economic Review* from 1985 through 1991, and he is currently on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Housing Policy Debate*. He was Vice President of the Southern Economic Association from 2003 to 2005 and on the Board of Trustees of the American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association from 1998 to 2000 and 2005 to 2007.