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**NEWS**

**For Immediate Release**

## **GBH's New Special *DEADLOCK: an election story* Encourages Civil Discourse about Ethical Dilemmas**

***Premieres Friday, Sept. 20, 2024 on PBS***

**BOSTON, Mass. – July 15, 2024 (Updated Sept. 11, 2024) –** [\*DEADLOCK: an election story\*](#), a dynamic new one-hour special from GBH, airing and streaming nationwide on PBS, aims to facilitate civil dialogue in an era dominated by polarizing debates. Moderated by Aaron Tang, professor at UC Davis School of Law, the series will feature a diverse panel of influential figures from legal, political, and cultural spheres delving into complex, ethical dilemmas based on real-life scenarios. The special will premiere nationwide on **Friday, Sept. 20, 2024, 9 p.m. ET** (check local listings) and stream on [PBS.org](#), [YouTube](#) and the [PBS app](#).

Over the hour, Tang will skillfully navigate panelists through a thought-provoking hypothetical situation designed to challenge their beliefs and prompt deep conversation. The objective is to elicit the panel's heartfelt reactions without providing them any advance knowledge of the topic or opportunity for preparation.

*DEADLOCK: an election story* will be **introduced by Sonia Sotomayor, associate justice, Supreme Court of the United States, and Amy Coney Barrett, associate justice, Supreme Court of the United States**, setting the tone and topic of the program. The panel will feature **Dr. Rachel Bitecofer**, political strategist; **Adrian Fontes**, Arizona secretary of state; **Dr. Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.**, James S McDonnell professor of African American studies, Princeton University; **Katie Harbath**, CEO, Anchor Change and former Facebook executive; **Astead Herndon**, national politics reporter, *The New York Times* and host, *The Run-Up*; **Jeh C. Johnson**, former secretary of Homeland Security and former general counsel, Department of Defense; **Elise Jordan**, NBC/MSNBC political analyst; **Kris Kobach**, Kansas attorney general; **Mick Mulvaney**, former U.S. representative for South Carolina and NewsNation contributor; **Russell Moore**, editor in chief, *Christianity Today* and author; **Scott Pelley**, CBS *60 Minutes* correspondent; and **Gabriel Sterling**, COO, Office of the Georgia Secretary of State. These individuals bring a wealth of expertise and diverse

perspectives to the conversation, ensuring a comprehensive exploration of the ethical dilemmas presented.

"The current climate of American discourse finds us deeply entrenched and overconfident in our own beliefs," said moderator Aaron Tang, Professor of Law at UC Davis. "*DEADLOCK* aims to illuminate how, for many of the difficult challenges facing our nation, the honest answers are nuanced and complex. Our goal is to spark open-mindedness and help people find the middle ground instead of retreating to our usual corners."

*DEADLOCK: an election story* will explore fundamental topics about community and responsibility, triggering legal, moral and ethical responses. As the hypothetical scenarios follow intricate twists and turns, panelists and viewers alike will find themselves asking the soul-searching question, "What would I do?"

"As viewers grow weary of 'winner/loser' debates, *DEADLOCK* offers a refreshing alternative," said Executive Producer Andrew Lack, Executive Chairman and Founder of the Pulitzer Prize-winning non-profit *Mississippi Today*. "We hope it will humanize the conversation on important topics, explore areas of common ground and facilitate a deeper understanding of diverse perspectives."

*DEADLOCK: an election story* will be filmed before a live audience on Monday, Sept. 9 at the New-York Historical Society in New York City. To facilitate honest and unfiltered opinions, panelists will learn of the program's featured topic shortly before each live taping.

"*DEADLOCK* will bring together participants with a diverse range of viewpoints," said Executive Producer John Bredar, GBH VP of National Programming. "The goal is to help audiences connect on all sides of a topic and to further the heartfelt dialogue Americans are seeking."

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### **About *DEADLOCK***

*DEADLOCK* is a groundbreaking public affairs series that confronts leaders with hypothetical ethical scenarios. Hosted by Aaron Tang of UC Davis School of Law, the show aims to foster constructive dialogue and critical thinking amidst today's societal challenges. *Deadlock* is a co-production of GBH, Andrew Lack, and Room 608. Produced by Jonathan Halperin and Mark Mannucci. Executive Producers John Bredar, Laurie Donnelly, Andrew Lack, and Nina Weinstein. Moderated by Aaron Tang. Scenarios by Joan Greco.

Funding for *DEADLOCK* is provided by Rick Burnes and PBS Viewers.

## About Aaron Tang

Aaron Tang is Professor of Law at the University of California, Davis and former law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Tang writes frequently about the Supreme Court in popular media including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Slate*, *The Atlantic*, *USA Today*, and elsewhere. He is the author of [Supreme Hubris: How Overconfidence is Destroying the Court—and How We Can Fix It](#), published in August 2023 by Yale University Press.

## About GBH

GBH is the leading multiplatform creator for public media in America. As the largest producer of content for PBS and partner to NPR and PRX, GBH delivers compelling experiences, stories and information to audiences wherever they are. GBH produces digital and broadcast programming that engages, illuminates and inspires, through drama and science, history, arts, culture and journalism. It is the creator of signature programs as MASTERPIECE, ANTIQUES ROADSHOW, FRONTLINE, NOVA, AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, Arthur and Molly of Denali, as well as WORLD Channel and a catalog of streaming series, podcasts and on-demand video. With studios and a newsroom headquartered in Boston, GBH reaches across New England with GBH 89.7, Boston's Local NPR®, CRB Classical 99.5; and CAI, the Cape and Islands NPR® station. Dedicated to making media accessible to and inclusive of our diverse culture, GBH is a pioneer in delivering media to those who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind and visually impaired. GBH creates curriculum-based digital content for educators nationwide with PBS LearningMedia and has been recognized with hundreds of the nation's premier broadcast, digital and journalism awards. Find more information at [www.wgbh.org](http://www.wgbh.org)

## About Room 608

Mark Mannucci and Jon Halperin have been collaborating since 2007. In the past eight years, they have produced films and series for Netflix, Amazon, PBS, PBS Digital, *The Atlantic*, The World, History, and National Geographic. Their work has been screened at festivals around the world and in 2017, they won a National News and Documentary Emmy for Best Science film for *A Year In Space*. Collectively they have won two George Foster Peabody Awards and seven Emmys. Mark directed *Dr. Tony Fauci*, a 2023 feature documentary for PBS' American Masters. Most recently, Jon executive produced *Unknown*, a new science/adventure series for Netflix.

## About PBS

[PBS](#), with more than 330 member stations, offers all Americans the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and digital content. Each month, PBS reaches over 36 million adults on linear primetime television, more than 16 million users on PBS-owned streaming platforms, 53 million viewers on YouTube, and 60 million people view PBS content on social media, inviting them to experience the worlds of science, history, nature, and public affairs and to take front-row seats to world-class drama and performances. PBS's broad array of programs has been consistently honored by the industry's most coveted award competitions. Teachers of children from pre-K through 12th grade turn to [PBS LearningMedia](#) for digital content and services that help bring classroom lessons to life. As the number one educational media brand, [PBS KIDS](#) helps children 2-8 build critical skills, enabling them to find success in school and life. Delivered through member stations, PBS KIDS offers high-quality content on TV – including a PBS KIDS channel – and streaming free on [pbskids.org](http://pbskids.org) and the [PBS KIDS Video app](#), games on the [PBS KIDS Games app](#), and in communities across America. More information about PBS is available at [PBS.org](http://PBS.org), one of the leading dot-org websites on the internet, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or through our [apps for mobile and connected devices](#). Specific program information and updates for press are available at [pbs.org/pressroom](http://pbs.org/pressroom) or by following [PBS Communications on X](#).

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