Norman J. Ornstein  
Resident Scholar  
American Enterprise Institute  
Washington, DC

Norman Ornstein, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, is a long-time observer and scholar of Congress and politics. He writes a weekly column for National Journal and The Atlantic called “Washington Inside Out.” For thirty years, he was an election eve analyst for CBS News; in 2012, he was a principal on-air election eve analyst for BBC News. He served as co-director of the AEI-Brookings Election Reform Project and participates in AEI’s Election Watch series. He helped create the Continuity of Government Commission, and serves as senior counselor. Mr. Ornstein led a working group of scholars and practitioners that helped shape the law, known as McCain-Feingold, which reformed the campaign financing system. In his decades of involvement in political reform, he played a major role in Senate committee reform, in the creation of the Congressional Office of Compliance to ensure Congress was governed by the laws it enacts for others, and in the creation of the House Office of Congressional Ethics. He was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2004; he currently directs the Academy Project on Stewarding America. His many books include The Permanent Campaign and Its Future (AEI Press, 2000); The Broken Branch: How Congress Is Failing America and How to Get It Back on Track, with Thomas E. Mann (Oxford University Press, 2006, named by the Washington Post one of the best books of 2006 and called by the Economist "a classic"); and, most recently, the New York Times bestseller, It's Even Worse Than It Looks: How the American Constitutional System Collided With the New Politics of Extremism, also with Tom Mann, published in May 2012 by Basic Books, and updated in a paperback version in September 2013, named Book of the Year by Ezra Klein's Wonkblog, one of the ten best books on politics in 2012 by The New Yorker, and one of the best books of 2012 by the Washington Post.

Mr. Ornstein has a BA from the University of Minnesota and an MA and PhD from the University of Michigan. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from his alma mater in 2007, and was given the second annual “Above Average” Alumni Award (named for its first recipient, Garrison Keillor,) by the University of Minnesotal Alumni Association in 2013. He received the 2006 Goodnow lifetime achievement Award from the American Political Science Association for service to the political science profession. Mr. Ornstein was spotlighted as one of 2012’s 100 Top Global Thinkers by Foreign Policy Magazine.