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People

BYLINE: Gregg Sangillo

SECTION: PEOPLE

In The Tanks

After more than 25 years at the Manhattan Institute in New York City, **Walter Olson** is moving to the **Cato Institute** as a senior fellow. "A reaction I've had from a lot of people is. 'What took you so long?'" he says. "My views have always been very congenial with Cato's, and I've written for libertarian outlets and identified myself as libertarian. It's very logical."

In his new position, Olson will put the finishing touches on his fourth book, which deals with "bad ideas in the law schools, an inexhaustible subject." He will also delve further into federal regulation, a subject on which he got a fair bit of attention when he took to his blog to excoriate a 2008 children's product-safety law. "I blogged and blogged and blogged and blogged until my fingers were sore," he says. "And now Congress is getting around in its leisurely way to looking at some possible fixes."

Olson, 55, grew up in Detroit and graduated from Yale University in 1975. He worked for five years as an associate editor at the American Enterprise Institute before joining the Manhattan Institute in 1985. He is a prolific (and admittedly trenchant) author whose writings included a column for **Reason** magazine from 1997 to 2000.

Olson and his family will be relocating to Maryland from Chappaqua, N.Y., a town with its share of political royalty. He recalls once braking at an intersection for Chappaqua's most famous resident. "I saw a man walking all by himself who looked strangely familiar. 'Wait a minute, it's **President Clinton!**' Then I saw, like four compass points, four men walking at exactly the same speed, all of them 10 paces away.... It was uncanny. But I'm sure it's a more usual scene in Washington."--

Christopher Snow Hopkins

Having worked at the state and international levels, **Daniel Costa** will turn his attention to federal policy for the first time when he joins the Economic Policy Institute as an immigration policy analyst. Costa, a globe-trotting lawyer and humanitarian, has interned with the State Department in Lisbon; consulted for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva; and, most recently, operated an immigrant integration program in his native California. At the left-leaning Economic Policy Institute, he looks forward to a new challenge: being "one of a few lawyers surrounded by a bunch of economists."

Costa's mother emigrated from Mexico and his father came from Portugal, and that heritage has helped nurture "a lifelong interest in immigration," he said, although he "didn't realize it was going to be part of my career until law school." He graduated from the University of California (Berkeley) in 2000, received his law degree from Syracuse in 2004, and went on to earn a master of laws degree at Georgetown in 2005. It was there that he met professor **Robert Dalton**, who encouraged Costa to

participate in the 41st session of the United Nations International Law Seminar, a move that launched his international career.

He spent three years as a legal consultant for the Red Cross in Geneva, and during that time he was dispatched to Bolivia and Panama to collect data on Latin America's ability to cope with natural disasters. Costa returned to California's Central Valley, recently dubbed "the Appalachia of the West" by **The Economist**, to take part in Gov. **Arnold Schwarzenegger**'s redevelopment initiatives.

He joined the nonprofit Great Valley Center in 2007 as a policy analyst and developed close ties to **Carol Whiteside**, a former mayor of Modesto who founded the center. Through projects of his own, such as teaching basic computer skills to migrant workers, he sought to heal a stratified society "where middle-to-upper-class whites pretty much own the community ... and then it is just migrant workers underneath."

Costa, 32, says he is looking forward to immersing himself in Washington's policy and politics scene. He is fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and he expects to exercise his Spanish skills as the immigration debate escalates. Costa is less sure about opportunities to speak Portuguese, but he hopes to keep in practice by conversing with a Brazilian colleague at the institute.--**C.S.H.**