

Jeanne Allen

Jeanne Allen has been called the nation's most accomplished and relentless advocate for education reform. She has earned recognition and credibility among policymakers, business leaders and the press and is a compelling writer and public speaker.

She founded The Center for Education Reform in 1993 and served as its president through 2013. She then asked the next generation of leaders to steer CER with their own voice for the years to come. Prior to founding the Center, Jeanne had served in prominent roles at the US Department of Education, The Heritage Foundation and on Capitol Hill. Today, Jeanne is a Senior Fellow and president emeritus, and serves on CER's Board of Directors. Through her new endeavors, Jeanne's client services include Communications and Media, Executive Search, Government Relations, and Fundraising with The Allen Company.

Over the past twenty years, Jeanne has been on the forefront of supporting innovation in education. Jeanne currently serves on the advisory boards of such pioneering organizations as the Education Innovation Council at Arizona State University; Noodle Education, a tech savvy education company looking to revolutionize consumer choice in education; Capital E, a regional technology investment network, and the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education entrepreneurship programs. Jeanne also is an advisor to the Relay Graduate School of Education pipeline project, and the Education Industry Association, which honored her with its "Friend of Education Award" in 2012. In 2010, *Working Mother* named Jeanne one of the "Most Powerful Moms in Education."

Members of the media frequently turn to Jeanne for her grasp of the issues, quick wit and reliability. She is a frequent commentator in the media and her name will be found wherever education reform and innovation is covered. She has appeared on NBC, ABC, MSNBC, Fox News and CNN, as well as NPR and national and local talk radio. A prolific writer, she has published hundreds of articles and commentaries in newspapers and journals. Jeanne is a regular contributor to the *National Journal* education blog, while her honesty and linear thinking on issues such as reform, choice for parents, and teacher accountability has made her articles in outlets such as the *Huffington Post* essential reading. Her book, [The School Reform Handbook: How to Improve Your Schools](#), ignited parent-led efforts for education reform.

Jeanne has been a trusted advisor to presidential administrations, governors, and lawmakers, as she is well known for her ability to communicate clearly and forcefully while being able to find common ground to achieve their goals. She has been called a vibrant speaker and addresses groups of all sizes and types, from keynote addresses, and panel discussions to formal ceremonies.

Naturally civic minded, Jeanne is a member of the Sovereign Order of Malta, the John Carroll Society, and the National Italian American Federation. Jeanne earned a bachelors degree in political science from Dickinson College, undertook masters' studies in politics at the Catholic University of America and is currently enrolled in an executive doctoral program at the University of Pennsylvania. Jeanne has raised four accomplished children and is married to Dr. Kevin L. Strother.