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Huntsman Professor William F. Shughart II has been named the research director for the Independent Institute, a non-profit public policy organization based in Oakland, Calif., that seeks to “evaluate, refine, and propose advances that provide sound solutions to major social and economic issues.”

Dr. Shughart is the J. Fish Smith Professor in Public Choice at the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business, and he is also the editor-in-chief of the journal Public Choice. As the research director of the Independent Institute, where he is also a senior fellow, he will review proposals for new books and offer advice on the Institute’s future research agenda. He said he also will work with authors of academic papers encouraging them to expand their research to book-length projects and coordinate with others researching solutions to public policy problems that “promote liberty.”

Dr. Shughart, is already a nationally syndicated columnist, and he will be writing a monthly newspaper article for the Institute and contributing to its blog, “The Beacon.”

The late President Ronald Reagan said, “The Independent Institute has a well-deserved reputation for rigorous analysis of critical public policy issues and for pointing the way toward reform in government…”

The organization’s board of advisors includes best-selling authors Tom Peters and P.J. O’Rourke, and Nobel Laureates James J. Heckman and Vernon L. Smith, in addition to many other well-known writers and professors.