



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

(Order of appearance)

Gene L. Dodaro Comptroller General of the United States

Gene L. Dodaro became the eighth Comptroller General of the United States and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) on December 22, 2010, when he was confirmed by the United States Senate. He was nominated by President Obama in September of 2010 from a list of candidates selected by a bipartisan, bicameral congressional commission. He had been serving as Acting Comptroller General since March of 2008.

Mr. Dodaro has testified before Congress dozens of times on important national issues, including the nation's long term fiscal outlook, efforts to reduce and eliminate overlap and duplication across the federal government and GAO's "High Risk List" that focuses on specific challenges—from reducing improper payments under Medicare and Medicaid to improving the Pentagon's business practices. In addition Mr. Dodaro has led efforts to fulfill GAO's new audit responsibilities under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

As Comptroller General, Mr. Dodaro helps oversee the development and issuance of hundreds of reports and testimonies each year to various committees and individual Members of Congress. These and other GAO products have led to hearings and legislation, billions of dollars in taxpayer savings, and improvements to a wide range of government programs and services.

Ernest Almonte Partner RSM US LLC

Ernest (Ernie) Almonte is a firm-designated government, not-for-profit, litigation support, and higher education specialist with more than 40 years of experience. Mr. Almonte works in the Boston Not-For-Profit/Public Sector Industry team. He has managed the audits of numerous public sector and not-for-profit organizations, and has provided technical assistance on accounting and financial reporting issues to these organizations. Mr. Almonte is a leader on engagements working directly with Federal and State Government Leadership on compliance, audit, and consulting engagements and is a frequent speaker on industry related topics.

Prior to joining RSM, Mr. Almonte spent 16 years as the R.I. Auditor General where he was responsible for the State of Rhode Island financial, performance and fraud audits, In that role, he was responsible for the \$8 billion dollar CAFR and overseeing the audits of the quasi-public agencies and municipalities. He has provided training nationally on topics such as the Yellow Book, GASB and FASAB accounting standards, and fraud risks for federal, state and local professionals serving government, not-for-profit and higher education clients. Mr. Almonte has served in numerous positions as Chairman of audit committees including universities and the Department of Defense Audit Advisory Committee at the Pentagon, and as a member of the Government Auditing Standards Committee for the Comptroller General of the United States.



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Thomas M. Salmon, CPA, CFE
Assistant Inspector General, Office of Integrity and Quality Oversight (IQO)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Thomas (Tom) Salmon is a catalyst for quality, clarity and unity in the role of Assistant Inspector General for Integrity and Quality Oversight. Previously, he served the DHS OIG as the Deputy AIG for Emergency Management Oversight (EMO) and AIG for EMO.

Before coming to DHS OIG, Mr. Salmon served as an Assistant Inspector General at the Department of Health and Human Services OIG, where he was responsible for the audit work at eight OIG regional offices that conducted performance, grant and information technology audits. Between 2007 and 2013, Mr. Salmon was the Vermont State Auditor and during this time, transformed the State Auditor Office and its culture into one of high performance and continuous improvement. He also has experience at both international and regional accounting firms, and taught public school for 10 years. Mr. Salmon is a Navy Reservist and completed an overseas deployment to Djibouti and Somalia from April 2017-May 2018 providing Base Operations Support (BOS) to Special Operations Teams.

Thomas G. Shack III Esq.
Principal & Strategist, Citizen Gain LLC
Former Comptroller, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Thomas (Tom) Shack leads Citizen Gain, LLC a global consultancy start-up that provides apolitical guidance to visionary leaders in designing successful, practical, secure, and transformative projects.

In 2015, Mr. Shack was appointed Comptroller of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; the uniquely independent and apolitical fiscal overseer of \$65b+ in state funding, 100k+ employees, and 12m+ transactions annually. Bringing an entrepreneurial mindset to government transformation, he led several projects increasing state accountability, transparency, collaboration, and transactional security across all 150+ state agencies.

Mr. Shack's team also launched a revolutionary financial transparency site (CTHRU). In just over two years, the award-winning system had more than 3+ million views, bridging the "trust gap" between taxpayers and state government and provided a geometric return on investment by uncovering \$millions in fraud, waste, and abuse.

Before joining the Comptroller's staff in 2012, Mr. Shack was Chief of Operations, Chief Financial Officer, and a Senior Attorney in the Cape and Islands District Attorney's Office. In addition to his leadership role, he carried a full trial caseload focusing on major felonies and high-profile prosecutions before the Supreme Judicial Court – with more than 20 appearances before the Court of Appeals and Supreme Judicial Court, and more than 100 trials conducted.

Mr. Shack received his Juris Doctorate from New England Law | Boston where he was Editor-in-Chief of the *New England Journal on Criminal and Civil Confinement* and received the *Dean's Award* for



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meritorious achievement and service to the school. He also holds a B.A. in Political Science and an M.B.A. in Entrepreneurship and Management from The American University in Washington, D.C. Mr. Shack speaks nationally on legal, business, media relations, and ethics related issues and is a former editor of the *Massachusetts Law Review*. He has taught at Boston University School of Law and is currently a Lecturer-in-Law at New England Law| Boston. For more than ten years he has been a judge in both the 1L and Qualifying Rounds of the Ames Moot Court Program at Harvard Law School.

Michael J. Missal

Inspector General

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Michael J. Missal was nominated by President Barack H. Obama to serve as the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on October 2, 2015, and confirmed by the Senate on April 19, 2016. He assumed responsibility as Inspector General on May 2, 2016.

As Inspector General, Mr. Missal directs a nationwide staff of auditors, investigators, inspectors, and support personnel. His office conducts investigations, audits, inspections, and evaluations to promote economy and efficiency in VA programs and to prevent and detect criminal activity, waste, abuse, and mismanagement.

Prior to being sworn in as Inspector General, Mr. Missal was a Partner at K&L Gates LLP, a position he held since 1991. He was a member of the K&L Gates Management Committee and also served as Co-Leader for the K&L Gates Policy and Regulatory Practice Area.

Prior to joining K&L Gates in 1987, Mr. Missal served as Senior Counsel at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in the Division of Enforcement from 1983 to 1987. From 1982 to 1983, Mr. Missal served as a Law Clerk for Chief Judge H. Carl Moultrie I of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. He served in the Carter Administration from 1978 to 1981, initially as a Staff Assistant to Assistant to the President Anne Wexler and then as a Law Clerk to Counsel to the President Lloyd Cutler.

Mr. Missal received a Bachelor of Science degree with Special Attainments in Commerce from Washington and Lee University and a Juris Doctor degree from the Catholic University of America.



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Karl Maschino

Chief Administrative Officer/Chief Financial Officer U.S. Government Accountability Office

Karl Maschino is the Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and is a member of GAO's Executive Committee (EC). He heads the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) which oversees GAO's financial, information technology, human capital, infrastructure operations, and field operations. Other EC members include Comptroller General, Gene Dodaro; Chief Operating Officer, Kate Siggerud; and General Counsel, Tom Armstrong.

Prior to joining GAO, Mr. Maschino was the Executive Officer of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, where he led the offices of Finance, Resource Planning and Evaluation, Human Resources, Information Technology Infrastructure, Telecommunications, Facilities Management, Security, Correspondence, and Records.

Prior to this position, Mr. Maschino was the Principal Deputy Executive Officer, where his primary responsibility was to advise on all management and strategic planning issues. He began his civil service career as a Presidential Management Intern as a Budget Analyst in the Justice Management Division. Prior to entering public service, he worked in the fields of sustainable economic development and international higher education in university, city government, and non-profit settings.

Mr. Maschino holds a Master of Science degree in Management of Information Technology from the University of Virginia, a Master of Public Management degree from Carnegie Mellon University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in East Asian Studies with a Minor in Economics from Indiana University

Kirstin Austin

Chief Learning Officer U.S. Government Accountability Office

Kirstin Austin is the Chief Learning Officer at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. She has a diverse background consisting of more than 25 years of experience in learning, development, organizational design, and employee engagement across the private, non-profit, and public sectors.

Prior to joining GAO, Ms. Austin served as the Deputy Chief Learning and Engagement Officer at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), where she drove initiatives that promoted effective learning, development, and employee engagement programs across DHS components. She led cross-component collaboration with representatives from eleven distinct components and developed the first-ever department-wide Workforce Development Plan. As a result of Ms. Austin's efforts, she was awarded the Cross-Management Collaboration Award as part of the DHS Management Directorate Awards for Excellence (2017) and the Technical Excellence Award (2018).

Prior to DHS, Ms. Austin served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Personnel and Readiness, in two different roles—most recently in Readiness and Force Management, Total Force Planning and Requirements, as the Associate Director, Total Force Management. She also served in Personnel and Readiness, Civilian Personnel Policy, as the Director, Talent and Organization Development. Ms. Austin was awarded The Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service in November 2014.



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Prior to working in the federal government, Ms. Austin was a senior consultant at the Center for Organizational Excellence, leading engagement teams addressing human capital-related performance improvements efforts across the federal government. She also started and managed her own consulting organization for 15 years designing and developing training programs aligned with mission strategy for a number of clients, including Exxon Mobile, Pitney Bowes, and the City of Baltimore.

Ms. Austin has a master's degree in human resources development from the George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in literature from American University. She completed the Excellence in Government Fellows Program at the Partnership for Public Service.