



Biennial Forum of Government Auditors
“Leading in an Evolving Audit Environment”
May 9-10, 2018



BIOGRAPHIES

Gene L. Dodaro

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. 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. 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.

Timothy M. Persons

Dr. Timothy M. Persons was appointed the Chief Scientist of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in 2008. In addition to leading advanced data analytic activities at GAO, he also co-directs GAO's Center for Science, Technology, and Engineering, a group of highly specialized scientists, engineers, and operations research staff. In these roles he directs science and technology (S&T) studies and is an expert advisor and chief consultant to the GAO, Congress, and other federal agencies and government programs on cutting-edge S&T, key highly specialized complex systems, engineering policies and best practices, and original research studies in the fields of engineering, computer, and the physical and biological sciences to ensure strategic and effective use of S&T in the federal sector. Dr. Persons received his B.Sc. (Physics) from James Madison University, a M.Sc. (Nuclear Physics) from Emory University, and M.Sc. (Computer Science) and Ph.D. (Biomedical Engineering) degrees from Wake Forest University. He is a senior member of the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers, serves as an ex officio council member of the National Academy of Sciences' Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable, and has authored an array of journal, conference, and technical articles.



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Gloria Jarmon

As Deputy Inspector General for Audit Services at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Gloria Jarmon is responsible for providing audit services for all HHS programs (with budgets of over \$1 trillion) and directs the efforts of over 600 auditors and staff. She also worked at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Capitol Police, and KPMG. She was awarded the 2017 Outstanding CPA in Government Federal Impact Award by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). Earlier in her career, she was also recognized as a trailblazer by the AICPA in the Journal of Accountancy. She has received the GAO Comptroller General’s Award, GAO’s Human Resources Management award, and the HHS Secretary’s Award for Meritorious Service. Ms. Jarmon is an honor graduate of the College of William and Mary, a Certified Public Accountant, and a Certified Government Financial Manager.

Kip Memmott

Kip Memmott serves as the Audits Director for the Oregon Secretary of State’s Office responsible for all state audits and auditors. His professional positions include Chief Audit Executive for the Oregon State Treasury, Director of Audit Services for the City and County of Denver, Internal Audit Manager with the County of San Diego, Performance Audit Supervisor with the State of Arizona’s Office of the Auditor General, and Senior Consultant with KPMG. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Utah and a Master of Arts degree from Arizona State University. Mr. Memmott is a graduate from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government’s Executives in State and Local Government executive education program and has earned a Certificate in Public Leadership from the Brookings Institute. He has attained the Certified Government Auditing Professional and Certified Risk Management Assurance credentials. Mr. Memmott serves on the Institute of Internal Auditors’ (IIA) American Center for Government Auditing Advisory Board and previously served on the Association of Local Government Auditors’ (ALGA) Governing Board. Each year from 2013 to 2016, performance audits he directed received ALGA’s Knighton Awards for excellence and impact. Additionally, in 2014, the IIA identified the City and County of Denver Auditor’s Office as 1 of 11 best practice audit functions for major cities in the U.S. and Canada.



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Nancy Campbell

Nancy Campbell, MPA, is an accomplished facilitator, speaker, Critical Thinking expert, and author. She started her career with the City of Kansas City, MO, as a Budget & Systems Analyst and then Performance Auditor. She directed and led a team of 10 analysts and auditors in creating the city’s first Performance Report, a major milestone for the city. After moving into the private sector as a manager and divisional manager, she then started her own adult learning company. She has over 25 years’ experience in Critical Thinking, from learning and applying Critical Thinking methods in her own career to helping others understand and use the techniques. When it comes to thinking clearly, deeply, carefully and broadly, Ms. Campbell is both passionate and an expert in this area. She trains auditors, investigators, inspectors and analysts at agencies and organizations such as the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, various federal Inspectors General, and the California State Auditor. She is a problem solver, an internationally recognized facilitator, and an expert at ‘translating’ the brain’s complexity into practical, real-world terms. She challenges your thinking, shows you how to go from being a good thinker to a great thinker, and helps you understand mental traps, develop mental agility, sharpen your mental precision, and improve your mental resilience. She skillfully leads you to new insights and understanding – all with passion, humor and an interactive, dynamic style.

Ben Thompson

Ben Thompson is the Deputy King County (WA) Auditor. He has led and supervised a number of audits on topics ranging from take-home vehicles to part-time employees. Before joining King County, Mr. Thompson spent six years at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), in Washington, D.C., and at the Seattle field office. At GAO, he worked on and led a number of Defense Department performance audits, including evaluations of supply chain management, tactical aircraft requirements, and Navy personnel and training policies. Previously, Mr. Thompson was a research fellow at a non-profit government consulting company in the D.C. area. He served in the Peace Corps in Uzbekistan, teaching finance, accounting, and economics to university students. He has conducted trainings on a variety of topics including interviewing, audit documentation, workplace diversity, and Excel. Mr. Thompson has a Master’s in Public Policy from the University of Maryland, College Park.



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Katja Freeman

Katja Freeman has been part of the City and County of Denver’s Audit Service Division since May 2012. During that time she has conducted a wide variety of performance and integrated audits and is now an Audit Manager. Ms. Freeman received a master’s degree in Political Science from the University of Colorado at Boulder, a master’s degree in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School, and is currently working on obtaining a certificate in Audit Analytics from Rutgers University. She is a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors and the Association of Local Government Auditors.

Sam Gallaher

Samuel Gallaher, PhD, is the Data Analytics and Methodology Specialist for the City and County of Denver Auditor’s Office. Dr. Gallaher joined the Auditor’s Office in November 2015 and currently leads the data analytics group as well as providing methodological support for audit teams. Previously he worked as a research assistant and lecturer at the University of Colorado Denver and as a process engineer for Johns Manville. In these roles he has accumulated over a decade of experience in statistically based process evaluation, multi-method research, and an understanding of how policy can impact behavior. Dr. Gallaher holds a dual Bachelor of Science in manufacturing and industrial engineering from Oregon State University and Master of Public Administration and a doctorate in public affairs from the University of Colorado Denver’s School of Public Affairs.

Robert Persichitte

Robert Persichitte has audit experience building systems for Colorado’s State Court Administrator’s Office that automatically manages and compares past and current audit findings. He worked at PricewaterhouseCoopers compiling, processing, and visualizing HR survey data. More recently, he created projections and models of financial data. He currently works as a Senior Auditor and Continuous Audit team member in the City and County of Denver Auditor’s Office, implementing continuous audits, creating data visualizations, and performing data analytics.



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Chris Currie

Chris Currie is a Director for the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). Within GAO, he specifically serves in the Homeland Security and Justice Team, where he leads the agency’s work on a number of homeland security issues including national preparedness, emergency management, and critical infrastructure protection. In this role, Mr. Currie and his teams of GAO auditors evaluate federal efforts and programs to prevent, plan for, and respond to natural and man-made disasters.

Sam Atkinson

Over the last 29 years, Sam Atkinson has worked at the Center for International Security and Strategic Studies, National Security Agency, John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi Municipal League, and most recently at the Mississippi Office of the State Auditor (OSA), where she served from 2004 to 2017 as Director of Performance Audit, and where she now serves as Director of Special Projects and Audit Response Teams. Based on requests from the State Auditor, the Legislature, the Governor, state agencies, and other government entities, she has coordinated performance-related reviews and audits at the local and state levels on many topics. In addition, as the Performance Audit Director she was responsible for validating the MS Adequate Education Program of funding that accounts for more than 40 percent of the State’s general fund budget as well as data quality audits at the 149 school districts across the State. Now she works with government entities that have specialized audit needs including federal audit demands issued against them. Originally from New Orleans, Ms. Atkinson attended Mississippi State University after graduating from the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts. At Mississippi State, she earned bachelors’ degrees in History, Political Science, and Foreign Languages. She completed her master’s degree in Public Policy and Administration.

Leslie Wilks

Leslie Wilks is the Chief Audit Executive for Harris County, Texas. She has over 15 years’ experience in accounting, including 12 years’ experience in external auditing and consulting services to Texas counties, school districts, municipalities, and special purpose districts. She has worked on forensic auditing and fraud examination for governmental entities as well as audits of large construction projects. In addition to being a CPA, she is a Certified Fraud Examiner and a Certified Construction Auditor. She has also authored publications on fraud and the Office of Management and Budget’s Uniform Guidance.



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Rick Gamache

Rick Gamache is a Senior Cyber Security Consultant with the accounting firm BerryDunn headquartered in Portland, Maine. He is a veteran of the United States Coast Guard, serving as a Telecommunications Officer in varying roles including communications planning, cybersecurity, and intelligence. After leaving military service, Mr. Gamache performed risk assessments and Federal Information Security Management Act audits for the U.S. Navy’s Destroyer program as a Fully Qualified Navy Validator. His work includes evaluating the security controls of some of the nation’s most sensitive computing systems and platforms. As an entrepreneur, Mr. Gamache helped found Wapack Labs where he served as Partner and Director of Cyber Threat Intelligence, growing the business to a \$6 million company. An accomplished author, he has written several publicly available risk assessment reports with an emphasis on the Nordic nations of Iceland and Sweden. Additional works include Russia’s annexation of Crimea through the use of cyber-attacks, the risks of outsourcing financial supply chains to India, and other topics of strategic importance. Mr. Gamache is a freelance writer for Security Affairs Magazine, and has spoken on cybersecurity-related topics in both the United States and Europe.

Dale L. Rickard

Dale Rickard is a Certified Information Systems Auditor with a Certificate in Data Processing and more than 20 years of experience performing application and network systems audits in manufacturing, telecommunications, municipal internal auditing, and systems auditing consulting. Mr. Rickard has a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Computer Science. He also has over 18 years in application systems development, computer systems operations management, and office systems management.

Jim Lager

Jim Lager is the Deputy Ethics Counselor to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). In this role, he advises GAO on conflicts of interest, ethics, and personal and organizational independence, and manages GAO’s ethics and financial disclosure programs. Mr. Lager is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland’s Robert H. Smith School of Business, where he teaches ethics-related courses to graduate students, is a member of the [Heterodox Academy](#), and is a collaborator to [Ethicalsystems.org](#), a nonprofit organization that makes the world’s best research available and accessible for free to anyone interested in improving ethical culture and behavior. Mr. Lager has Juris Doctorate, a Master’s of Science in Organization Development, and publishes occasionally. He is still working on an article encouraging auditors and others to include behavioral science in audit engagements and in designing internal controls.



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Dianne E. Ray

As Colorado's State Auditor, Dianne E. Ray leads a staff of experienced professionals who conduct performance, financial, and IT audits and evaluations, and track independent audits of Colorado local governments. She has served as the State Auditor since May 2011 and was previously responsible for the financial and local government audit divisions within the Colorado Office of the State Auditor. She has specialized in governmental and nonprofit accounting and auditing for more than 25 years. Ms. Ray has extensive experience in senior-level management and has been recognized for her innovative leadership style. In 2012, the Colorado Society of CPAs and the American Institute of CPAs named Ms. Ray as one of three “Women to Watch” in the Experienced Leader category. In May 2015, she received the Leo Reithmeyer Award for the Top Public Administrator in Colorado from the University of Colorado-Denver's School of Public Affairs. In August 2016, Ms. Ray received the annual President's Award from NASACT.

Rhonda Plantenga

Rhonda Plantenga is a member of BKD’s IT Risk Services division. She has more than 20 years of experience helping companies, and has both public practice and industry experience. IT Risk Services provides corporate governance services including internal audits, risk assessments, System and Organization Controls (SOC) reports/SSAE 18 exams, enterprise risk management, project management and Sarbanes-Oxley consulting, as well as the following cybersecurity solutions: business continuity planning, IT reviews, penetration testing, risk assessments and social engineering. Ms. Plantenga has experience managing and performing IT audit, attestation, and consulting engagements for a variety of industries, including financial services. Her expertise includes IT assurance for financial statement audits, IT risk services, regulatory compliance, SOC reviews and general IT auditing. She has been involved with companies’ regulatory governance and compliance and control issues, has implemented risk-based approaches to identify and protect key applications/data, and has performed and managed IT general control and SOC reviews. Ms. Plantenga is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Information Systems Audit and Control Association. She is a Certified Information Systems Auditor, Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control and Information Technology Infrastructure Library Foundation. Rhonda is a graduate of University of Nebraska, Lincoln, with a bachelor’s degree in finance and management, and a graduate of University of Missouri, Kansas City, with a master’s degree in accounting with a concentration in accounting information systems.



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Michael E. Horowitz

Michael E. Horowitz was sworn in as Inspector General of the Department of Justice (DOJ) in April 2012. As Inspector General, Mr. Horowitz oversees a nationwide workforce of more than 450 special agents, auditors, inspectors, attorneys, and support staff. Since 2015, he has simultaneously served as the Chair of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, an organization comprising all 73 federal Inspectors General. Mr. Horowitz has twice held Senate-confirmed positions: in addition to his current position, he served from 2003 to 2009 as a Commissioner on the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Mr. Horowitz previously worked as partner at the law firm of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP. He also was a board member of the Ethics Resource Center and the Society for Corporate Compliance and Ethics. Earlier in his career, Mr. Horowitz was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 1991 to 1999, where he was the Chief of the Public Corruption Unit and a Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division. From 1999 to 2001, Mr. Horowitz worked at DOJ’s Main Justice in the Criminal Division in Washington, D.C., first as Deputy Assistant Attorney General and then as Chief of Staff.

Steve Ballmer

Steve Ballmer is co-founder of Ballmer Group and owner of the Los Angeles Clippers NBA basketball team. Mr. Ballmer retired as Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft in 2014 after leading the company for nearly 14 years. Through philanthropy and civic activism, Ballmer Group strengthens approaches that increase economic mobility for children and families in the United States. Mr. Ballmer also leads USAFacts, a project seeking to improve transparency in government, including disclosing taxes and borrowings raised, money allocated and spent, and outcomes achieved, much as corporations do through their 10-K reports. He co-teaches a course at Stanford on understanding government budgets and spending and has taught or lectured on technology, leadership, and innovation at Stanford, Harvard, and the University of Southern California. Mr. Ballmer became Microsoft’s CEO in 2000, having served for 20 years in roles as president, senior vice president of sales and support, senior vice president of systems software, and vice president of marketing. He was the company’s first business manager. During his tenure at Microsoft, the company pioneered personal computing and democratized enterprise computing, growing from a small start-up to a company that today employs more than 110,000 people. During his tenure, Microsoft grew to almost \$80 billion in revenue and was the third most profitable company in the United States. Mr. Ballmer earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and economics from Harvard University and attended Stanford University Graduate School of Business before joining Microsoft.



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Jeff Romine

Jeff Romine is the Chief Economist for the City and County of Denver, and works directly within Denver’s Office of Economic Development (OED). He is the lead staff in working with Denver Mayor Michael Hancock and OED Executive Director Eric Hiraga, working on a wide range of economic, financing, and development initiatives and projects, including addressing involuntary displacement (gentrification) and implementing efforts to attract, retain, and expand companies in Denver. Previously, under Mayor Hickenlooper and Mayor Vidal, he also served as the Director of Business and Housing Services and led the Business Development team. In these roles, Mr. Romine directed the business attraction and development, affordable and workforce housing production and funding, and neighborhood development program activities within the integrated community economic development program. Prior to joining the City, he was on the economic research faculty at the University of Colorado at Boulder, the Chief Economist at the Maricopa Association of Governments (Phoenix metro), and the Denver Regional Council of Governments. He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in micro- and macro-economics, economic development, urban market analysis, and public policy.

Ron Elving

Ron Elving is Senior Editor and Correspondent on the Washington Desk for National Public Radio (NPR) News, where he is frequently heard on air and online as a news analyst and writes for npr.org/politics. He is a regular on the NPR Politics Podcast, consistently a Top 20 podcast on iTunes, and appears in the Facebook series “Ron’s Office Hours.” He was the senior manager for the Washington Desk from 1999 to 2014. Mr. Elving is also an Executive in Residence for the Department of Government in the School of Public Affairs at American University (AU). He was previously an adjunct professor in the School of Public Affairs and in the School of Communication since 2013 and received the AU Outstanding Teacher award for adjunct faculty in 2016. He had previously taught at AU from 1995-2003, and has also been an adjunct professor at Georgetown University. Prior to his time at NPR, Mr. Elving was the political editor for *USA Today* and *Congressional Quarterly*. He has also been published by the Brookings Institution and the American Political Science Association. He has contributed chapters on President Obama and the media and on the media role in Congress to the academic studies *Obama in Office* (2011), and *Rivals for Power* (2013). His earlier book, *Conflict and Compromise: How Congress Makes the Law*, was published by Simon & Schuster. Mr. Elving came to Washington in 1984 as a Congressional Fellow with the American Political Science Association and worked for two years as a staff member in the House and Senate. Previously, he had been state capital bureau chief for *The Milwaukee Journal*. He received his bachelor’s degree from Stanford University and master’s degrees from the University of Chicago and the University of California at Berkeley.



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Kent Noble

Kent Noble is the Bill Daniels Chair of Business Ethics at the University of Wyoming College of Business. He has a background in higher education, college athletics, and the television/film industry. Most recently, Mr. Noble was the Executive Director of the Center for Cowboy Ethics and Leadership. In this capacity, he worked with former Wall Street executive and best-selling author James P. Owen to help oversee and deliver the Center’s various ethics offerings for corporate clients and youth organizations. For his outreach efforts, Mr. Noble has developed a series of ethics presentations which he delivers to diverse audiences. He has conducted well over 200 sessions for business, government, and community leaders representing all 50 states and 20 countries.