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John Bace is a Director with Revenue Solutions, Inc. (RSI), a Massachusetts-based firm dedicated to serving tax agencies by helping them address their modernization challenges through the innovative application of enabling technology. Mr. Bace focuses on sales and strategy for RSI, with an emphasis on data-driven solutions for improving taxpayer compliance and agency efficiency. He has worked in the industry for over 20 years, the last 12 with RSI, with varied experience delivering projects for 20 different US state tax agencies. He has had particular experience with improving tax audit functions, including better candidate selection through data mining and analytics and in applying software tools for use by audit staff to improve the quality, productivity, and consistency of the audit process. Mr. Bace is a frequent presenter at regional and national tax conferences. He is a 1995 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania with a B.S.E. degree in Systems Engineering, and lives in the Boston area with his wife and two children.

John will share with the New England region of the Intergovernmental Audit Forum his perspective on common best practices in the use of data and enabling technologies from the tax audit world, and how they might apply to a variety of internal audit challenges as well.

Kathleen M. Drennan, Ph.D.
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Kathleen Drennan is a Senior Analyst in the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Strategic Issues team where she works on a range of engagements examining the federal government's relationships with key state, local, and nonprofit partners. Ms. Drennan's experience at GAO includes work examining state implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, management of federal grants to state and local governments, disaster management, and federal data transparency.

Prior to joining GAO, she served as a policy analyst for the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education where she led projects intended to improve equity and access to public higher education. Ms. Drennan holds a Ph.D. in Social Policy, a M.A. in Organizational Communications, and B.A. in Political Science.

Dennis Hoyle
Auditor General
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Dennis E. Hoyle was appointed Auditor General in April 2012 and has been with the Rhode Island Office of the Auditor General for more than 35 years. He is a Certified Public Accountant and graduated from Providence College in 1980 and later earned an MBA from Providence College in 1987. The responsibilities of the Office of the Auditor General include the annual audit of the State's financial statements including compliance with federal program requirements, the Rhode Island Lottery, and the Employees' Retirement System. The Office also conducts performance audits and other audits as directed by the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Legislative Services and has oversight responsibilities related to municipalities, fire districts, and charter schools.

Shirley Hwang
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Shirley Hwang is a Senior Analyst in the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Strategic Issues team. She is currently part of a team leading GAO's oversight of the government-wide implementation of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act). Her GAO work has included a broad portfolio of federal budget, intragovernmental, regulatory, and census policy issues. Ms. Hwang holds a M.P.P. in public policy from the University of Chicago Harris School and a B.A. in political science from Wellesley College.

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Lauren Kirkpatrick is a Senior Analyst in the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Forensic Audits and Investigative Services (FAIS) team. During her time at GAO, Ms. Kirkpatrick has contributed to a variety of fraud-focused reports for FAIS and supported GAO's oversight of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act (DATA Act). Most recently, Ms. Kirkpatrick focused on the capabilities of the Recovery Operations Center (ROC) and how the ROC's capabilities could be preserved to sustain oversight of federal expenditures. Ms. Kirkpatrick received a B.A. in American Studies and Political Science and a M.A. in American Studies from George Washington University.

Kevin Lembo
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Kevin Lembo was elected to a second four-year term as Connecticut's State Comptroller in 2014 following 20 years of public service and advocacy. As State Comptroller, Lembo continues to lead the charge for affordable and quality health care with an emphasis on access to preventive care and wellness programs. Lembo - focused on consensus building across party lines -- continues to lead ongoing initiatives to establish government transparency and accountability, fiscal stability through an improved Budget Reserve Fund formula, better retirement savings options for all residents and more affordable ultra-high-speed Internet service for every business and household in the state.

Comptroller Lembo serves as the chief fiscal guardian -- reporting on the state's financial status every month to ensure that Connecticut proceeds on a secure financial track, coordinating health care and payroll for hundreds of thousands of public employees and retirees, and administering the statewide electronic accounting system. He has been hailed by advocacy groups and the media as a "champion of transparency" for his efforts to promote public access to vital state financial information. The Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information recognized Lembo's efforts toward open government with its Bice Clemow Award in 2013.

Comptroller Lembo has also been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government, Inc. (CFOG), a non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting open and accountable government.

His transparency initiatives include "Open Connecticut" - an online hub of state financial data created and maintained by the Office of the State Comptroller that simplifies access to real-time state financial information. Lembo successfully advocated for greater openness surrounding hundreds of millions of dollars in economic development initiatives - resulting in the Governor's Executive Order No. 38 establishing a searchable electronic database containing various forms of state economic assistance and tax credits used to recruit businesses and encourage job creation.

Comptroller Lembo holds a Master of Public Administration degree from California State University and is a member of the Pi Alpha Honor Society. He was named a Toll Fellow of the Council of State Governments in 2004, and has served as a panelist and moderator throughout

the state and country as an expert in health care and retirement administration.

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Erin A. McLaughlin is a Senior Analyst in the U.S. Government Accountability Office's (GAO) Forensic Audits and Investigative Service (FAIS) team. Since joining GAO in 2012, Erin has worked on a variety of reports in FAIS, as well as in GAO's Homeland Security & Justice and International Affairs & Trade teams. Most recently, Erin contributed to the development of GAO's Fraud Risk Management Framework. Erin is a graduate of American University and received her Master's degree from the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Administration at George Washington University.

Timothy M. Persons, Ph.D.
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Dr. Timothy M. Persons was appointed the Chief Scientist of the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO - the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress) in July of 2008. As such, he is a member of the Senior Executive Service of the U.S. federal government. He is also the Co-Director of GAO's Center for Science, Technology, and Engineering (CSTE), a group of highly specialized scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and information technologists. In these roles he is an expert advisor and chief consultant to the GAO, Congress, and other federal agencies and government programs on cutting-edge science and technology (S&T), key highly-specialized national and international systems, engineering policies, best practices, and original research studies in the fields of engineering, computer, and the physical and biological sciences to ensure efficient, effective, and economical use of science and technology in government programs. He also works with GAO's Chief Technologist to lead the production of Technology Assessments for the U.S. Congress on topics such as additive manufacturing, nanomanufacturing, freshwater conservation technologies, climate engineering technologies, and next-generation nuclear detection and non-intrusive imaging systems. Prior to joining GAO, Dr. Persons held key leadership roles in the National Security Community.

Dr. Persons is a 2012 recipient of the Arthur S. Flemming award in recognition of sustained outstanding and meritorious achievement within the U.S. federal government; and a 2012 recipient of GAO's Big Picture Award for significant project achievement involving the ability to look longer, broader, and more strategically at key national or global issues. In 2007, Dr. Persons was awarded a Director of National Intelligence Science and Technology Fellowship focusing on computational imaging systems research. He was also selected as the James Madison University (JMU) Physics Alumnus of 2007. He has also served as a radiation physicist with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received his B.Sc. (Physics) from JMU, a M.Sc. (Nuclear Physics) from Emory University, and a 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 (IEEE), serves on the World Future Society Global Advisory Council, and has authored or co-authored an array of journal, conference, and technical articles.

Michael Ward
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Michael Ward works on a variety of municipal government projects, including municipal performance management efforts, organizational studies, research projects, regionalization and service-sharing work, and charter reform. He co-founded and currently manages the Collins Center's Government Analytics Program and has led the New England StatNet program since it moved to the Center. Ward has worked for local government in Massachusetts and New Mexico. As a budget analyst for the Town of Concord, he helped the Town begin integrating performance measurement into its annual budget process, assisted with the financial management of a Recreation Center enterprise fund, and worked on numerous budget and procurement projects. Ward studied innovative urban policy in Curitiba (Brazil) and Singapore as a Thomas J. Watson fellow. He looked at how these cities both managed to reshape themselves through creative public transportation, economic development, and service provision strategies. He has also worked on numerous political campaigns, including managing a mayoral campaign in Massachusetts. Ward has a Master in Public Policy degree from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Amherst College.