

## SPEAKERS

**Troy Kelley**

**Troy Kelley** is Washington's 10<sup>th</sup> elected State Auditor. He served three terms as state legislator, where he advocated for government accountability and transparency and chaired the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee. A 20-year Army Judge Advocate General (JAG), Troy previously taught at the Army JAG School and currently serves as a lieutenant colonel in the National Guard. Before becoming a business owner in the private sector, he served in the federal prosecutor's office in the Western District of New York and as an attorney for the Securities and Exchange Commission. He holds a BA from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master's in Business Administration and Juris Doctor from the State University of New York at Buffalo.

**Nicole Dewees**

**Nicole Dewees** is a Senior Management Auditor in the Multnomah County Auditor's Office. She has a Master's degree in Business Administration and is a Certified Internal Auditor. Prior to joining Multnomah County, Nicole worked as a management analyst for the Washington State Employment Security Department and as an analyst for the Washington Small Business Development Center Research Office. She was awarded Tableau's *Viz of the Day* for the Multnomah County Property Tax Equity audit report.

**Valerie Whitener**

**Valerie Whitener** was selected to serve as JLARC's Audit Coordinator in July 2011. She brings to JLARC 30 years of professional and management experience—over 17 of which is in performance auditing and program evaluation. Valerie previously worked for JLARC for over eleven years. Prior to rejoining JLARC as its Auditor Coordinator, she was working in the King County Auditor's Office. Prior to her work at JLARC and King County, Valerie served with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Washington D.C. and Seattle. Valerie holds a B.A. from The Evergreen State College with an emphasis in Public Policy and Administration; and a Master of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington.

**Suzanne Kelly**

**Suzanne Kelly** joined the JLARC staff in February 2005. Prior to that, she worked in a wide variety of clerical and technical positions, developing special interests in computer hardware/software, education, and art. Suzanne was part of the Technology Services team at Walla Walla Community College and served as the college's Webmaster. While attending Grays Harbor College, she taught computer applications. In 2004, she earned a BA at The Evergreen State College and worked with the Legislative Service Center.

**Eric Thomas**

**Eric Thomas** returned to JLARC in July 2010, after previously working for the Committee from 2002-2005. Before returning to JLARC, he worked at the Department of Social and Health Services as both a Forecast and Policy Analyst, and the Department of Transportation as a Branch Manager in the Strategic Assessment Office. He also worked as an analyst at the Governor's GMAP Office, where he coordinated statewide reporting for the federal Recovery Act. Eric earned a B.A. in History from the University of Oregon and a Master of Public Service and Administration degree at Texas A&M University.

**Peter Nagati**

**Peter Nagati** is a professional forester turned auditor. He's spent a good part of his career travelling the province to assess the British Columbia's management of its natural resources. His audit world got bigger when he joined the Office of Auditor General of BC three years ago, and he now finds himself leading audits in diverse fields that include health, justice and governance.

**Mark Ulanowicz**

**Mark Ulanowicz** has been with the Auditor's Office since 2001. Prior to coming to Multnomah County, he worked at GAO in Detroit, Washington D.C., Honolulu, and Portland. He has a Masters Degree in Public Policy from the University of Michigan and a MBA in Finance from Portland State University.

**Rick Garza**

**Rick Garza** is the Agency Director of the Washington State Liquor Control Board. Rick has been with the Liquor Control Board since 1997. During Rick's career with LCB he has also held the positions of Legislative and Tribal Liaison, Policy Director and Deputy Director. Prior to joining the Liquor Control Board, Rick served 13 years as a staff member for the Washington State Legislature, including five years with the Washington State Senate and eight years with the state House. His legislative assignments included Policy Analyst in the state Senate, House of Representatives Staff Director, and adviser to House and Senate leadership. Rick is the immediate past President of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators (NCSLA).

## SPEAKERS

### Malcolm Gaston

**Malcolm Gaston** is an Assistant Auditor General at the Office of the Auditor General for British Columbia. He joined the office in 2005 and now leads the Office's performance audit work on governance, public accountability, justice and public safety, alternative service delivery, and social services. He started his career with the UK National Audit Office, has worked for KPMG and PwC delivering audit services to a wide range of public sector clients. He was also Chief Finance Officer of the Scottish Qualifications Authority. Before moving to Canada, Malcolm was with Audit Scotland developing and delivering Best Value performance audits of local government.

### Peg Bodin

**Peg Bodin** is a graduate of Western Washington University with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Computer Science. She is also a Certified Information Systems Auditor. Peg joined the State Auditor's Office in 1987 and is currently the Local Information System Audit Manager and project lead for an IT related performance audit.

During the first half of her career with the State Auditor's Office, Peg performed financial, accountability and single audits of local governments and higher education. Over the last 15 years, Peg has worked on the State Auditor's Office Financial Analysis Program which supports computer assisted audit techniques for data analysis efforts. Peg has also worked on and supervised various information system risk reviews of local governments and higher education systems.

### Aaron Munn

**Aaron Munn** joined the State Auditor's Office in September 2014 as the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO). As the CISO, Aaron serves as the IT security expert supporting performance audits at the state and local level. He also serves as the State Auditor's Office internal chief authority for IT security policies and program. In total, Aaron has over 15 years of service with the State of Washington and 10 years' experience within the IT security field. Additionally, Aaron is an actively serving member in the Washington Army National Guard with more than 25 years of service. His current assignment is in cyberspace operations.

### Erin Laska

**Erin Laska** joined the State Auditor's Office in 2008 as a Performance Audit Supervisor and works as an audit manager on individual performance audits. Before joining the State Auditor's Office Erin spent seven years working on performance audits with the New Hampshire State Legislative Audit Division and one year completing performance audits with the federal government of Canada, including an information technology security audit for Environment Canada.

She is a graduate of the University of Victoria with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Master's in Public Administration. She is also a Certified Internal Auditor.

### Louis Vong

**Louis Vong** first cut his teeth in the agency world at shops such as Cole & Weber, DDB, and Austin Knight before joining TMP Worldwide. As an early adopter of digital branding and online marketing, he's seen the digital space evolve dramatically in the past 2 decades. In his current role, he is responsible for keeping the agency and clients at the forefront of digital innovation and emerging technologies, working closely with clients to deliver engaging and user-centric digital campaigns.

### Brandi Pritchard

**Brandi Pritchard** is an Audit Manager for the Washington State Auditor's Office. She manages the Wenatchee team which performs financial statement, federal compliance, and accountability audits for local governments in seven counties of northcentral Washington. Brandi earned her Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Central Washington University before joining the Washington State Auditor's Office in 2003.

### Kristina Baylor

**Kristina Baylor** is an Audit Manager for the Washington State Auditor's Office. In her role, she manages the Everett team which performs financial, single and accountability audit work for local governments in the Island, Snohomish and northern King County areas. Kristina has been with the State Auditor's Office for over nine years and has previous experience as an Assistant Audit Manager on Team Bellingham and Everett. Kristina has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration – Finance from Western Washington University.

## SPEAKERS

### **Gary Blackmer**

**Gary Blackmer** was appointed Director of the Audits Division in 2009 by the Oregon Secretary of State. The Division conducts performance, financial, and information technology audits, monitors financial audits of local governments, and responds to hotline allegations. Previously, Blackmer served 10 years as the elected Portland City Auditor, eight years as elected Multnomah County Auditor, a management auditor, and analyst for a variety of state and local agencies. Blackmer is a 2010 recipient of the Intergovernmental Audit Forum Excellence in Performance and Accountability Award, past-Chair of the Pacific Northwest Intergovernmental Audit Forum, past-President of the Association of Local Government Auditors, and a columnist for the *Local Government Auditing Quarterly*.

### **Dawn Locke**

After 3 years in the third world witnessing Central American corruption at its finest, **Dawn Locke** pursued a career in government integrity. She joined GAO in 2001 and has worked on various matters from border security issues to efforts in combating terrorism. As an Assistant Director on GAO's Homeland Security & Justice team, Dawn oversees assignments focused on the Department of Justice (DOJ). She also manages coordination with DOJ, working with GAO teams to ensure access to our nation's most sensitive and confidential data. Outside of her day job, Dawn tackles her life's greatest work as wife to her husband of 13 years and mother to her son Steven (10) and twin daughters Sahara and Sydney (7).

### **Claudia Becker**

Having grown up abroad, **Claudia Becker** began her career in international development, working on USAID-funded programs at Conservation International and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Washington, DC. In 2002, Claudia moved to Seattle "for two years, tops" but the mountains and good people quickly dashed those plans and now, 13 years later, Claudia calls Seattle home. Claudia has an MPA from the University of Washington, Evans School of Public Affairs. She joined GAO in 2006 and now leads GAO studies at the Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security. Aside from rooting out government fraud, waste, and abuse, Claudia enjoys reading, cooking, and trying to keep up with her kids, Kea (6) and Niko (3).

### **Kate van Gelder**

**Kate van Gelder** has been with GAO since 2008 and is based in Seattle. She is a senior communications analyst (CA) in the Education, Workforce, and Income Security mission team. As a CA, Kate helps engagement teams think through their audit objectives, synthesize their data, and prepare reports. Kate's prior public information experience with writing one-page news releases and speaking in sound-bites was ideal training for her role as a "synthesizer" at GAO. Also helpful was her graduate work in assessing and addressing public problems. Kate received a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies at the University of Washington, Tacoma, and a liberal arts degree from the Evergreen State College.