

## SPEAKERS

### Elaine Howle

For over 14 years, California State Auditor **Elaine M. Howle** has served the State of California by providing accurate, unbiased, and timely assessments of state and local government entities. Ms. Howle has nearly 32 years of auditing, management, and leadership experience with the California State Auditor's Office and its predecessor office. Under her leadership, the work from her office serves an important role in the State's system of checks and balances by examining the fiscal health and performance of state and local entities to ensure that government provides the essential services to the public in the most efficient and effective manner.

A trusted voice, Ms. Howle is frequently called upon to provide testimony in legislative hearings and brief members on the results of her office's work. Her performance audits provide information to improve public accountability and facilitate decision making by parties with responsibility for overseeing or initiating corrective action. Her office conducts the annual financial audit of California's large, complex financial system and provides an opinion on the financial statements. Ms. Howle's office also audits annually the State's compliance with federal regulations governing the administration of billions of dollars in federal funds California receives each year. Moreover, her office investigates allegations received and reports substantiated claims of fraud and abuse in state government. Further, her office audits and reports on state agencies that it has identified as being at high risk for waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement or that have major challenges related to efficiency or effectiveness.

Recognized as a leader and her outstanding accomplishments both locally and nationally, Ms. Howle was named Public Official of the Year in 2012 by Governing Magazine. Earlier that same year, she received the national David M. Walker Excellence in Government Performance and Accountability Award for sustained contributions to improve government performance and accountability at the state level. Most recently, the Institute of Internal Auditors' new American Center for Government Auditing honored Ms. Howle as among 2014's 15 Most Influential Professionals in Government Auditing. She served as the president of the National State Auditors Association in 2013 after having served on the executive committee for 5 years. Further, in 2003 she was asked by the U.S. Comptroller General to serve on his Domestic Accountability Working Group—on which she currently serves. She is also member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Association of Government Accountants.

Ms. Howle is a certified public accountant and a certified government financial manager. She earned a bachelor's degree in sports management from the University of Massachusetts and a master's of business administration from California State University, Sacramento.

### Troy Niemeyer

**Troy Niemeyer** is the Deputy Director of State Audit at the State Auditor's Office. This portion of the Office is responsible for the states' largest audits including the state Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and Statewide Single Audit (SWSA). It also includes accountability audits of state agencies, fraud investigations at state agencies, Information Technology (IT) audits, and Whistleblower investigations.

Troy has been with the Office for nine years and was just recently promoted to the Deputy Director position. He has managed both state and local audit teams including Team Olympia, Cascadia, Whistleblower, and the Statewide Technology Audit Team (STAT).

Troy graduated from Pacific Lutheran University with a degree in business administration and a concentration in marketing.

### Susan Hoffman

**Susan Hoffman** is a Principal Auditor with the Washington State Auditor's Performance Audit team. Prior to joining the State Auditor's Office, Susan spent nine years working with the US Government Accountability Office in the Seattle and New York Regional Offices. While at GAO, Susan worked on a wide variety of audit topics including health care, natural resources, defense, and transportation. In her last position at GAO, Susan served as the manager of the Transportation Group for the New York Regional Office.

## SPEAKERS

**Susan Hoffman**  
(continued)

Following her time at GAO, Susan worked for Oregon Audits Division where she led an audit looking at work and training programs in the state prison system.

Just prior to joining the State Auditor's Office, Susan spent three years as a public affairs consultant with PRR. While at PRR, she primarily worked in the transportation sector conducting research and providing strategic communication services.

Susan attended the University of Washington where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science and a Master of Public Affairs from the Evans School.

**Michelle Baur**

**Michelle J. Baur** is the Audit Principal of the Information Technology Audits for the California State Auditor's Office. She is responsible for developing, implementing, and managing its information systems audit function. Ms. Baur is a Certified Information Systems Auditor. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Public Administration with concentrations in Accounting and Management Information Science from the California State University of Sacramento. Ms. Baur has worked for the State of California for more than 28 years and has worked for the California State Auditor's Office for more than 20 years.

**David Campos**

*Unavailable*

**Paul Navarro**

**Paul Navarro** is the Chief of Legislative and Governmental Affairs as part of the executive management team for the Office of the California State Auditor. As the primary contact with the Legislature and the Governor's Administration, Mr. Navarro is responsible for advising the State Auditor on legislative perspectives, strategies, and processes in order to establish and maintain constructive relationships with all levels of government.

Mr. Navarro started his career as an auditor with the office in the early 1990s, and eventually served for nearly two decades in a variety of capacities for both the legislative and executive branches in the California State Capitol. He returned to working for the State Auditor after several years in private consulting, and most recently served in the public sector as Deputy Secretary of Legislative Affairs for then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. As a senior advisor to the governor, his primary responsibilities included managing high level, complex issues and providing counsel directly to the Governor on a vast variety of policy proposals and bills passed by the Legislature.

Mr. Navarro also served as a Chief Fiscal Adviser and Budget Director in the State Assembly of the California Legislature. In that capacity he was a senior staff member to legislative leadership on fiscal issues and budget negotiation strategy and was responsible for overseeing issues before Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committees. Prior to that he served as Chief Budget Consultant staffing the Assembly Budget and Appropriations Committees, during which he analyzed hundreds of legislative measures, and prepared fiscal analysis on a variety of issues. Mr. Navarro also served as Principal Policy Consultant for the Assembly Education Committee and Policy Consultant for Senate Health and Human Services Committee in the California Legislature.

**Steve Sisgold**

Author, Speaker, Trainer, and Executive Coach **Steve Sisgold** has spent the past 25 years studying and teaching the relationship between beliefs held in the body and success, how the body "billboard" sends micro messages that affect authentic communication and how self-awareness lowers stress and boosts peak performance. Steve has appeared on major radio and TV shows including PBS, Oprah and Montel and blogs for Psychology Today.

## SPEAKERS

**Steve Sisgold**  
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Steve holds an M.A. in marketing, a B.S. in business and a certification in body-centered psychotherapy. Prior to being a successful author, speaker trainer and executive coach he applied the principles he teaches, in the business world. He owned and directed a successful Advertising and PR firm, and was #1 of 500 salespeople and a national sales trainer with a Fortune 100 company.

**Melissa Feineman  
Suzuno**

**Melissa Suzuno** is a content marketing manager and consultant. She helps people and companies use content marketing and social media to tell their stories in clear, compelling, and creative ways. Learn more about Melissa at [www.melissasuzuno.com](http://www.melissasuzuno.com) For Melissa's list of recommended social media resources, visit [bit.ly/socialmediamelissa](http://bit.ly/socialmediamelissa)

**Tim Schindler**

**Tim Schindler** has been with the U.S. Government Accountability Office since 2000 and is currently an Assistant Director and the Seattle field office manager. Prior to becoming the field office manager, Tim served as an Analyst-in-Charge on numerous federal audits, mainly in the transportation area. These audits included examining issues in public transportation, the freight industry, aviation infrastructure, and both domestic and foreign aviation competition. Before joining GAO, Tim served in the U.S. Army as an Armor officer and worked in various areas of the construction industry. He earned his Bachelor of Science at Arizona State University, and his Masters of Business Administration at Portland State University. After deciding that he had not spent enough time in the classroom, Tim earned his PhD in Urban Studies also at Portland State University.

**Margarita Fernández**

**Margarita Fernández** is the Chief of Public Affairs and member of the executive management team for the California State Auditor's Office. As Chief of Public Affairs, Ms. Fernández is responsible for the public relations of the office and as such, is the first point of contact for the press. She manages and oversees the development of external communication including the office's Web site, special reports to the Legislature and the public, press information, and presentations. Further, Ms. Fernandez is responsible for internal quality control program of the office and hence, for developing audit policies and procedures in coordination with audit deputies. Moreover, she is the liaison to national professional organizations, including the National State Auditors Association (NSAA); the National State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers; and the intergovernmental audit forums. She serves as one of the state representatives on the Western Intergovernmental Audit Forum and is on various national committees with the NSAA and responds, on behalf of the office, to proposed professional standards. Having graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a Bachelors in Accounting, Ms. Fernández joined the office (and its predecessor office—the Office of the Auditor General) in 1986 as an entry-level auditor and served in many capacities throughout her career. She is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Government Financial Manager and, is member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Association of Government Accountants.

**Tonia Lediju**

**Tonia Lediju** has served as the City and County of San Francisco's director of city audits, under the leadership of City Controller Ben Rosenfield, since 2009. The City Services Auditor Division has the authority to plan and manage a range of performance, financial, and compliance audits, and investigations, involving governmental agencies, vendors, contractors, and other parties that do business with the City, which has an annual budget of approximately \$9 billion.

Under Tonia's leadership, the Controller's Audits Unit has received two awards from the Association of Local Government Auditors. The first, a 2009 Gold Knighton Award, was for an audit of the City's Office Depot contract, which found that Office Depot overcharged the City at least \$5.75 million. The second was a 2014 Knighton Distinguished Audit Award for Citywide Construction: Adopting Leading Practices Could Improve the City's Construction Contractor Bid Pool. This report's recommendations presented groundbreaking and fresh solutions to assessing and monitoring contractor performance.

## SPEAKERS

**Tonia Lediju**  
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Tonia previously was the audit director of several agencies of the State of California, including the Highway Patrol, Employment Development Department, and Department of Child Support Services. She holds a master's degree in Leadership from Saint Mary's College of California and is now completing a Ph.D. in Organizational Systems, with a specialization in Leadership from Saybrook University.

With more than 20 years of government auditing experience, Tonia's leadership philosophy embodies service through integrity, teamwork, respect, and inclusion. With this approach, she has built a high-functioning audit organization in San Francisco.

**Joah Iannotta**

**Joah G. Iannotta**, Ph.D., is an Assistant Director in the U.S. Government Accountability Office's (GAO) Forensic Audits and Investigative Service (FAIS) team. Her team provides Congress with data-driven forensic audits and investigations of fraud, waste, and abuse in federal programs. Joah joined GAO in 2004 and, before joining FAIS, worked in GAO's Physical Infrastructure team on surface transportation issues, particularly technology and policy options to make cars and trucks more fuel efficient. Prior to GAO, Joah was a research associate at the National Academy of Sciences. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, Master's degree at Smith College, and received a B.A. from Wesleyan University.

**Jamie Ralls**

**Jamie Ralls** has been with the Secretary of State Audits Division for 15 years, currently working as a Principal Auditor. In her work experience at the Audits Division, Jamie has conducted performance, financial, and IT-related audits. Jamie is certified through ACL as a Data Analyst (ACDA) and leads the data mining function used to identify anomalies in data, potential fraud, waste, or misuse of state funds, as well as to identify potential audit topics. Jamie is a Certified Fraud Examiner and member of the Audits Division Investigations Team. She is a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. As a Certified Fraud Examiner, Jamie helps manage the Oregon Government Waste Hotline and investigates allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse of state funds. She has assisted Oregon State Police and local District Attorneys in several fraud cases that resulted in convictions. Jamie routinely conducts training in fraud prevention and detection, data mining, and internal controls.

**Annamarie McNiel**

**Annamarie McNiel** is a Senior Management Auditor in the Multnomah County Auditor's Office. She has a Master's degree in Accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant. Her background includes over ten years of financial and compliance auditing of governmental entities. She joined the Auditor's Office in 2014.

**Kristin Burgess-Medeiros**

**Kristin Burgess-Medeiros** works in the Oakland Police Department's Office of Inspector General (OIG). In her current role, she provides audit guidance and coordination, facilitates risk management related contracts, serves as a liaison with the Federal Monitor, and assists the Chiefs with risk management issues. She joined the OIG in 2004. During her time in the OIG, she has helped develop and manage the Audit Unit, provided support for compliance with the Negotiated Settlement Agreement, and acted as Inspector General. She has 20 years of experience in non-profit and local government administration. Kristin has a B.S. from the University of California at Davis and MPA from San Francisco State University. She is a Certified Government Auditing Professional.

**Matthew Artz**

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**Marisa Lagos**

**Marisa Lagos** reports for KQED's California Politics and Government Desk, covering all things political. Previously, Marisa worked at the San Francisco Chronicle, the San Francisco Examiner and the Los Angeles Times. Her expertise includes local and state politics, criminal justice and breaking news. Follow her on Twitter @mlagos

## SPEAKERS

### J. Christopher Mihm

**J. Christopher (Chris) Mihm** is the Managing Director for Strategic Issues at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). He leads GAO's work on government-wide governance and transformation issues. Strategic Issues addresses such topics as performance management and collaboration, human capital management, intergovernmental issues, federal budgeting, regulatory policy, and federal tax policy and administration.

Chris is the elected Chair of the United Nations Independent Audit Advisory Committee, where he advises the United Nations General Assembly on the effectiveness of the internal audit and other oversight functions and UN risk management, internal control and other issues.

He is a fellow and former Board Chair of the National Academy of Public Administration and an adjunct lecturer in public administration at the University Of Maryland Graduate School Of Public Policy.

### Stephen Lord

**Stephen (Steve) Lord** is the Managing Director of GAO's Forensic Audits and Investigative Services team. He oversees a highly-trained staff charged with conducting special audits and investigations on major federal programs prone to fraud, waste and abuse. He regularly discusses these issues before Congress, the IG and law enforcement community, and industry forums.

He has received many awards over his 30 year career including awards for meritorious and distinguished GAO service.

Mr. Lord holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia, a MBA from George Mason University, and a MS in national security strategy from the National Defense University. He also completed the Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard University in 2008.