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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Taka Ariga

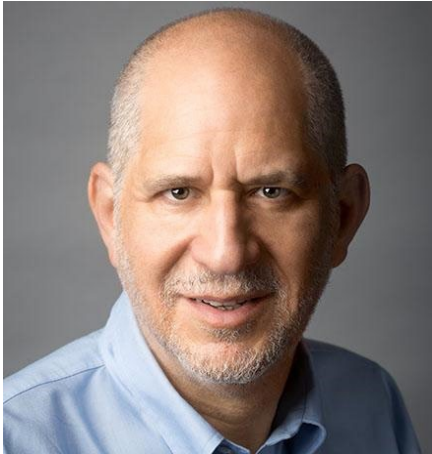*Chief Data Scientist, U.S. Government Accountability Office*

Taka Ariga is the first Chief Data Scientist appointed by the Comptroller General of the United States for the Government Accountability Office. He also leads GAO's Innovation Lab in driving problem-centric experiments across oversight, insight, and foresight work through novel use of advanced analytics and emerging technologies. As a member of the Senior Executive Service, Taka is responsible for working with GAO stakeholders to adopt prospective views on impacts of emerging capabilities such as AI (Artificial Intelligence), cloud computing, blockchains, RPA (Robotic Process Automation), augmented reality, and IoT (Internet of Things).

Taka is a seasoned data science executive with over 22 years of experience helping private and public sector organizations make sense of hidden correlations, behaviors, relationships, patterns, and anomalies. He is passionate about fostering a data-informed culture, using data science as a transformational catalyst to address complex regulatory, risk, operational, and business intelligence challenges.

Taka is natively fluent in both Japanese and Mandarin Chinese. In his spare time, he is also a serious classical chamber musician and a competitive tennis player.

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Max H. Bazerman

Jesse Isidor Straus Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School

Max H. Bazerman is a Jesse Isidor Straus Professor of Business Administration at the Harvard Business School. His recent books include Complicit (forthcoming); Decision Leadership (with Don A. Moore); Better, Not Perfect; The Power of Experiments (with Michael Luca); The Power of Noticing; Judgment in Managerial Decision Making (with Don Moore); and Blind Spots (with Ann Tenbrunsel).

Max received an honorary doctorate from the University of London, the Life Achievement Award from the Aspen Institute's Business and Society Program, the Distinguished Educator Award from the Academy of Management, the Academy of Management Career Award for Scholarly Contributions to Management, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Organizational Behavior Division of the Academy of Management. In addition, Max was named as Ethisphere's 100 Most Influential in Business Ethics and as one of Daily Kos' Heroes for going public about how the Bush Administration corrupted the RICO Tobacco trial.

Max's former doctoral students have accepted positions at leading business schools throughout the United States, including the Kellogg School at Northwestern, the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, the Fuqua School at Duke, the Johnson School at Cornell, Carnegie-Mellon University, Stanford University, the University of Chicago, Notre Dame, Columbia, and the Harvard Business School.

His professional activities include projects with Abbott, Aetna, AIG, Alcar, Alcoa, Allstate, Ameritech, Amgen, Apax Partners, Asian Development Bank, AstraZeneca, AT&T, Aventis, BASF, Bayer, Becton Dickenson, Biogen, Boston Scientific, BP, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Business Week, Celtic Insurance, Chevron, Chicago Tribune, City of Chicago, and additional companies that start with letters between D and Z. Max's consulting, teaching, and lecturing includes work in 30 countries.

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AUDIT FORUMS

James-Christian Blockwood

Executive Vice President, Partnership for Public Service

James-Christian Blockwood helps with overall strategy and management of the organization, and directly oversees its programs dedicated to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the federal government.

He is passionate about serving others and his country. He is a former career member of the Senior Executive Service in the U.S. Government and has broad experience in leadership and management, strategic planning, national security and foreign affairs. He has helped transform and build new capabilities at the departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs as well as the Government Accountability Office.

He has a deep appreciation for the career civil servant—the consummate good steward that works tirelessly and faithfully on behalf of the American people.

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AUDIT FORUMS

Joy Bonaguro
Chief Data Office, State of California

Joy Bonaguro has spent her career working at the nexus of data, design, technology, and policy. Joy was appointed as Chief Data Officer of the State of California with an overarching goal to improve government use of data.

Prior to her state role, she was responsible for scaling internal systems, data, and information security at Corelight, a high-growth cybersecurity startup funded by Accel and General Catalyst. Prior to Corelight, she served as the first Chief Data Officer for the City and County of San Francisco, where she pioneered multiple initiatives to introduce data science, streamline data access, improve data management, and boost capacity to use data. Before that, Joy developed technology, cyber and privacy policy across the Department of Energy's National Laboratory System. Her career started in New Orleans with seven years designing and managing the development of information systems to support planning and decision-making for local governments and nonprofits.

Joy earned her Master's degree from UC Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy and her Bachelor's in Mathematics and Philosophy from Tulane University.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

The Honorable Sandra D. Bruce

Inspector General, o U.S. Department of Education, Office of Inspector General

Inspector General Sandra D. Bruce, is a results-oriented leader with more than 30 years of experience directing, overseeing, managing, and conducting complex audit, inspections, and investigative-related programs. Bruce joined the U.S. Department of Education Office of Inspector General (OIG) in 2014 as Deputy Inspector General and has been leading the office since 2018 when Inspector General Kathleen S. Tighe retired. On June 11, 2021, Bruce was nominated by President Biden to be the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Education. She was confirmed for the position by the U.S. Senate on December 2, 2021.

Before joining the OIG, Bruce was the Assistant Inspector General for Inspections at the U.S. Department of Energy, a position she also held at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency from 2006 to 2009. From 1997 to 2006, Bruce was a leader with the U.S. Postal Service Office of Inspector General, directing its Law Enforcement and Postal Service Security unit and its Computer Assisted Audit Techniques unit. From 1986 to 1997, Bruce was with the U.S. Army Audit Agency, where she began her public service career as an auditor, rising to an Audit Supervisor and Associate Program Director. Bruce was also a Legislative Fellow for Senator Carl Levin.

Inspector General Bruce has received numerous awards for her work, including a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Award for Excellence, Distinguished Achievement Awards, Exceptional Performance Award, and is a recipient of the Excellence in Government Leadership Award presented by the Association of Government Accountants-Philadelphia Chapter. Bruce is active in the inspector general community, currently serving as a member of Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) where she chairs the PRAC's Government Accountability Office and State and Local Oversight Subcommittee and is a member of the PRAC's Financial Sector Work Group. Bruce also serves as chair of the CIGIE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Work Group, and is a member of the CIGIE Audit Committee and CIGIE Information Technology Committee. Bruce previously served on the CIGIE Deputy Inspector General Work Group and the Intelligence Community Inspector General's Assistant Inspectors General for Inspections Work Group.

Inspector General Bruce earned her Master of Science in Information Systems from Hawaii Pacific University and her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from Fayetteville State University. She graduated from Indian River High School in her home state of Delaware.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Prithwiraj (Raj) Choudhury
Lumry Family Associate Professor at the Harvard Business School

Prithwiraj (Raj) Choudhury is the Lumry Family Associate Professor at the Harvard Business School. He was an Assistant Professor at Wharton prior to joining Harvard.

His research is focused on studying the Future of Work, especially the changing Geography of Work. In particular, he studies the productivity effects of geographic mobility of workers, causes of geographic immobility and productivity effects of remote work practices such as 'Work from anywhere' and 'All-remote'.

He earned his Doctorate from Harvard, and has Degrees from the Indian Institute of Technology and Indian Institute of Management. Prior to academia, he worked at McKinsey & Company, Microsoft and IBM.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Christopher Cooper

Special Agent-in-Charge, Division of Advanced Technology and Analytics
U.S. Department of Labor

Christopher Cooper has worked in the federal government for over 25 years. He currently oversees the Data and Investigative Analytics, Digital Forensics, and Hotline Support missions of the U.S. Department of Labor.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Berri Davis

Managing Director, Financial Management and Assurance Team
U.S. Government Accountability Office

On May 22, 2022, Berri Davis will become the Managing Director of the Financial Management and Assurance team within the Government Accountability Office. The team's mission is to help improve and transform the government's financial management and operations to meet existing and emerging critical accountability challenges and ensure stewardship of financial resources.

Berri joined GAO in 2011 and previously served as a Director in FMA. In this capacity, she oversaw financial and performance audits covering a variety of areas, including the financial audit of Fiscal Services' Schedules of the General Fund, as well as performance audits related to improper payments, grants management, inspectors general, health care financial management, and state and local financial management. She also represents GAO in an organization that sets international auditing standards.

Berri has over 30 years of experience in auditing, financial management, and accounting, in both the public and private sectors. She previously served as Vice President, Standards and Guidance, for the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Berri earned a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting from the University of Florida, and a bachelor's degree in economics from Emory University. She is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Government Financial Manager, and a Certified Government Auditing Professional.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Mark de la Rosa

Director of Audits, City and County of San Francisco

Mark de la Rosa has served as the City and County of San Francisco's Director of Audits since July 2021 and the Acting Director of Audits since June 2019. In his role as director, Mark leads a dynamic team of auditors, investigators, and analysts in conducting performance and compliance audits of city departments, systems, and functions; investigating complaints of fraud, waste, or abuse of city resources; and providing actionable audit recommendations to city leaders to promote and enhance effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability over the City's $13 billion annual budget.

Mark has over 20 years of experience in auditing, budgeting, and policy analysis, including previously serving as San Francisco's audit manager and then deputy director of audits, principal analyst for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors' Budget and Legislative Analyst's Office, analyst for the U.S. Government Accountability Office, and budget analyst for the State of Illinois Office of Management and Budget.

Mark earned a Master of Public Policy degree from the Goldman School at the University of California, Berkeley, and a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Urban Studies from Northwestern University.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Sara Dendas
Deputy Chief Data Officer, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC)

Sara Dendas has more than 13 years of combined experience in fraud analysis, investigative support, financial crime investigations, and fraud risk management for government agencies and the private industry

Prior to joining the PRAC in September 2020, she served as a Manager at Grant Thornton, and for more than 10 years successfully led engagement teams providing a variety of related consulting services across numerous federal agencies. Specifically, Ms. Dendas served as a fraud analyst at the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board where she detected instances of fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus funds.

Ms. Dendas has a BS in Finance with a Collateral in Accounting. She is a Certified Fraud Examiner through the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist through the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro

Comptroller General of the United States
Head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office

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.

In a GAO career dating back more than 40 years, Mr. Dodaro has held a number of key executive posts. For 9 years, Mr. Dodaro served as the Chief Operating Officer, the number two leadership position at the agency, assisting the Comptroller General in providing direction and vision for GAO's diverse, multidisciplinary workforce. Mr. Dodaro led the development of GAO's strategic plans for serving Congress and improving government in the 21st Century. He also played a key role in guiding the agency's efforts to highlight current and emerging issues that warrant attention from policymakers.

Until 1999, Mr. Dodaro headed GAO's Accounting and Information Management Division, the agency's largest unit, which specialized in financial management, computer technology, and budget issues. While there, he directed the first-ever audit of the comprehensive financial statements covering all federal departments and agencies.

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The Next Frontier of Accountability: Leveraging Equitable, Measurable, and Technological Innovations

INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

(Continued)

Mr. Dodaro also helped conceive GAO's strategy for strengthening computer security government-wide and led the updating of standards for internal controls in the federal government.

Mr. Dodaro worked closely with the Congress and several administrations on major management reform initiatives, including the 1994 Government Management Reform Act, which expanded the Chief Financial Officers Act; the revised 1995 Paperwork Reduction Act and the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996, which require agencies to implement modern management practices for information technology management; and the 1996 refinements to the Single Audit Act, which outlines requirements for audits of federal assistance to state and local governments. Mr. Dodaro also led management reviews of the Department of Justice, the Internal Revenue Service, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Personnel Management and has extensive experience working with state and local government officials.

Timothy Eagle

Branch Chief of Data Science, U.S. Department of Labor

Timothy Eagle has worked in the federal government for over 16 years. He has worked for DOL-OIG for the past 5 years, building its data analytic capability from the ground up. Previously, Timothy has worked for Education OIG, GAO, USDOJ, and US Postal Service. Timothy is also an Adjunct Professor at Marymount University and SFS CyberCorp Alumnus.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Luis Escalante, Jr.

Executive Director, Intergovernmental Audit Forums

Luis Escalante, Jr. has served as an Intergovernmental Audit Forums' Executive Director for over 23 years. He is the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum's Acting Executive Director.

In addition, he is the Executive Director for the following four regional intergovernmental audit forums: Mid-America, Midwestern, Southeastern, and Southwest. In these roles, he plans and coordinates numerous forum meetings with representatives from federal, state and local audit organizations.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD

Chief Executive Officer, American Psychological Association

Clinical and community psychologist, policymaker, and health care innovator Arthur C. Evans Jr., PhD, is CEO of the American Psychological Association, the leading scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the United States.

Evans previously served in public policy positions in Philadelphia and Connecticut, where he led the transformation of their behavioral health systems and their approaches to serving a wide range of individuals with complex needs. An unconventional leader, Evans has employed science, research, community activism, spirituality, traditional clinical care, policy and cross-system collaborations to change the status quo around behavioral health.

He has also held faculty appointments at Yale University's and the University of Pennsylvania's Schools of Medicine, and he has been the author or co-author of over 60 peer-reviewed research articles and of numerous chapters, reviews and editorials. Over the years he has received national and international recognition, including the American Medical Association's top government service award in healthcare, the Lisa Mojer-Torres Award from Faces and Voices of Recovery, and the Visionary Leadership Award from the National Council of Behavioral Health, as well as being named as an "Advocate for Action" by the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy. A major emphasis of his career has been equity and social justice and he has received multiple awards named for Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. for this work.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Amber Gray

Senior Analyst, Forensic Audits and Investigative Service Team
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Amber Gray is a Senior Analyst currently serving on GAO's Forensic Audits and Investigative Service team (FAIS). Since joining GAO in 2014, she has contributed to several performance audits to improve federal programs across various agencies, such as the Departments of Veterans Affairs, State, Commerce, and Health and Human Services. In FAIS, her work has focused on improving agencies' fraud risk management through traditional audit recommendations and innovative learning resources.

Ms. Gray earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, with a Concentration in Entrepreneurship, from Fayetteville State University. She also earned her Master of Public Administration and Master of City and Regional Planning degrees from Ohio State University.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Chris Horton, PhD

County Auditor, Arlington County, VA

Chris Horton serves as the County Auditor for Arlington County, Virginia. Chris has over 20 years of auditing experience, including with the state of Arizona, the City and County of Denver, and Fairfax County Public Schools. Chris recently completed his term as President for the Association of Local Government Auditors, and he represents local government audit functions on the Comptroller General's Domestic Working Group.

Chris completed his B.A. (Political Science/History) and M.A. (History) at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. He completed his Ph.D. (Public Administration) at Arizona State University. Chris holds several audit certifications, including the Certified Internal Auditor designation.

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Measurable, and Technological Innovations

INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Laura G. Kearney

Principal Auditor, California State Auditor's Office

Laura G. Kearney has more than 20 years of experience conducting independent audits with the California State Auditor's Office. She attended the University of California, Santa Barbara where she earned a B.A. in Business-Economics and a minor in History.

Upon her graduation in 2001, Mrs. Kearney began working for the California State Auditor and is currently an Audit Principal. In this position, Mrs. Kearney oversees three to four audits simultaneously, each of which consist of teams that perform the day-to-day audit work.

Mrs. Kearney has managed a wide variety of independent performance audits and high-risk audits, including audits of the California Department of Education, Department of Health Care Services, the University of California, High Speed Rail, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the California Public Utilities Commission. These audits have resulted in numerous recommendations to the auditees, as well as legislative recommendations that have improved public policy and government.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Jim Lager
Chief Ethics Advisor, U.S. Government Accountability Office

Jim Lager is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business, where he teaches ethics-related courses in its undergraduate and masters programs a member of the Heterodox Academy, which advocates for viewpoint diversity and constructive disagreement in higher education, and a collaborator to Ethicalsystems.org, a nonprofit organization dedicated to using behavioral science to improve ethical culture and behavior. Jim is also the Chief Ethics Advisor at the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), and advises GAO on conflicts of interest, ethics, personal and organizational independence, and manages GAO's ethics and financial disclosure programs.

Jim has substantial experience as a labor and employment lawyer, representing private and government clients in trial and appellate courts, and as an investigator in various contexts, including serving as a lead congressional investigator examining violation of federal campaign laws.

Jim received a Juris Doctorate from the Washington College of Law/American University, and a Masters of Science in Organization Development from American University/NTL Institute for Applied Behavioral Science. A frequent speaker on behavioral ethics, his publications include "Beyond Compliance," in the Ethical Leadership: Global Challenges and Perspectives, "Governments Demand Compliance, Ethics Demands Leadership", and "Overcoming Cultures of Compliance to Reduce Corruption and Achieve Ethics in Government". His 2009 essay: "Have a Problem with Compliance?" was awarded the H. George Frederickson Best Article Award by the American Society for Public Administration. His recent article "Toward a More Perfect Objectivity," co-authored with Professor Tammy Waymire, is pending publication in the IIA's Internal Auditor magazine.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Terell P. Lasane, PhD

Assistant Director, Center for Evaluation Methods and Issues (CEMI)
Applied Research and Methods (ARM) Team
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Dr. Lasane joined the Government Accountability Office in 2019 as an Assistant Director for the Center for Evaluation Methods and Issues (CEMI) on the Applied Research and Methods (ARM) mission team. His evaluation career spans over 25 years, and he has over 15 years of experience conducting and/or managing program evaluations for federal agencies. Recognized as a thought leader in program evaluation,

Dr. Lasane is a Social Psychologist by training having earned a B.S. degree from Howard University and a Ph.D. from the University of Delaware. His career in evaluation began when he was teaching at St. Mary's College in Maryland, and served as an independent consultant to state and local governments. Since 2008, he has held senior evaluation positions at EPA and SBA, where he oversaw rigorous evaluations and developed guidelines for conducting evaluations in the federal government.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

The Honorable Allison C. Lerner

Inspector General, National Science Foundation
Chair, Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency

Allison C. Lerner assumed the duties as Inspector General of the National Science Foundation (NSF) in April 2009, reporting to the National Science Board and the Congress. As head of the Office of Inspector General, she recommends policies for promoting economy, efficiency and effectiveness of NSF programs and operations. She leads efforts to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse; improve the integrity of NSF programs and operations; and investigate allegations of misconduct in science.

Ms. Lerner has chaired the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency since January 2021 and served as its vice chair from January 2015 through December 2020.

Ms. Lerner began her federal career in 1991, joining the Office of Inspector General at Commerce as assistant counsel, and has been a member of the senior executive service since 2005. During her tenure at Commerce, she served as special assistant to the IG, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Auditing, and Acting Assistant Inspector General for Auditing. Prior to joining the federal government, she was an associate at a law firm in San Antonio, Texas.

Ms. Lerner has been honored by the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE) with three awards for excellence: in 2001, for her work reviewing the Department of Commerce's management of 5,000 intra-agency and special agreements worth over $1 billion; in 2002, for her assistance in a complex investigation of false claims submitted under a financial award from the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and in 2005, for her review of a controversial study that recommended significant structural changes to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Finance and Administrative Services. In June 2011, Ms. Lerner was designated by President Obama as a member of the Government Accountability and Transparency Board.

Ms. Lerner received her law degree from the University of Texas, School of Law and a B.A. in liberal arts from the University of Texas. She is admitted to the bar in both Texas and the District of Columbia.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Paige Mellerio
Associate Legislative Director, National Association of Counties (NACo)

Paige Mellerio is the National Association of Countie's (NACo's) Associate Legislative Director for finance, pensions and intergovernmental affairs. In this role, she serves as the liaison to NACo's Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs policy steering committee and works with county officials across the nation to set organizational priorities and policies for all matters pertaining to the financial resources of counties, fiscal management, federal assistance, municipal borrowing, county revenues, federal budget, federal tax reform, elections and Native American issues.

NACo strengthens America's counties, serving nearly 40,000 county elected officials and 3.6 million county employees. Founded in 1935, NACo unites county officials to: Advocate county priorities in federal policymaking; Promote exemplary county policies and practices; Nurture leadership skills and expand knowledge networks; Optimize county and taxpayer resources and cost savings; and Enrich the public's understanding of county government.

Before joining NACo, Paige worked for several years as a legislative associate at a bipartisan lobbying firm where she became experienced in a wide range of federal policies and initiatives of importance to counties and municipalities beyond tax & finance, including transportation and infrastructure, energy and the environment, education and workforce development, and health and human services.

A native of Alexandria, Virginia, Paige holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from James Madison University.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Zina Daché Merritt

Special Assistant to the Comptroller General of the United States
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA)
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Zina Daché Merritt is the Special Assistant to the Comptroller General of the United States for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). She has served in her current capacity since November 2017 and is responsible for providing expert senior advisory services that helps GAO promote an environment that is fair and unbiased and that values diversity and inclusiveness. She is responsible for overseeing the implementation of GAO's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Strategic Implementation Plan.

Prior to her current appointment, Ms. Merritt directed performance reviews of national and international security programs and activities. She received several GAO-wide awards including Distinguished Service, Meritorius Service, Community Service, Equal Employment Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion, and a two-time recipient of the John Henry Luke Mentoring Award. She is also the 2022 recipient of the Association of Government Accountants Eleanor Clark Diversity Leadership Award. Ms. Merritt completed the Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives National and International Security Program and Women and Power Program. She received a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Tuskegee University and a M.S. degree in Information Systems from Texas A&M University Central TX.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Jason Miller
Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget

Jason Miller is the Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget where he serves as the Federal Government's chief operating officer. In this role, he coordinates Government-wide management initiatives to protect, strengthen, and empower the Federal workforce, and ensure a more equitable, effective, and accountable Federal Government that delivers results for all Americans. Toward these goals, Mr. Miller leads the development and implementation of the President's Management Agenda as Chair of the President's Management Council.

Most recently, Mr. Miller led the U.S. Trade Representative agency review team during the Biden-Harris transition and prior to that he was the Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Washington Partnership, a civic alliance of employers in the Capital Region focused on issues of regional inclusive economic growth and prosperity that included building and operating a more reliable and accessible transportation system; driving improved digital skills workforce through enhanced programs at the K-12, community college, and undergraduate levels; and improving housing affordability.

Previously, Mr. Miller served in the Obama-Biden White House as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of the National Economic Council – leading the Administration's economic policy development and coordination related to manufacturing and innovation, transportation and infrastructure, energy, entrepreneurship, and Puerto Rico.

Prior to the Obama-Biden Administration, Mr. Miller was a management consultant with the Boston Consulting Group in San Francisco and with Marakon Associates in Chicago, where he advised large organizations across industries on strategic, financial, and organizational issues. Mr. Miller received a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, a M.B.A. from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, and a M.P.A. from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. Mr. Miller currently resides with his wife and three children in Maryland.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Angelina Panettieri

Legislative Director, Technology and Communications for the National League of Cities

Angelina Panettieri is Legislative Director, Technology and Communications for the National League of Cities, which represents the nation's 19,000 cities, towns, and villages. Angelina manages telecommunications and technology issues for NLC on Capitol Hill, the FCC and other federal agencies. Prior to serving in this role, Angelina worked in grassroots advocacy and public affairs for a variety of Washington, DC-based associations.

Angelina holds a bachelor's degree in government and a master's in public administration from George Mason University.

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AUDIT FORUMS

Timothy M. Persons, PhD

Chief Scientist and Managing Director, Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Tim Persons is the Chief Scientist of the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO). The GAO provides Congress, the heads of executive agencies, and the public with timely, fact-based, non-partisan information that can be used to improve government and save taxpayers billions of dollars. Within GAO, Dr. Persons is the Managing Director of the Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics (STAA) team. He is also the founder of the Innovation Lab, a research and development environment that uses emerging technology to rethink analytics, auditing, and cybersecurity.

Through his dual-hatted role, Dr. Persons oversees a wide spectrum of work spanning advanced data analytic activities as well as the exploration of emerging technologies such as machine learning systems, blockchain, and cloud cybersecurity research. He leads a large team of scientists, technologists, and engineers — as well as policy analysts — who provide technology assessments on subjects ranging from artificial intelligence to sustainable chemistry to 5G wireless technology. He also leads a group that specializes in cost and schedule analysis of complex federal programs. Through this work, Dr. Persons advises Congress on a range of science and technology policy options. Prior to joining GAO, Dr. Persons served as the Technical Director for the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) as well as the technical lead for Quantum Information Sciences and Biometrics research groups for the Information Assurance Directorate at the National Security Agency.

Dr. Persons is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, a recipient of a 2020 Fed 100 Award in recognition of national AI/ML leadership, a 2020 Comptroller General Award for Agile digital transformation of GAO and leadership of STAA, a 2020 GAO Integrity Award for key science leadership throughout the pandemic, a 2016 James Madison University (JMU) Distinguished Alumnus Award, a 2014 recipient of a GAO Distinguished Service Award, 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 2019, 2012, and 2010 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.

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(Continued)

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 JMU Physics Alumnus of 2007.

Dr. Persons received his B.Sc. (Physics) from JMU, 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 (IEEE), a council member (ex officio) of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's (NASEM) Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable (GUIRR), a member (ex officio) of the National Academy of Medicine's Committee on Emerging Science, Technology, and Innovation, and a member of the Virginia Tech-Wake Forest University Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics (BEAM) Advisory Board.

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Luc Poon
Principal Management Auditor, King County, WA

Luc began their auditing career at the Government Accountability Office in 2005 as intern. She worked as a senior analyst on the Natural Resources and Environment team at GAO after obtaining her Master of Public Administration at the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington.

Luc shifted from the federal to the local audit context after their twins were born, accepting a position at the King County Auditor's Office in 2012. Luc's audits have won a variety of honors, including Distinguished Knightons in 2019 for ICE Access to County Data Shows Privacy Program Gaps and in 2020 for Sex Offense Cases: Some Victims and Their Cases May Be Harmed by Gaps. They maintain Project Management Professional (PMP) and Scrum Fundamentals Certifications (SFC).

Luc also has a B.A. in Sociology and Economics from Wesleyan University and served in the Peace Corps for two years as a Community-Based Natural Resource Management volunteer in Malawi, Africa.

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AUDIT FORUMS

Steven Putansu

Assistant Director
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Steven Putansu is a methodologist and Assistant Director at GAO. His methodological contributions have ensured rigorous technical standards in hundreds of GAO performance audits, provided policymakers with high-quality information on the effectiveness, efficiency, and equity outcomes of federal programs across all GAO mission teams, and GAO's annual report on Duplication, Overlap, and Fragmentation for 10 years.

In his book, *Politics and Policy Knowledge in Federal Education: Confronting the Evidence Based Proverb,* Steven explores the interaction of evidence and politics in government decisions, including how these factors may differentially highlight values of economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and social equity. His work at GAO has utilized many of the evidence practices from the book.

Steven earned his PhD in Public Administration, Policy, and Research methods from American University in 2012. While Steven works across a variety of GAO portfolios, he has worked in several recurring projects in the areas of Evidence-based policy; Managing Fraud Risks; Human Capital management; and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

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AUDIT FORUMS

Mark Reinardy
California State Auditor

Mark has been with the California State Auditor's Office since 2012. In that time, he has worked on or led audit projects tackling some of the state's most entrenched policy challenges, including higher education, law enforcement, infrastructure, and the environment.

At the Senior Auditor Evaluator III classification, Mark leads teams that perform some of the most complex and sensitive audits approved by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee of the California State Legislature. He also has extensive experience with the State Auditor's regulatory High-Risk Program.

Mark holds a Master's of Public Policy degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and previously worked in program evaluation and administration in the nonprofit sector.

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AUDIT FORUMS

April Renfro
Legislative Auditor, State of Idaho

April Renfro has been the Legislative Auditor for the State of Idaho within the Legislative Services Office (LSO) for the past 10 years, and has worked for LSO Audit Division since 1994. She is responsible for issueing the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and Single Audit Report for the State of Idaho as well as management reviews of all state agencies. The Audit Division employs 28 auditors and one executive administrative assistant.

April received her bachelor's degree and master's degree from Boise State University and has been a CPA since 1997. She is also an active member of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers (NASACT) and is the 2022 National State Auditors Association Secretary/Treasurer and a member of the NASACT executive committee.

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AUDIT FORUMS

Elizabeth (Biza) Repko

Director, Physical Infrastructure
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Elizabeth (Biza) Repko is a Director at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in its Physical Infrastructure team. She oversees GAO's work examining surface transportation issues, such as the management of the federal-aid highway program and Department of Transportation highway safety activities. Ms. Repko joined GAO in February 2005. She has led reviews on a wide variety of issues including those involving international organizations and counterterrorism.

Elizabeth received a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in International Relations and holds dual master's degrees in public policy and science from the University of Michigan.

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AUDIT FORUMS

Ophelia Robinson

Executive Director for the New England, New York/New Jersey, and Mid-Atlantic Intergovernmental Audit Forums
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Ophelia serves as Executive Director for the New England, New York/New Jersey, and Mid-Atlantic Intergovernmental Audit Forums within the Domestic Relations Portfolio. In this role, Ophelia works with the respective executive committees to plan trainings and meetings for federal, state and local audit officials and promotes knowledge sharing activities on relevant trends and areas of interest to the audit community.

Prior to joining IAFs, Ophelia served as a Senior Defense Analyst with the Government Accountability Office---Defense Capabilities & Management team, auditing Department of Defense force structure, business and human capital operations.

Ophelia holds a Master of Arts in National Security Studies from the Naval War College and a Master of Arts in Social Psychology from the University of Delaware.

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AUDIT FORUMS

Stephen Sanford
Managing Director
Office of Strategic Planning and External Liaison (SPEL)
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Stephen Sanford leads strategic planning and foresight programs for the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) and was the Director of the GAO Center for Strategic Foresight. He became Managing Director for SPEL in June of 2021.

As a leader in public sector foresight and design thinking, he directed the team that developed GAO's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan and accompanying trends, and in 2018 he served as assistant director leading the team that produced GAO's first technology assessment on artificial intelligence. He frequently speaks to public sector, international, and private sector organizations about emerging issues and the use of foresight and strategic planning to improve organizational performance, including presentations on artificial intelligence, enterprise planning, and leadership to U.S. and global audiences. As founder and host of GAO's Foresight Speaker Series, he has led discussions with CRISPR co-inventor and Nobel-prize winner Jennifer Doudna about genome editing, with Peter Singer about the future of warfare, and with Jeff Goodell about the impact of sea level change on coastal communities, among others.

Stephen joined GAO in 2009. In SPEL he has led efforts to develop three agency strategic plans, supported GAO's international work, and helped establish the Center for Strategic Foresight. In recognition of his work, he has received a GAO Distinguished Service Award, a GAO Meritorious Service Award, and the SPEL Managing Director's Award.

Prior to GAO, he advised executives at Fortune 50 and FTSE 100 multinational companies in Brussels, Paris, and London and was responsible for S&T policy issues at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. He holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA with distinction from INSEAD in France.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Brian Sano is the Director of Organizational Health for the Department of State OIG, a position he has held since 2018. His role involves connecting business brains (strategy/mission) with human hearts (employee engagement/professional and personal development), including by designing human systems. Through coaching, mentoring, and providing executive-level advice, he leads efforts to cultivate a culture that supports staff members' sense of purpose, curiosity, inclusion, and belonging, while driving innovative results. Through learning and developing trainings and initiatives, he helps people thrive and reach their true potential personally and professionally.

Since 2017, Brian has served as an Executive-Leadership Coach with the Treasury Executive Institute. He is a member of the International Coaching Federation and the Harvard/McLean Institute of Coaching and was a founding member for the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Professional Development Committee Coaching Subcommittee, currently serving as Co-Chair.

From 2012 through 2018, Brian served as a senior executive in the U.S. Department of the Treasury as the Senior Policy Advisor for the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP), where he provided executive-level advice on strategic direction, planning, and communication to agency officials and teams to effectively reach and impact key stakeholders. Previously, Brian served as Senior Counsel at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Division of Enforcement, and a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York. He has also worked as a Senior Associate at the international law firm WilmerHale and as a Media Planner at McCann Worldgroup.

Brian earned a J.D. from the American University, Washington College of Law and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy from Hamilton College. As a life-long learner, Brian is constantly reading, watching TED Talks, listening to podcasts, or pursuing trainings on issues related to leadership and organizational culture.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Rebecca Shea

Director, Forensic Audits and Investigative Service
U.S. Government Accountability Office

Rebecca Shea is a Director in GAO's Forensic Audits and Investigative Service team. She oversees audits to identify fraud, waste, and abuse across a wide array of government programs and agencies, such as the Small Business Administration, Housing and Urban Development, Homeland Security, Transportation, Energy, IRS, and others. These reviews frequently employ data analytics to identify indicators of potential fraud and feature GAO's Fraud Risk Framework to assess agencies' efforts to manage fraud risk.

In her 23 years with GAO and prior to her work in FAIS, Rebecca served as a methodological expert in GAO's Applied Research and Methods team, and Acting Director in GAO's Physical Infrastructure team. Rebecca earned her doctorate in Sociology from Vanderbilt University and bachelor's from Clemson University.

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AUDIT FORUMS

Kymber Waltmunson

King County Auditor, Seattle, WA

Kymber Waltmunson is the King County Auditor in Seattle, Washington since 2013. Kymber also served as the County Auditor in Snohomish County, Washington.

She has Masters degrees in Public Policy and Governance and in Clinical Psychology. Kymber leads a team of auditors who work tirelessly for the public good and who consistently receive awards for exceptional audit work. She has been certified as an internal auditor and government audit professional.
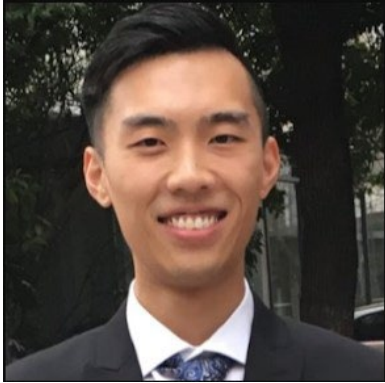
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AUDIT FORUMS

Hunter Wang

Audit Manager, Controller's Office of the City and County of San Francisco

Hunter Wang has worked for the Controller's Office of the City and County of San Francisco since 2018, and has been serving in his current role of audit manager since November 2020.

During his time with San Francisco, Hunter has overseen various performance audits of city departments, such as assessing the staffing of the Sheriff's Department or the Municipal Transportation Agency's development of its capital programs. Hunter has more than 8 years of experience in government auditing and public policy evaluation, previously serving as an audit evaluator with the California State Auditor's Office. Hunter received a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, with a double major in economics and political science.

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AUDIT FORUMS

Majeedah Wesley

Staff Auditor, City and County of San Francisco Audit's Division

Majeedah Wesley is a Staff Auditor with the City and County of San Francisco's Audits Division. In addition to serving as a Staff Auditor on the Performance and Compliance team, she works as a Whistleblower investigator and a Racial Equity Lead for the San Francisco Controllers Office.

Prior to joining the office in 2019, Majeedah attended Texas Southern University, one of the nation's largest Historically Black Colleges, where she received a BBA in Finance.

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AUDIT FORUMS

Orice Williams Brown

Chief Operating Officer, U.S. Government Accountability Office

As GAO's Chief Operating Officer, Orice Williams Brown assists the Comptroller General in providing agency leadership and vision. She is responsible for day-to-day management to ensure that GAO effectively supports Congress in meeting its constitutional responsibilities. Orice also oversees the development of hundreds of reports and testimonies to Congress each year. These and other GAO initiatives provide critical information for decision making, save the taxpayers billions of dollars, and improve a wide range of government programs and services.

From 2017 to 2021, Orice served as the Managing Director for Congressional Relations. She oversaw the receipt of the hundreds of requests from the Congress and statutory requirements for reports that come to GAO every year and supported the Executive Committee's decisions about accepting and assigning them. She and her team worked directly with Congressional Committees and Members as the liaison between GAO mission teams and staff offices and the Congress.

Prior to this position, Orice was the Managing Director in the Financial Markets and Community Investment Team from 2011 to 2017. She oversaw GAO's engagements on a variety of crosscutting public policy issues, including housing and financial regulatory oversight and agency operations and management, consumer/investor protection, small business programs, insurance industry oversight, and Treasury's Troubled Asset Relief Program. Orice was a Director in the Financial Markets and Community Investment Team beginning in 2005 after her appointment to the Senior Executive Service.

Orice has over 30 years with GAO. She began her GAO career in General Government Division. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in finance from Virginia Tech.

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AUDIT FORUMS

Jane Wiseman

Innovations in Government Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation

Jane Wiseman is an Innovations in Government Fellow at the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation. She leads the Institute for Excellence in Government, a non-profit consulting firm dedicated to improving government performance. She has served as an appointed official in government and as a financial advisor and consultant to government. Her current consulting, research, and writing focus on government innovation and data-driven decision-making. She is leading an effort to create a national network of urban Chief Data Officers to accelerate the use of analytics in local government. She has advised the US cities funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies in their Mayors Challenge competition. She has written on customer-centric government, data-driven decision-making in government, pretrial justice, and 311 for a variety of audiences.

Her prior consulting work has included organizational strategy, performance management and eGovernment strategy work for Accenture and Price Waterhouse. Selected clients include the National Governor's Association, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Criminal Justice Association, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United States Postal Service, the State of Michigan, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the United States Department of Commerce.

Ms. Wiseman has served as Assistant Secretary, Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and as Assistant to the Director for Strategic Planning, National Institute of Justice, United States Department of Justice. Ms. Wiseman represented the Justice Department on detail as a Staff Assistant for the US House of Representatives Appropriations Committee. Ms. Wiseman holds a Bachelor of Arts in Government from Smith College and a Master of Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

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AUDIT FORUMS

Connie W.Y. Yates

Assistant Inspector General (Acting), Management
U.S. Department of State

Connie W.Y. Yates is currently acting as the Department of State Office of Inspector General (OIG) Assistant Inspector General for Management, since December 2020. In her permanent role she serves as the Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Management/Deputy Executive Director for State OIG. She is responsible for assisting the Assistant Inspector General for Management/Executive Director with oversight of all executive office administrative functions, including information technology, budget and resources, facilities and space management, physical security, and human capital management.

Prior to joining OIG, Connie served in several leadership positions at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration from 2104 - 2020. Connie was Senior Advisor to the Associate Commissioner for Global Policy and Strategy in the Office of Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs, in the Office of the Commissioner, and previously served as the Director of the Executive Operations Office in the Office of International Programs, leading all the management, administrative, and operational support provided to FDA international offices. Prior to joining the international programs at FDA, Connie served as the Deputy Director of the Office of Communications and Project Management, where she assisted with the management and oversight of communication, quality management, and project management services provided to the Office of Regulatory Affairs' 5,000 employees located in 26 field offices.

Connie began her federal career in August 2012 as an Information Technology Systems Program Manager for capital investments with the U.S. Department of Treasury, Bureau of Fiscal Service. Prior to joining the civil service, Connie gained a wealth of experience as a contractor to the U.S. Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration and as a member of the U.S. Air Force on active duty, including completing a prestigious assignment as an Assistant Audiovisual Director with the White House Communications Agency.

Connie believes in lifelong learning and since 2008, has served as an adjunct faculty member with National University, the largest private university in California. She holds a BS in Business Administration, with a major in Management Information Systems from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and an MS in Management, with a concentration in Project Management from the University of Maryland, University College. Connie also earned a Graduate Certificate in Cyber Security Management and Policy; a Master Certificate in Federal Program Management, and previously earned both the Project Management Professional (PMP) certification and Federal Acquisition Certificate in Program/Project Management (FAC P/PM) Senior Level.

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AUDIT FORUMS

Hong (Jo) Zhou
Analytics and Data Science Lead, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC)

Hong (Jo) Zhou is the Analytics and Data Science Lead at the PRAC. Ms. Zhou has over 15 years of analytics experience in data management, data mining, anomaly detection, risk modeling, process optimization, and change management. She specializes in fraud detection and investigation, litigation and investigative analytics, and enterprise fraud and misuse management.

Ms. Zhou has significant experience in collaborating with stakeholders to transform processes and create innovative solutions to solve business problems. She led numerous engagements developing risk-based rules and models, implementing solutions to support case management and investigations, operationalizing anomaly detection systems, and training organizations to apply analytics in their day-to-day work.

Ms. Zhou is currently leading a number of analytics projects and initiatives at the PRAC including entity risk modeling and robotic process automation.