

NEIAF

Speaker Biographies 2023



NEW ENGLAND INTERNATIONAL AUDIT FORUM ANNUAL MEETING

JEAN BLOOM

Supervisory Auditor and National Single Audit Coordinator, Business Operation, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Inspector General, Office of Audit



Ms. Bloom is a Supervisory Auditor and National Single Audit Coordinator in the Business Operation Directorate with the Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Inspector General, Office of Audit. She has been with EPA OIG for over 30 years and has conducted and lead audits of EPA's Programs, contracts, contractors, and grantees.

Ms. Bloom has received multiple awards from Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency for audits associated with Hurricane Katrina and Rita, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and preventing and detecting fraud, waste and abuse in EPA's grants and contracts. Prior to EPA OIG she worked for the Defense Contract Audit Agency conducting various types of contract audits at a resident office.

Ms. Bloom is a Certified Fraud Examiner and earned a BS in Accounting from Thomas College (Waterville, ME).

KATE BLUMENREICH

Assistant Director for Field Operations and the Field Office Manager for Boston, U.S. GAO



Kate Blumenreich is an Assistant Director for Field Operations and the Field Office Manager for Boston at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), an independent, nonpartisan agency that works for Congress. Prior to taking this position in 2019, she worked as a senior analyst at GAO, leading multidisciplinary teams of policy analysts, economists, and attorneys to review federal programs and issues in a range of areas, including women’s representation in the workforce and child welfare. Ms. Blumenreich holds an MPP from the University of California at Berkeley, and a BA from Columbia College. She lives in the Boston area with her husband, two daughters, and their beloved goldendoodle.

PENNY DILLON

Director of Data Analytics for Audit Operations, Massachusetts Office of the State Auditor (OSA)



Penny Dillon is the Director of Data Analytics for Audit Operations at the Massachusetts Office of the State Auditor (OSA). She started working at the agency twenty years ago in OSA's Information Technology department in a variety of roles including Business Analyst, Data Analyst and Business Intelligence Specialist managing design, development and implementation of enterprise business intelligence reporting.

Before taking on the role of Director in 2018, Penny was the OSA's Assistant Director of the Data Analytics Unit in the Bureau of Special Investigations (BSI) employing data analytics to identify and investigate fraud, waste and abuse in public assistance programs. Her team was awarded the State Auditor's Office Outstanding Unit award in 2016. In 2019, she was awarded the OSA Pioneer award for her ability to envision the evolution of current work and establish a path forward for the agency.

She has a proven track record of aligning data analytics operations with organizational goals and she is a highly effective manager growing and empowering data analytic teams to make state government work better.

Prior to joining the OSA, Penny worked at the New England College of Finance. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Seton Hill University in Pennsylvania and is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Business Analytics at the University of Massachusetts in Lowell.

MAUREEN DUDDY

Assistant Inspector General for Audits, FACET Division, Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General



Maureen Duddy joined Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General in 2004, serving as an Audit Manager and Staff Manager in the Office Audits, and as a Director in the OIG's Integrity and Quality Oversight Division. Ms. Duddy was appointed as Assistant Inspector General for Audits in December 2015.

As Assistant Inspector General for Audits for the FACET Division (Financial, Audit Management Services, Acquisitions, Excellence, and Training), her audit work includes the annual DHS' Financial Statement audit, DHS Acquisitions, DHS Revenue, and Office of Audits Quality Assurance and Training. As a result, she oversees audit work related to all components of DHS. Recent work includes acquisitions to secure the CBP's Centers for Excellence, DATA Act, DHS countering of improvised explosive devices, and COVID-19 Lost Wage Assistance. Ms. Duddy is the immediate past chair of the New England Intergovernmental Audit Forum. Ms. Duddy started her Federal career many years ago, as an Auditor with the Veterans Administration OIG. For 17 years, she served as an Auditor and Audit Manager for the Department of Education OIG. Ms. Duddy graduated from Suffolk University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Accounting.

VINCENT FILIPPA

Deputy State Auditor, Connecticut Auditors of Public Accounts



Serving as one of the CT APA's two deputy state auditors since April 2022, Vinnie is responsible for directing the office's overall operations. Vinnie's career with the CT APA began nearly 25 years ago when he was initially hired as an intern while he was completing his final undergraduate semester.

Throughout his career, Vinnie gained experience in all facets of the office's audits of CT state and quasi-public agencies, including leading the state's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and federal Statewide Single Audit (SWSA) engagements, as well as statutorily required compliance audits, other financial statement audits, and whistleblower complaint and other reviews. Vinnie earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, major in accounting, from Central Connecticut State University and a Master's Degree in Accounting and Taxation from the University of Hartford. He holds both the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) certifications.

JOHN C. GERAGOSIAN

State Auditor, State of Connecticut



John C. Geragosian has served as one of the State of Connecticut's two state auditors since January of 2011. During his tenure, the Auditors of Public Accounts (APA) converted to a paperless auditing system and developed a comprehensive intranet platform to assist and inform APA employees. Geragosian changed the office's peer review to the comprehensive National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers (NASACT) program. He worked to create expand the office's Performance Audit Unit. He also continues to enhance the office's use of technology to conduct audits and oversight of state information technology systems.

Geragosian partnered with Connecticut's other state auditors (Robert Ward, Robert Kane, and Clark Chapin) to increase the office's interaction with the Connecticut General Assembly to assist legislators as they enact public policy. In 2018, the legislature passed a law based on three audits that changed the system of special education contracting, oversight, and payments to private providers that contract with municipalities and the state. In 2020, the office released an audit of the Department of Social Services (DSS) and its non-emergency transportation vendor (Veyo). The audit report contained 59 recommendations to improve the program and ensure the state received its contracted services. As a result of the audit, DSS and Veyo renegotiated their agreement and changed policies and procedures to address nearly all the audit's recommendations.

In 2023, Geragosian was elected Secretary of the NASACT Executive Committee. He also received the NASACT President's Award at the 2023 NASACT Annual Conference. The award recognized Geragosian for his efforts as NSAA President and his role in the association's efforts to improve cooperation with federal agencies and officials as state auditors took on additional work overseeing pandemic and other federal funds.

Geragosian currently serves on the NASACT Governance, Personnel, Strategic Planning, and Training & Professional Development committees. He also serves on the National State Auditors Association (NSAA) Executive (Immediate Past President), Annual Meeting Program, Emerging Leaders Conference Program, Human Resources, and Nominating committees. In 2018, Geragosian was appointed by his peers to the NSAA Executive Committee. Geragosian served as NSAA President from June of 2022 until June of 2023. As president, he served as one of the state auditor representatives on the NASACT Executive Committee, chairing the NASACT Constitution & Bylaws Committee.

Prior to his appointment as state auditor, John served in the Connecticut House of Representatives for 16 years. Elected in November of 1994, he represented the 25th Assembly District in New Britain and Newington. John served as the co-chair of the Appropriations Committee.

Prior to serving in the legislature, Geragosian served in local government. He was an Alderman in the City of New Britain from 1989 to 1993. He is a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a degree in Political Science. Geragosian is a lifelong resident of New Britain, where he lives with his wife, Audrey, and daughter Molly.

ALTHEA HOSEIN, PhD

Mathematical Statistician, Department of Health & Human Services, Office of Inspector General



Dr. Hosein is a mathematical statistician in the Office of Evaluation and Inspections at the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (HHS OIG). In this position, she assists with data analysis; develops surveys; offers statistical guidance; and provides statistical training. In the past 12 years, she has worked with regional and headquarters staff to ensure that evaluation methods are efficient, rigorous and are in accordance with standards.

Dr. Hosein is committed to public service and actively supports diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) programs and initiatives. Within her organization, she co-chairs a Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup.

Specifically, her team helps to identify and develop tools and resources needed to successfully embed equity into evaluations. She also contributes to a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) led DEIA working group which focuses on advancing equity in oversight work.

Dr. Hosein is a graduate of the Excellence in Government Fellowship Program at the Partnership for Public Service. She holds a Ph.D. and a Master of Science in Biomathematics from North Carolina State University. She also received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Stony Brook University. In her free time, she loves traveling and spending time with her family.

BENJAMIN HOWE

Audit Manager, Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General



Benjamin Howe has worked in the Patient Care Service Division (52A05) of the VA's Office of the Inspector General since January 2009 and is an Audit Manager.

Prior to joining the VA OIG, he spent five years working at the Government Accountability Office in the agency's Boston field office. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in History and Spanish from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, and a Master's Degree in Public and International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh. He is a native of Manchester, NH, where he currently resides with his wife, Debbie, and his daughters, Alexandria and Amelia. He enjoys spending time with his family and being outdoors, especially skiing in the winter

KEVIN N. KING

Director, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Inspector General



Mr. King is the Director for Clean Water Investments with the Environmental Protection Agency where he is responsible for providing oversight of the \$11.7 billion in funds appropriated in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Prior to his work at EPA, he was an Audit Manager for the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Inspector General.

At Treasury OIG, Kevin worked in the CARES Act Directorate where he audited funds awarded to air carriers by Treasury in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, he worked in collaboration with the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee to monitor financial progress reports from the \$150 billion in Coronavirus Relief Funds awarded to 964 states, U.S. territories, Tribal governments, and local units of government. His audit work and monitoring efforts resulted in a 2021 CIGIE Audit Award for Excellence for Treasury OIG's excellence in carrying out its responsibilities under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Mr. King earned his MBA and BBA in Accounting from the University of Houston.

THOMAS MEIER, CIO CISM

Chief Information Officer, Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of the State Auditor



As CIO for the Office of the State Auditor, Tom has been focusing on AI systems, development and operations that support the organization's mandates. While technology plays a key role in this pursuit, planning, cyber security, agency collaboration, and communication take center stage. Our technology imperative is to create an ecosystem that supports intelligent audit stream processing using data analytics and AI. Our goal is to create a collaboration of agencies and processes that will make the data sharing process more efficient and improve the quality and velocity of audit reporting.

Before joining the OSA, Tom held executive management roles including VP of Technology Information Security in the private sector for a global manufacturer. He continues to advise at the Hydraulics Institute, co-authoring and editing technical publications around Industrial IoT devices and fluid management systems. His specialty is IoT cyber security and product development though he has worked as a senior technologist in finance and academia.

Member: I.E.E.E., ACM, HI, ISACA

EMILY PEDERSEN

Director, Internal Special Audit Unit, Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Emily Pedersen joined the OIG in November 2013 and was appointed to her current role in February 2019. At the Internal Special Audit Unit (ISAU) Emily oversees reviews and investigations to identify cost savings and opportunities for better process efficiencies, which improves transportation spending and operations.

Since joining the ISAU, Emily has led reviews of maintenance and construction contracts, contracts for privatized services, analyzed lost toll revenue from state employees and investigated disability placard abuse. The team's investigation of the misuse of disability placards received a Governor's Citation for Outstanding Performance.

Prior to joining the ISAU, Emily worked for the Office of Inspector General at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). For seven years, Emily proposed, planned and completed investigations, performance audits and compliance reviews across DHS.

Emily is a Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Inspector General Auditor with audit and investigative experience at both the state and federal levels. She holds a B.A. of Business Administration from James Madison University, where she graduated with a degree in International Business.

ERICH SCHUMANN

Chairman and CEO, Global Atlantic Partners LLC



Erich Schumann is the founding partner and CEO of Global Atlantic Partners LLC, and Global Atlantic Partners do Brasil Ltda and managing director of its Governance and Cyber Risk practices, which provides clients with the people and know how to identify, monitor and manage risks. Mr. Schumann is a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) as well as Certified in Risk and Information Security Controls (CRISC). He is an adjunct professor at Brandeis University's International Business School teaching three courses to graduate students (corporate governance, fraud prevention and detection, including Anti Money Laundering and cyber and operational risk management).

Mr. Schumann has more than 30 years of senior management experience in Europe, Asia, Latin America and North America. Prior to forming Global Atlantic Partners LLC, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer for FleetBoston Financial, formerly BankBoston, the seventh largest U.S. bank. Mr. Schumann has worked extensively in Germany, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Brazil and the U.S., holding numerous executive positions, including Chief Financial Officer, Chief Administrative Officer, Director International Audit, Leasing Division Head and Branch Manager.

Mr. Schumann is currently judge in the "Harvard Business School New Venture Competition" and the "MassChallenge start up incubator" competition.

He holds a master's degree in finance and a bachelor's degree from the University in Frankfurt, Germany. He also is a graduate of the Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program. Most recently Mr. Schumann certified in Blockchain technology, Metaverse and NFT development.

In addition to English Mr. Schumann is fluent in German and Portuguese and conversational in Spanish.

JEFFREY S. SHAPIRO

Inspector General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Jeffrey S. Shapiro was appointed Inspector General for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by then Governor Charlie Baker, Attorney General Maura Healey and Auditor Suzanne Bump on September 2, 2022, and was sworn-in to a five-year term on October 3, 2022. The Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General (OIG), was created in 1980 with the first Inspector General taking office in 1981 and is the first state level inspector general's office in the nation. Inspector General Shapiro is the Commonwealth's fifth inspector general. The OIG is an independent agency with an annual budget of over \$10 million and nearly 90 employees. With oversight for \$120 billion in municipal and state spending and the work of approximately 300,000 public employees, its mission is to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse in the use of public funds and property.

As such, Jeffrey is proactively building relationships with state and local officials to promote good government and to position the office as a resource. Additionally, he is expanding education and training for local government employees on proper procedures in public procurement, contract administration and governance. Under his leadership, the OIG has issued reports and reviews that address procurement practices, contract controls and management of a public transit agency and a large metropolitan school district; made recommendations to a small town and a housing authority on the need for strong oversight and internal controls; and sought repayment of funds fraudulently obtained through overtime fraud and a pandemic rental assistance program. To enhance OIG's oversight capabilities, he created the position of Director of Veterans' Services, a Healthcare Division and additional leadership roles in several divisions to expand the agencies' ability to follow up on prior audits, reviews, letters and monitor post-audit performance.

Prior to his appointment as Inspector General, Jeffrey was the First Deputy Comptroller of the Commonwealth. In this role he was a leader in helping to prepare the agency for the future as an early member of the multi-year team focused on moving the Commonwealth from its legacy enterprise financial system to a modern system; empowered leadership to rethink business processes to incorporate technology; focused on enhancing efforts around cybersecurity, business continuity and knowledge transfer; played an active role positioning the office to provide uninterrupted payroll and payment services throughout the pandemic; and played a leadership role ensuring that the Commonwealth had available financial resources during the early days of the pandemic when such items as personal protective equipment were scarce due to international supply chain limitations. A collaborative and results-oriented executive, Jeffrey has devoted his career to public service. He is known as a fair and open-minded public administrator who leads by example. For over 30 years, he has served in various legal, administrative and fiscal roles in the Middlesex District Attorney's Office and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. Earlier in his career, Jeffrey served as a legislative assistant on both Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, and on Beacon Hill in Boston.

A Needham High School graduate, Jeffrey earned his Juris Doctor from Suffolk Law School and a Bachelor of Arts from Brandeis University. He is a member of the Massachusetts bar and earned his Certified Inspector General designation from the Association of Inspectors General. He is a former elected Needham Town Meeting Member. Jeffrey and his wife, Lisa, live in Needham, where they raised their two adult sons.

MEG SPERANZA

Resiliency Program Manager, MassCyberCenter



Meg Speranza is the Resiliency Program Manager at the MassCyberCenter at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. She is responsible for improving the collaboration, transparency, and effectiveness of the Massachusetts cybersecurity ecosystem in order to foster 'cyber resiliency' across the Commonwealth's key institutions and systems, including municipalities, businesses, critical infrastructure, and non-profit organizations.

She works with the Center's leaders and advisory boards to develop robust programs that help drive 'Civil Defense for the 21st Century' in the cybersecurity space.

Prior to joining the MassCyberCenter, Meg had a successful 25-year business career in Massachusetts, managing product development for several global high-tech companies, owning and operating a small retail business in Hopkinton, MA, and overseeing educational fundraising before pursuing a career in cybersecurity.

She holds a B.S. in Business Management from Babson College and a Master's degree in Cybersecurity Policy and Governance from Boston College.

COLIN SULLIVAN

Senior Auditor, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General



Mr. Sullivan has been an Auditor with the Federal Government for almost 20 years. He began his career with the HUD OIG in May 2003 and then transferred to the DHS OIG in December 2005 before returning to the HUD OIG in March 2010. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and received the 2019 CIGIE Award for Excellence in Multi Discipline Work for efforts related to an audit of HUD's 232 Nursing Home Program.

MANUEL VALVERDE

Senior Analyst, U.S. GAO, Education, Workforce and Income Security



Manuel Valverde is a Senior Analyst in GAO’s Education, Workforce, and Income Security (EWIS) Team. Manuel has primarily focused on civil rights issues in K-12 education, including examining hostile behaviors and physical inaccessibility in public schools. Manuel also has experience in disaster assistance and higher education issues. In addition to leading studies, Manuel helped developed EWIS’ Guide to Implementing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEI&A) Audit Activities and has facilitated team building session with a DEI&A focus. Manuel serves as a coordinator for EWIS’ DEI&A Committee.

Prior to coming to GAO, Manuel served as a crisis counselor for the National Sexual Assault Hotline. He was also a Global Ties Fellow and helped implemented the Department of State’s International Visitors Leadership Program. Manuel earned his Master’s in Public Policy, focused on social policy, from American University’s School of Public Affairs. He graduated from Occidental College with a Bachelors in Diplomacy and World Affairs and French Literature in 2012.