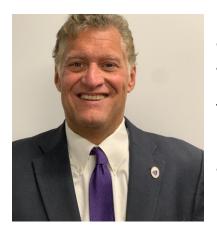# INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUDIT FORUMS

SPEAKER BIOS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

GEORGE ANASTOS

Principal Analyst
Massachusetts Office of the Comptroller

Mr. Anastos is the Principal Analyst at the Massachusetts Office of the Comptroller. He provides strategic guidance and consultation to the 156 Commonwealth agencies on risk management, internal controls, financial analysis, etc. to ensure policy compliance and best business practices. He has authored and presented many sessions on Risk Management, Fraud Awareness, Data Analytics and Cybersecurity training for government financial managers.

SEAN BURPOE

Data Division Deputy Director
Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General

Sean Burpoe was appointed Deputy Director of the Data Analytics division in February 2023. In his role, he assists with the development of data management processes and standards and coordination of the data analysis needs of the office.

Prior to joining the OIG, Sean held positions in both government and consulting. He previously worked as a Manager on the Data Strategy team at MassHealth, Massachusetts's Medicaid agency, where he supported the organization's Data & Analytics modernization efforts. Prior to that, he managed COVID-19 testing and vaccine projects and provided data reporting and dashboards for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. In his consulting work, Sean was an Associate Director at Social Finance where he managed data-centric projects with public and non-profit sector clients.

Sean earned a B.A. in Economics with a Minor in Mathematics from Boston College.

THOMAS CESSO

Risk and Compliance Lead
Massachusetts Office of the Comptroller

Thomas Cesso is the Risk and Compliance Lead at the Massachusetts Office of the Comptroller. He provides leadership, facilitation, analysis, and design expertise to ensure that new business protocols, procedures, and software configuration of the solution will support the Commonwealth's fiscal laws, regulations, and policies. Tom also supports the analysis of new business software and procedures to ensure they are in alignment with industry best practices and are compliant with the Commonwealth's fiscal laws. This involves work on identifying and mitigating risk across all business functions.

ASHLEY LINDEMANN

Senior Data Analyst
Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General

Ashley Lindemann is a Senior Data Analyst and joined the Massachusetts OIG's Data Analytics division in January 2023. Prior to her current role, Ashley worked as a data analytics fraud examiner for the Bureau of Special Investigations at the Office of the State Auditor and began her career working for the Chicago Housing Authority OIG as an analyst/auditor for five years. Through these roles, Ashley has gained a passion for leveraging data to develop investigative leads and provide recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of agency operations.

THOMAS MEIER, CIO CISM

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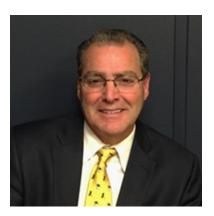**Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of the State Auditor**

As CIO for the Office of the State Auditor, Tom has been focusing on AI systems, development and operations supporting agency 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 emergent technologies like AI. Our goal is to create a collaboration of agencies and processes that will make the data sharing and analysis process more efficient while improving the quality and velocity of audit reporting.

Before joining the OSA, Tom held executive management roles including VP of Information Technology and Information Security Program Director in the private sector. He continues to lecture at the Hydraulics Institute, co-authoring and editing technical publications around Industrial IoT devices and fluid management systems that use machine learning. His specialty is IoT cyber security and product development though he has also held senior technology roles in finance and academia.
Member: I.E.E.E., ACM, HI, ISACA

PETER SCAVOTTO

Assistant Comptroller
Massachusetts Office of the Comptroller

Peter Scavotto is the Assistant Comptroller for Risk at the Massachusetts Office of the Comptroller. His state service includes stints as Finance Director for the State 911 Department, Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Environmental Management, and Manager of Statewide Payroll for the Office of the Comptroller.

STERLING THOMAS, PH.D.

Chief Scientist
Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics
United States Government Accountability Office

Dr. Sterling Thomas is GAO's Chief Scientist in Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics.

Prior to joining GAO, he was the Chief Scientist at Noblis, a Reston, VA based research institute overseeing their applied research programs for the past 13 years. Sterling has also served as a principal investigator for research programs funded by the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, and Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity. His work has included creating new methods regarding synthetic biology, strategies for decoupling qubits for improving error correction in quantum computing, methods for using artificial intelligence to detect decentralized coordinated cyber-attacks, and network-based optimization algorithms to detect abnormalities in public equities markets.

He also worked with the institute's executive council to develop their five- and ten-year research strategy. Sterling also served as the Deputy Chief Technology Officer and collaborated with the institute's professional development department to create data science and cyber analytics training programs in partnership with George Mason University (GMU) and George Washington University. Additionally, he is an adjunct professor at GMU, sits on the Dean's Advisory Board at GMU's College of Engineering and Computing, along with sitting on Virginia Commonwealth University's Center for Biological Data Science Advisory Board.

Sterling's contributions have been recognized across industry including by Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers for best paper utilizing machine learning methods in detecting breast cancer, and at his former institute where he received the Science and Technology Achievement award. He has also been awarded four patents and has multiple pending patent applications. Sterling earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Integrated Life Sciences from VCU, a Master of Business Administration from Columbia University, and Bachelor of Science from Old Dominion University.