



Speaker Bios

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NIAF National Intergovernmental Audit Forum

THE HONORABLE GENE L. DODARO

**Comptroller General of the United States and
Head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**



Gene L. Dodaro became the eighth Comptroller General of the United States and head of the U.S. 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 continues to develop GAO's efforts to meet the needs of Congress in such areas as science, technology and cybersecurity.

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 service.

ORICE WILLIAMS BROWN

Chief Operating Officer

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)



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 agency 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. She also co-led GAO's oversight of the federal response to the pandemic.

Prior to this position, Orice was the Managing Director in the Financial Markets and Community Investment Team from 2011 to 2017. In addition to managing the Team, Ms. Brown has been responsible for leading numerous engagements on a variety of cross-cutting public policy issues in the financial services industry. Her portfolio of work was concentrated in banking, securities, futures, and insurance issues. She has produced numerous reports and led a wide variety of efforts involving financial regulatory oversight, agency operations and management, consumer/investor protection, diversity management, flood insurance, and Treasury's Troubled Asset Relief Program. She also co-led GAO's effort to identify duplication, overlap, and fragmentation and cost savings in government. 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 from Virginia Tech.

FATIMA ABBAS

**Director, Office of Tribal & Native Affairs
U.S. Department of Treasury**



Fatima Abbas currently serves as the first Director of the new Office of Tribal and Native Affairs within the Department of Treasury. She leads a team of four that work on advising Treasury offices and bureaus on a range of Tribal matters. Fatima is also the Designated Federal Officer for the Treasury Tribal Advisory Committee which advises the Secretary on matters involving Tribal tax issues. During her service at Treasury, Fatima has worked on the implementation of \$30 billion in economic recovery set asides to 700 Tribal Nations and Native entities. Fatima also worked on Treasury's issuance of two historic proposed rules regarding non-taxable support to Tribal families and recognition that wholly owned

Tribal businesses are not subject to income tax—an issue that had been pending for thirty years.

Prior to Treasury, Fatima was the Vice President of Government Relations at the National Congress of American Indians where she worked on congressional and executive branch matters that involved Tribal policy issues. Prior to NCAI, Fatima served Tribal governments in-house as the Karuk Tribe's first General Counsel and the Colorado River Indian Tribes' Deputy Attorney General and worked as a commercial litigator for a large law firm in her hometown of Philadelphia. Fatima is a graduate of Berkeley Law School and is an enrolled citizen of the Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe.

KRISTEN BERNARD

Deputy Inspector General for Audits

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General



Kristen Bernard has over 25 years' experience helping the federal government leverage secure technology to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of mission programs and operations. Ms. Bernard joined Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Inspector General in 2006 after a 10-year private sector career helping clients improve technology to support mission goals. Ms. Bernard is currently the Deputy Inspector General for Audits, responsible for directing a vast portfolio of cybersecurity, law enforcement, terrorism, and disaster management audits. Ms.

Bernard was formerly the Assistant Inspector General for IT Audits, where she helped DHS reduce IT security weaknesses before exploitation.

JAMES-CHRISTIAN BLOCKWOOD

Incoming President and CEO

The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA)



James-Christian Blockwood was recently appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Academy of Public Administration and will begin leading the organization in January 2025. The Academy is a congressionally chartered nonpartisan, nonprofit that helps leaders build more effective, efficient, accountable and transparent organizations. Most recently he was Executive Vice President at the Partnership for Public Service where he helped with overall strategy and management of the organization, and oversaw its programs dedicated improving the federal government. He is deeply committed to nonpartisanship and organizational excellence and 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, intelligence, 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.

Blockwood is also an adjunct professor at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. James-Christian Blockwood received an MBA from Johns Hopkins University, a M.A. in Government from Johns Hopkins University, a M.S. of Strategic Intelligence from the National Defense Intelligence College, and B.A. in International Relations from Tufts University.

DAVID BRAY, PH.D.

Principal, LeadDoAdapt Ventures, Inc.

Chair of the Accelerator & Distinguished Fellow

Henry S. Stimson Center, Business Executives for National Security



Dr. David A. Bray is a Distinguished Fellow and Chair of the Accelerator with the Alfred Lee Loomis Innovation Council at the non-partisan Henry L. Stimson Center. He is also a non-resident Distinguished Fellow with the Business Executives for National Security, and a CEO and transformation leader for different “under the radar” tech and data ventures seeking to get started in novel situations.

He is Principal at LeadDoAdapt Ventures and has served in a variety of leadership roles in turbulent environments, including bioterrorism preparedness and response from 2000-2005. Dr. Bray previously was the Executive Director for a bipartisan National Commission on R&D, provided non-partisan leadership as a federal agency Senior Executive, worked with the U.S. Navy and Marines on improving organizational adaptability, and aided U.S. Special Operation Command’s J5 Directorate on the challenges of countering disinformation online.

He has received both the Joint Civilian Service Commendation Award and the National Intelligence Exceptional Achievement Medal. David accepted a leadership role in December 2019 to direct the successful bipartisan Commission on the Geopolitical Impacts of New Technologies and Data that included Senator Mark Warner, Senator Rob Portman, Rep. Suzan DelBene, and Rep. Michael McCaul.

From 2017 to the start of 2020, David also served as Executive Director for the People-Centered Internet coalition Chaired by Internet co-originator Vint Cerf and was named a Senior Fellow with the Institute for Human-Machine Cognition starting in 2018. Business Insider named him one of the top “24 Americans Who Are Changing the World” under 40 and he was named a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum. For twelve different startups, he has served as President, CEO, Chief Strategy Officer, and Strategic Advisor roles.

SANDRA D. BRUCE

Inspector General

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



Sandra D. Bruce was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Education on December 2, 2021. Inspector General 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. Inspector General Bruce joined the Office of Inspector General (OIG) in 2014 as Deputy Inspector General and has led the office since 2018 when Inspector General Kathleen S. Tighe retired.

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 Office of Inspector General 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, and an Exceptional Performance Award. She is also 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). Bruce also serves as chair of the CIGIE Employee Engagement and Innovation Committee and is a member of the CIGIE Audit Committee and CIGIE Information Technology Committee.

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.

MARISOL CRUZ CAIN

**Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**



Marisol Cruz Cain is a Director in GAO's Information Technology and Cybersecurity team. She oversees work on federal cybersecurity and privacy issues, including the National Cybersecurity Strategy and specific agencies' ability to protect privacy, sensitive data, and the computing infrastructure. In addition, she is a Diversity Champion participating in efforts to increase diversity at GAO and facilitating multiple Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion courses.

Marisol joined GAO in 2005. Over her career, she has led audits on government-wide cybersecurity, privacy, and information management issues, including reviews of agency use of Login.gov, efficiency of federal privacy programs, the implementation of cybersecurity risk management practices, threat information sharing within critical information protection sectors, and the transition to electronic records. She has also led reviews of cybersecurity and IT management/operations at specific agencies, including the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, and Federal Student Aid.

Marisol graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, University at Albany with a master's degree in public administration concentrating in information policy, and University of Maryland University College with a master's in information assurance. Marisol also holds many professional certifications, including the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), Certified Information Privacy Professional/United States (CIPP/US), CIPP/G, and Chief Information Officer (CIO) Certificate

RENEE S. CAPUTO

**Chief Human Capital Officer
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**



Renee Caputo is the Chief Human Capital Officer for the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Renee joined the GAO in January 2016, serving initially as the Deputy Chief Human Capital Officer before being appointed as the CHCO in October 2019. In her current and prior roles, she has delivered human capital solutions that effectively support the agency's mission. At GAO, she has led key changes for the Agency, including improving the simplicity and predictability of performance-based compensation and enhancing workplace flexibility offerings.

Prior to joining GAO, Renee served as the Director of Human Capital for the Office of Inspector General (OIG) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this role, she led recruiting and staffing, performance and recognition, benefits, and executive resources. Renee led the Human Capital team as the OIG re-ignited hiring efforts following a multi-year hiring freeze, rebuilt the human capital team's operational capabilities and established performance measures.

Prior to joining HHS OIG, Renee held various leadership positions at the Department of Justice, Criminal Division, focused on delivering timely and effective operational support for functions including human capital, training and development, information technology, and international and domestic detail assignments.

Renee earned her Master's degree in Speech Communication from Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas and her Bachelor's degree in Communication from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. She is also certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR by HRCI) and Senior Certified Professional (SCP by SHRM).

HEATHER DUNAHOO

**Assistant Director, Forensic Audits & Investigative Service
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**



Heather Dunahoo is an Assistant Director at the U.S. GAO where she guides engagements aimed at helping estimate, prevent, and detect fraud, waste, and abuse across the government. Heather earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from Virginia Tech.

STEPHEN FLAHERTY

Director of Audits

San Francisco Department of Police Accountability



Steve Flaherty is the Director of Audits for the San Francisco Department of Police Accountability (DPA). In this role, Steve has conducted audits of police use of force, investigations involving First Amendment activities, and the handling of police misconduct and discipline. Prior to joining DPA as the department's first audit hire, Steve was an Associate Director for the City and County of San Francisco's Office of the Controller's City Services Auditor. Steve began his career with the Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General. Steve holds a BA in Business-Economics from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and is a Certified Public Accountant (inactive), Certified Internal Auditor, and Certified Fraud Examiner.

JOSHUA C. GALLION

State Auditor

North Dakota State Auditor's Office



Josh was elected as North Dakota's 17th State Auditor in November 2016. He prioritizes transparency in government by making audit reports accessible to the public. Under his leadership, the Auditor's Office has identified intentional misspending across all levels of government and has received national awards for audit excellence.

In addition to his past service in the U.S. Air Force, he also holds degrees in accounting and business administration. Josh has over 15 years of public service serving in leadership capacities for the state of North Dakota and is actively involved in volunteering in the community.

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 2011. Connecticut is the only state with a bipartisan audit office.

Geragosian partnered with Connecticut's other state auditors to increase the office's interaction with the legislature as it enacted public policy. In 2018, it passed a law based on three audits that changed 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) non-emergency transportation program. The audit contained 59 recommendations to improve the program and ensure the state received its contracted

services. As a result, DSS renegotiated its vendor agreement and changed policies and procedures to address nearly all audit recommendations.

Geragosian was National State Auditors Association (NSAA) president from June of 2022 until June of 2023.

In 2024, the NASACT membership elected Geragosian Second Vice President of the NASACT Executive Committee. He also received the NASACT President's Award in 2023. The award recognized his efforts as NSAA president and role in the association's efforts to improve cooperation with federal agencies and officials as state auditors had greater oversight of pandemic and other federal funds.

Prior to his appointment as state auditor, John served in the Connecticut House of Representatives for 16 years. In 2010, the Speaker of the House appointed him chair of the Appropriations Committee.

ALFREDO GÓMEZ

**Director, Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**



Alfredo Gómez serves as a Director in the Natural Resources and Environment team of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). He manages the team's work in environmental protection and climate change issues. His portfolio includes, for example, work in cleanup of hazardous substances, drinking and clean water issues, ecosystem restoration, management of toxic chemicals, and climate resilience. Mr. Gómez has produced numerous reports and congressional testimonies addressing a wide range of environmental, natural resource and agency management issues. Mr. Gómez began his GAO career in the Chicago Regional Office in 1991, working on environmental protection issues. He left GAO to work for the Honolulu City Council

where he audited local government agencies, and subsequently returned to GAO in 1998. He has represented GAO in the INTOSAI Working Group for Environmental Auditing for over 10 years. He holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Rice University and a master's degree in public policy studies from the Harris School at the University of Chicago.

JOHN HAGG

Assistant Inspector General

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General



John Hagg graduated from the University of Dayton, located in Dayton, Ohio, in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. Upon graduation, he began his career with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of Inspector General (OIG) as an auditor in the Boston, Massachusetts Regional Office. Later, he transferred to the DHHS/OIG Columbus, Ohio Field Office where he served as a Senior Auditor responsible for health care audits. In November 1999, he was promoted to Audit Manager at the DHHS/OIG Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Audits

located in Baltimore, Maryland. Since April 2004, John has served as the Director of Medicaid Audits and is responsible for audits of the Medicaid and CHIP programs.

During his career, he has received awards in recognition of substantial audit contributions and has also received letters of appreciation citing excellence in audit performance. In 1999, he received the Inspector General's Excellence in Financial Management Award for identifying a \$25.3 million Medicaid account receivable resulting from overpayments involving hospitals and long-term care facilities in one State. In 2001, John received the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service for outstanding accomplishments in addressing concerns involving States' use of upper payment limits that threatened the stability of the Medicaid program. In 2002, John was awarded the Inspector General's Bronze Medal for Outstanding Employee of the Year. John is originally from the State of West Virginia. He has been married for sixteen years and is the proud father of two children.

JAMES HODGE

Deputy Inspector General for Audits

Federal Housing Finance Agency, Office of Inspector General



James Hodge is the Deputy Inspector General for Audits at the Federal Housing Finance Agency Office of Inspector General where he spearheads all audit activities that promote the integrity, effectiveness, and economy in the agency's programs and helps safeguard them against fraud, waste, and abuse. His distinguished career in the public sector spans over 15 years and has been dedicated to fostering financial accountability and operational excellence, most notably demonstrated in his prior capacity as Director of Financial Statement Audits at the Department of the Treasury Office of Inspector General. Prior to joining the federal government, Mr. Hodge was a trusted advisor to federal entities during his time with

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in their Federal practice (now Guidehouse).

He tackled complex organizational challenges and provided expertise in risk management, financial and program management, operations improvement, and security and data management. As an advocate for the accounting and auditing profession, Mr. Hodge holds several leadership roles in prestigious organizations such as the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA). He also shares his expansive knowledge and experience as an adjunct professor of upper-level and graduate accounting courses at colleges and universities in the D.C. metro area. Understanding the importance of helping those with limited access to educational resources, he dedicates time to the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to assist low-income families through tax preparation and financial literacy services.

DEBORAH JENKINS

**City Internal Auditor
City of Bowling Green**



Deborah Jenkins was appointed as the City's first Internal Auditor in June 2006 to provide independent and objective review of the City's risk management, internal control and governance processes to improve efficiency of procedures, effectiveness of operations and aid in preventing fraud, waste, or abuse. Mrs. Jenkins also administers and conducts investigations reported to the City's Employee Ethics Hotline. Mrs. Jenkins is a graduate of Bowling Green High School and Western Kentucky University earning a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. She is a Certified Internal Auditor, Certified

Fraud Examiner and Certified Government Audit Professional. Prior to working for the City, she worked as a Legislative Auditor for the State of Tennessee's Office of the Comptroller as well as accounting positions at locally owned businesses within Bowling Green. Mrs. Jenkins is active with the Association of Local Government Auditors and currently serves on their Board of Directors.

She is married to Craig Jenkins and has three children. She enjoys camping and visiting as many national and state parks as possible.

BETH KILLORAN

Chief Information Officer

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)



As GAO's Chief Operating Officer, Orice Williams Brown Beth Killoran is the Government Accountability Office CIO, where she is charged with establishing an agency-wide technology that ensures effective information security and privacy controls, system interoperability, and information sharing.

Prior to GAO, she served as the GSA deputy CIO for four years. She held the position of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services CIO for three years and before that was executive director of the HHS Office of IT Strategy, Policy and Governance. She also worked in various IT positions at U.S. Department of Homeland Security for 11 years and U.S. Department of Treasury for 9 years.

KRISTEN KOCIOLEK

**Managing Director, Financial Management and Assurance Team
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**



Kristen Kociolek is the Managing Director of GAO's Financial Management and Assurance team. The team supports Congress by conducting financial audits of various federal entities and the U.S. government; maintaining federal auditing and internal control standards; and reporting on issues such as government-wide improper payments, federal data transparency, federal financial systems, and financial management concerns at the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, and various other federal entities.

Kristen joined GAO in 2002 and has led large, complex financial audits, including those of the SEC and FDIC. She also led the 2018 revision of Government Auditing Standards (Yellow Book) and the 2014 revision of Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government (Green Book). More recently, Kristen led performance audits on DOD financial management issues including audits of DOD's F-35 program, government assets held by DOD contractors, and the valuation of DOD assets provided to Ukraine.

Prior to joining GAO, Kristen was an audit manager at Ernst & Young where her work focused on audits of state and local governments. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and has served on AICPA's Auditing Standards Board and Government Performance and Accountability Committee. Kristen earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Elizabethtown College and is a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Government Financial Manager.

KENNAN KONOPASKI

Legislative Auditor (Retired)

Washington State Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee



During his 32 years in public service, Keenan Konopaski led Washington State's Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) as Legislative Auditor from 2011 to 2023. He fostered a culture of excellence to carry out JLARC's mission of providing independent, objective, and credible answers to questions about government performance. He improved the efficiency and effectiveness of state government. State agencies implemented over 90% of the 175 recommendations issued under his leadership. These recommendations span nearly every facet of state government and included some of the most pressing issues faced by the Legislature.

Keenan led JLARC in developing one of the nation's first state-level systematic reviews of tax preferences, led JLARC's shift to producing online reports that feature interactive tools, and led JLARC in implementing its mandate to include racial equity analyses in its audits. Keenan was a past Chair of the Pacific Northwest Intergovernmental Auditor Forum, and an active member of the National Conference of State Legislatures program evaluation society. He holds a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Whitman College.

Since retiring from state service, Keenan taught as an adjunct faculty member at The Evergreen State College and St. Martin's University.

Keenan and his wife (who worked as an executive branch agency director) are the proud parents of two adult children and two grandkids—all of whom have been subjected to numerous dinner table conversations on government and public policy.

PAT MCCARTHY

Washington State Auditor and President-Elect, National State Auditors Association (NSAA)



Pat McCarthy is the president-elect of the National State Auditor's Association. In 2017, she became the 11th Washington State Auditor, the first woman elected to the position. Pat leads more than 450 employees based in 15 offices across the state, conducting about 2,400 audits a year.

Previously, Pat was elected as the executive of Washington's second-most populous county, Pierce. She was also the first woman to hold that role. Over more than 30 years in public service, Pat has served as a county auditor and deputy auditor, and Board President for the Tacoma School District.

REGINALD MITCHELL

Chief Financial Officer

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)



Reginald W. Mitchell is the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), a position he has held for the past decade. Mr. Mitchell is responsible for the accounting and financial reporting functions of USAID. He directs the daily operations of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and provides technical financial leadership to USAID's overseas offices. Mr. Mitchell is the President-elect of the International Consortium on Governmental Financial Management, as well as represents USAID at the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions Donor Cooperation and the International Federation of Accountants Donor Cooperation. Prior to joining USAID, Mr. Mitchell held

several senior executive financial leadership positions with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Mr. Mitchell is also a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

JASLEEN MODI

**Assistant Director, Health Care Team
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**

Jasleen Modi is an assistant director with Health Care team at the US Government Accountability Office (GAO). She has over 15 years of experience conducting program audits for a variety of federal health care programs including Medicaid, the Indian Health Service, DOD health care as well as a variety of federal public health efforts including federal oversight of high-risk research. In her work across multiple health care portfolios, she has provided policymakers with high quality information on the effectiveness and efficiency of federal health care programs.

Jasleen holds a JD and MPH from the University of Iowa, and a BA from the University of Minnesota. executive financial leadership positions with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

ANNA MARIA ORTIZ

Director
Natural Resources & Environment
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)



Anna Maria Ortiz is a Director in GAO's Natural Resources and Environment team. She oversees GAO's portfolio focused on Native American and Tribal issues, identifying opportunities to improve the function and financial efficacy of federal programs that serve Tribes and their members. Since 2019, Dr. Ortiz has worked to enhance GAO's capacity for working with federally recognized Tribes and to mitigate systemic barriers Tribes face in accessing federal funding. She has led reviews on a diverse range of tribal issues, including trust fund administration, climate resilience, COVID-19 relief funding, and protection of cultural resources. Further, Dr. Ortiz

collaborates throughout GAO on reviews of federal programs for Tribes in health, education, energy, justice, child welfare, infrastructure, and economic development. She is an adjunct faculty member and certified diversity facilitator with GAO's Learning Center and has received multiple awards for her teaching and service to GAO. In 2020, Dr. Ortiz was awarded a Flemming Award for exemplary federal employees in recognition of her sustained commitment to methodological rigor and cross-disciplinary collaboration, and potential for continued excellence.

Dr. Ortiz earned her Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in political science from the University of Michigan, and a bachelor's degree in political economy from Princeton University. Before joining GAO as a senior statistician in 2005, she was a civil rights analyst at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and a study director at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

JENNIFER PARISIEN

**Policy Advisor, Office of Tribal & Native Affairs
U.S. Department of Treasury**



Jennifer Parisien is currently a Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Treasury within the Office of Tribal and Native Affairs. In her role, she works on audit and compliance policy, advises on specific tribal issues, and works on Single Audit Act implementation and yearly compliance policy initiatives. Previously, Parisien was a Relationship Manager at FS Advisors, a Native American-owned financial advisory firm, where her primary role was to assist tribal governments with project development, grant management, and financial management. Parisien was also a financial management policy analyst at the Native American Finance Officers Association, where she advocated for tribal inclusion in the areas of accounting, finance, and economic development. Parisien is a member of the

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. She is a graduate of Minnesota State University with a BS in Finance, and she holds a MS in Finance from the Carey Business School at Johns Hopkins University.

QUINN PERALTA

**IT Security Assistant Audit Manager
Office of the Washington State Auditor**



Quinn Peralta is an IT Security Assistant Audit Manager at the Washington State Auditor's Office. She conducts and supervises cybersecurity performance audits at state agencies and local governments to help improve their cybersecurity posture. Before joining the State Auditor's Office, Quinn worked in the aerospace industry as an IT Helpdesk analyst and at Apple as a technician. Quinn graduated in 2018 from the University of Washington, Tacoma, with a bachelor's in information technology, and she earned a master's in Cybersecurity and Leadership in 2020. More recently, Quinn earned a Certified Information Systems Security Professional certificate from ISC².

R. KINNEY POYNTER, CPA

Executive Director

National Association of State Auditors Comptrollers and Treasurers (NASACT)



Kinney Poynter is the Executive Director for the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers (NASACT). In this capacity, he is responsible for the overall operations of NASACT as well as the programs of the National Association of State Comptrollers and National State Auditors Association. NASACT is a professional organization that facilitates efforts to improve state government transparency, accountability, and financial management. Kinney has been with NASACT since 1989, previously serving as the association's Deputy Director and various other positions.

In addition to his experience with NASACT, he has been a partner of a local public accounting firm in Lexington, Kentucky, and a principal auditor with the Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts, where he conducted financial, performance, and investigative audits on state agencies and local governments. While in public practice, he performed single audits on various nonprofit organizations.

Kinney has BS and MS degrees in accounting from the University of Kentucky and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). He previously served on the AICPA Governing Council. He is also a member of the Kentucky Society of Certified Public Accountants, where he has served as chairman of the Governmental Accounting Committee. Kinney has served as an instructor domestically and internationally on a variety of governmental accounting and auditing issues.

MARK PRIEBE

Director

Non-Federal Audit Team

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



Mark Priebe is an accomplished audit and compliance professional with a distinguished career in federal oversight and financial accountability. As the Director of the Non-Federal Audit Team and National Single Audit Coordinator at the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Inspector General (OIG), Mark plays a crucial role in ensuring audit quality and regulatory compliance across non-Federal entities. His work includes developing audit guides, reviewing complex reports, conducting training sessions, and serving as a liaison with auditors and professional bodies to promote rigorous standards and accountability. Additionally, Mark is the co-chair of the Listening Post, a bi-monthly meeting series that gathers federal, state, and other stakeholders to discuss key audit and compliance matters.

Mark's leadership was instrumental in creating guidance for emergency aid programs, including the CARES Act, CRSSA, and ARP, ensuring transparent and effective oversight during critical times. He is known for representing the OIG's positions across forums and engaging with external stakeholders to advance audit quality.

Before joining the Department of Education, Mark was a Senior Auditor at HUD's Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC), where he conducted quality control reviews and operational audits of public housing entities. His contributions included providing strategic recommendations that strengthened financial accountability and operational efficiencies, including a notable project that restored stability to a large housing authority facing financial challenges.

With a strong foundation in federal financial management, a Certified Fraud Examiner designation, and advanced degrees in Public Accounting, Mark is committed to upholding the highest standards in government auditing and regulatory compliance. His professional reputation is built on analytical precision, leadership, and an unwavering dedication to audit excellence.

STEPHEN SANFORD

**Managing Director, Strategic Planning and External Liaison
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**



Stephen Sanford is the Managing Director in GAO's Strategic Planning and External Liaison team. He helps GAO strategically plan for the future, lead external relations with domestic and international accountability partners, and drive agency-wide innovation and transformation.

He also oversees the activities of the GAO Center for Audit Excellence and is Director of GAO's Center for Strategic Foresight.

Stephen joined GAO in 2009. He has led efforts to develop 3 agency strategic plans, supported GAO's bilateral and multilateral international relations with national governments and international organizations, and helped lead GAO's first technology assessment on artificial intelligence. In recognition of his work, he has received a GAO Distinguished Service Award and a GAO Meritorious Service Award.

Prior to GAO, he advised executives on technology and business process improvement at multinational firms in London, Paris, and Brussels. He was also responsible for science and technology policy issues at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Pennsylvania. He earned a master's degree in business administration with distinction from INSEAD in France.

KATHERINE (KATE) SIGGERUD

**Director, Center for Audit Excellence
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**



Katherine (Kate) Siggerud is the Director of the Center for Audit Excellence, an organization at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Its mission is to build institutional auditing capacity and promote good governance by providing high quality training, technical assistance, and related services to domestic and international accountability organizations.

Before retiring from GAO and directing the Center, Ms. Siggerud had a 34-year career at GAO, including serving as the Chief Operating Officer for GAO, assisting the Comptroller General in providing leadership and vision for the organization. She was responsible for day-to-day management to ensure that GAO effectively supported Congress in meeting its constitutional responsibilities. Ms. Siggerud oversaw the development of hundreds of reports and testimonies to Congress each year. Ms. Siggerud also served in other executive positions, including as GAO's Managing Director for Congressional Relations, and the Managing Director of GAO's Physical Infrastructure Team. During her career Ms. Siggerud testified regularly before Congress made numerous media appearances to discuss GAO's work.

She received several awards from GAO, including the Comptroller General's award, and Distinguished Alumni Awards from the University of Minnesota and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. She is a National Academy of Public Administration Fellow. Ms. Siggerud received a Master of Arts degree from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota.

JARED SMITH

**Director, Center for Statistics and Data Analysis, Applied Research and Methods
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**



Jared Smith is GAO's Chief Statistician and the Director of the Center for Statistics and Data Analysis within the Applied Research and Methods team. Jared oversees a group of specialists who work to enhance GAO engagements through the use of statistics and data analytics.

Jared joined GAO in February 2021. Prior to joining GAO, Jared oversaw the application of statistical methods by auditors and investigators at the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General. Jared earned a doctorate degree in psychology from the University of California, Irvine, with a focus on the development of statistical models of human cognition. Jared earned a Juris Doctor

degree from George Washington University Law School.

CORRIE STOKES

City Auditor
City of Austin, Texas



Corrie Stokes is the City Auditor in Austin, Texas. Since joining the City of Austin in 1999, Corrie has had the opportunity to evaluate most areas of City operations. She was appointed as City Auditor by the Austin City Council in 2015. Corrie has delivered trainings and presentations on auditing fundamentals, peer review, fraud consideration, and various audit analysis tools. Corrie is a self-professed nerd, and is particularly nerdy about auditing, maps, and local history.

Corrie is a member of the Comptroller General's Domestic Working Group and Yellow Book Advisory Council. She is also a past president of the Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA), serves as chair of ALGA's Peer Review Committee, and is on the executive committee of the Southwest Intergovernmental Audit Forum. She is a Certified Internal Auditor, Certified Government Auditing Professional, and Certified Fraud Examiner. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies from Trinity University and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas.

STERLING THOMAS, PH.D.

**Chief Scientist, Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**



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.

JOSEPH DEAN THOMPSON

**Assistant Director, Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**



Joe Thompson is an Assistant Director in GAO's Natural Resources and Environment team. He coordinates GAO's climate change work and has been at GAO for 21 years. Joe has a BS in environmental policy from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Most of Joe's free time is spent playing with his 5-year-old daughter, Audra, and volunteering for local government. For more information, see [linkedin.com/in/josephdeanthompson](https://www.linkedin.com/in/josephdeanthompson).

M. MORNING F. WASHBURN

**Domestic Relations Director, Strategic Planning and External Liaison
U.S. Government Accountability Office**



Morning Washburn joined the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) in May of 2022 and serves as the Director of Domestic Relations. Her team manages GAO's relationship with the federal, state, and local auditing community and works to increase dialogue and collaboration across government. Prior to joining GAO, she served as the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Director of Strategic Alliances during the COVID pandemic and managed SBA's National Small Business Week event.

Throughout her 18 years of government service, Morning has managed communications and partnerships across government. At the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, she focused on campaign development and leading communications for their Office of Servicemember Affairs. For the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC), she co-managed administration of the FCC's social media sites, led image production, and managed events. She designed the FCC's Broadband Consumer Label which internet service providers began using in 2024. With the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Morning led traditional and new media communications and partnerships for their Powering Agriculture program. She began her career in government as a Presidential Management Fellow at the Department of Energy and later as an Energy Specialist at USAID, working on renewable and electrical grid related projects.

Morning has a Master's degree in Social Science from the University of Chicago, and a Bachelor's degree in Earth Science from Dartmouth College.

JOSH WINFREY

Deputy Executive Director

National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers (NASACT)



Josh Winfrey is the Deputy Executive Director for the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers (NASACT). In his current role, Josh is responsible for assisting the Executive Director with NASACT events, technical inquiries, advocating for the interests of the membership, and assisting with the business operations of NASACT. NASACT is a professional organization whose mission is to assist state leaders to enhance and promote effective and efficient management of governmental resources.

Prior to his current position, Josh was the Director of the National State Auditor's Association where he led initiatives such as the NSAA External Peer Review Program, multiple annual events, and the NSAA technical services available to member organizations.

Prior to joining NASACT in 2021, Josh spent 11 years with the Kentucky Auditor of Public Accounts office working on financial audits and special examinations of state agencies and local governments including the Commonwealth's ACFR and Single Audit.

Josh has a BS degree in accounting from the University of Kentucky, an MBA from Kentucky State University, and is a CPA. He enjoys spending time with his wife and ten-year-old son golfing, playing board games, or whatever his son is into in any given week.

BRITTANY WING, CPA

**Director, Financial Audits Division,
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General**



Brittany Wing is the Director of the HUD-OIG Financial Audits Division where she oversees audits related to HUD's financial management. Her division has done work on Fraud Risk Management at HUD and at entities outside of HUD that administer HUD funding. In the last couple of years, Brittany Wing has been involved in various projects related to Fraud Risk Management. Brittany earned her bachelor's degree from George Mason University, and her Master's degree from the University of Baltimore and Towson University.