

Speaker Bios

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MICHAEL BINGHAM

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



Mr. Bingham is an Assistant Director for the Financial Management and Assurance (FMA) team at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). He is part of the Standards group, and his duties have included both the 2024 and 2018 revisions of Government Auditing Standards (the Yellow Book); developing comment letters to respond to proposals of national and international standard setters; and responding to Yellow Book and Green Book technical assistance inquiries. Mr. Bingham is a member of the AICPA Auditing Standards Board and serves as a project liaison to the

International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). Since joining GAO in 2008, Mr. Bingham has worked on financial and performance audits of various U.S. Government entities, focusing on government-wide and Department of Defense financial management matters.

Prior to joining GAO, Mr. Bingham worked for an inner city tutoring and mentoring non-profit in Chicago. He received his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Chicago and his M.A.S. from Northern Illinois University. He is a CPA licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

KATHERYN HUBBELL

Executive Director of Intergovernmental Audit Forums: Mid-America, Midwest, Southeastern, and Southwest Regions

U.S. Government Accountability Office



Katheryn Hubbell is an Executive Director of Intergovernmental Audit Forums within the Strategic Planning and External Liaison (SPEL) team at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. She manages the Comptroller General’s Educators Advisory Panel, an advisory group of deans and professors from public policy schools at universities across the U.S., and GAO’s Domestic Relations portfolio for the Mid-America, Midwest, Southeastern and Southwest regions comprising 23 states.

She has more than 20 years of experience leading and contributing to performance audits related to topics including air and water quality, climate change, food safety, federal contracting, COVID vaccine procurement, and DOD and DHS major acquisitions. In recognition of her work, she received the Contracting and National Security Team’s Staff Development Award in 2023, the GAO Integrity Award in 2021 for CARES Act-related work, and GAO’s Meritorious Service Award in 2019 for a body of work on KC-46 aircraft development issues and recruitment activities. She holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Florida and master’s degrees from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University.

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 governmentwide 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.

JANET McKELVEY

Acting Director

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)



Janet McKelvey is an Acting Director at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). She joined GAO in 2003 and has primarily worked in GAO's Contracting and National Security Acquisitions team. She led reviews across a broad range of contracting areas, including multiple reviews related to Iraq contracting, construction of the southwest border wall, contractor compensation caps and consulting firms contracting with the U.S. and China. She also led a body of work related to emergency contracting, including contracting in response to natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to joining GAO, she evaluated social service programs in Chicago and Indiana, which led to a number of publications. She holds a bachelor's degree from Oberlin College and a master's degree in public policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

CLAIRE LI

**Assistant Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions Team
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**



Claire Li is an Assistant Director in GAO's Contracting and National Security Acquisitions (CNSA) team. Her portfolio includes audits related to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) acquisitions and Department of Defense (DOD) contracting, including Coast Guard shipbuilding programs, an annual assessment of DHS major acquisitions, and DOD's use of flexible contracting methods. She co-leads CNSA's data analytics team in producing an annual dashboard on federal contract spending. She also co-leads continuous improvement efforts on CNSA's Report Development and Review Task Team.

Claire joined GAO in 2008 and holds an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley and a master's degree from the University of Southern California.

ANNE O'BRIEN

Senior Audit Manager

Chicago Office of the Inspector General



Anne O'Brien is a Senior Performance Analyst with the City of Chicago Office of Inspector General and a Certified Inspector General Auditor. Since joining the Chicago OIG in 2021, Anne has tackled topics ranging from fire prevention to finance, led trainings on the joy of internal controls, and developed a roadmap for the Office's implementation of the 2024 Yellow Book revision. She is also Chair of the Digital Strategy Committee for the Association of Local Government Auditors.

Anne holds a Master's degree in Public Policy from the University of Chicago and a B.A. in Classics from Yale University.

MEGHAN PEREZ

**Assistant Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions Team
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)**



Ms. Perez is an Assistant Director for the Contracting and National Security Acquisitions (CNSA) team at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). Her portfolio includes reviews of Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Defense (DOD), and government-wide contracting and acquisition issues, including DHS's acquisition workforce, contracting along the Southwest Border, DOD and DHS service contracting, and contractor performance and integrity reporting. She manages the DOD Contract Management High Risk area and co-leads continuous improvement efforts on CNSA's Employee

Experience Survey Data Analysis Team and Report Development and Review Task Team. Ms. Perez serves as an adjunct faculty for GAO's Learning Center, co-teaching Federal Contracting 101. Prior to joining CNSA in 2015, Ms. Perez spent six years in GAO's Defense Capabilities and Management team, conducting reviews of military force structure issues.

Ms. Perez received her B.A in Political Science from the College of Wooster, and her Master of Public Policy from the College of William and Mary.

RUTH STRANDE

Chief Learning Officer

U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)



Ruth Strande currently serves as the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) Chief Learning Officer (CLO) and Managing Director for GAO's Learning Center which is responsible for designing, developing, and implementing training and development programs and services for over 3,500 GAO employees on a wide variety of professional, leadership, and technical topics.

Prior to joining the GAO, Ruth served as the Chief Management Officer for the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) and the Chief of Staff and Director for Learning and Development for the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Office of the Inspector General (OIG). Ruth also served as Chair for the Leadership Development Subcommittee of the CIGIE Professional Development Committee (PDC) and partnered with leaders across the OIG community to foster efforts to expand coaching, mentoring, and leadership and professional development.

Prior to her time in the oversight community, Ruth led professional and organizational development programs for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and USAID's Bureau for Global Health. Over her career, Ruth has championed the learning and development of thousands of federal employees across agencies and professional areas, and around the world.

Ruth holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Northeastern University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Affairs with a concentration in Development and minor in Psychology from the George Washington University. Ruth is also an Associate Certified Coach (ACC) through the International Coaching Federation (ICF) and certified Project Management Professional (PMP) through the Project Management Institute (PMI).