



Speaker Bios

June 18, 2026

NEW ENGLAND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUDIT FORUM (NEIAF)

Jessica Rider

Senior Economist and Coach

United States Government Accountability Office



Jessica Rider is an experienced Senior Economist and internal coach with thirteen years at the Government Accountability Office, where she leads teams with a positive, inclusive approach. At GAO, she designs and executes complex research methodologies, delivers hard hitting reports and recommendations, and creates compelling, evidence-based messages for audiences of varied backgrounds. She also serves as an internal coach, team-building facilitator, and adjunct faculty in GAO's Learning Center. She teaches and speaks on topics such as feedback, strengths-based leadership, and effective writing, among others. Jessica has a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics and a Master of Public Policy from UC-Berkeley; she is also a Certified Gallup Strengths Coach and an International Coaching Federation Associate Certified Coach.

Sara Schibanoff Kelly

Assistant Director

United States Government Accountability Office



Sara Schibanoff Kelly is an Assistant Director with the Education, Workforce, and Income Security Team at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). During her 26 years with GAO, Ms. Kelly has worked on topics related to child welfare and child protection, K-12 education, low income support programs, and disaster assistance. She has employed several methodologies in her audit work including developing and administering national surveys; analyzing quantitative data from administrative data bases; and conducting qualitative analyses of interviews and other documentation from federal, state, and local sources. Ms. Kelly also supports the staff development programs within her Team and across GAO. Ms. Kelly is an International Coaching Federation trained and certified coach, and was one of the founders of

GAO's internal coaching program. She is certified in assessment tools that aid individuals' growth and development, including CliftonStrengths, MBTI, and eQi 2.0. She manages a group of facilitators to run team building activities such as sessions to establish team expectations and identify communication styles, understand each other's Talents, and lessons learned debriefs to share what worked and what could improve on future audit teams. Ms. Kelly has received accolades from GAO for her efforts on staff development and team building. She holds a Master of Public Policy for Georgetown University.

Emily Pedersen

Director

Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General



Emily Pedersen is the Director of the Massachusetts Office of the Inspector General's Internal Special Audit Unit, where she oversees reviews and investigations of Massachusetts transportation and transit spending and operations. Since joining the ISAU in 2013, Emily has led reviews of large-scale highway procurements, maintenance and construction contracts, and contracts for privatized services. She has investigated vendor overbilling, lost toll revenue, and 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, Certified Inspector General Auditor, and Certified Inspector General. She holds a B.A. of Business Administration from James Madison University, where she graduated with a degree in International Business.

Colin Sullivan

Senior Auditor

United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of the Inspector General



Colin Sullivan has been an Auditor with the Federal Government for 23 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.