

**AGA National Leadership Conference
2007 Speaker Biographies**

Jim Cooper, United States Representative, 5th District of Tennessee

Jim is serving his third term as U.S. Representative for the 5th District, although his prior service in Congress gives him eight terms of experience. Jim represents approximately 700,000 people who live in Nashville and surrounding communities like Mt. Juliet, Lebanon, Ashland City, Pegram and Pleasant View.

His job is to cut through federal red tape for people here at home and to help pass good federal laws for the nation. Jim's background is as a local businessman, attorney and teacher.

His new congressional office is in downtown Nashville at 605 Church Street, in retail space on the first floor of the Downtown Public Library. In Washington, Jim serves on three different committees: the Armed Services Committee (including the Terrorism and Special Forces Subcommittee) the Budget Committee, and starting this term the Government Reform and Oversight Committee.

Jim does not live in Washington; he goes to our nation's capital for votes and committee meetings. He and his wife Martha and their three children live in Green Hills.

Gene L. Dodaro, Deputy Comptroller General of the United States, U.S. Government Accountability Office

As the Chief Operating Officer of the U.S. Government Accountability Office, Mr. Dodaro assists the Comptroller General in providing leadership and vision for the GAO, one of the world's most diverse multi-disciplinary professional services organizations. He is responsible for day-to-day management to ensure that GAO effectively supports the Congress and helps improve government for the benefit of the American people. He oversees the development and issuance of several hundred reports and testimonies to the Congress annually. GAO assistance provides critical information for decisionmaking, saves billions of dollars, and results in hundreds of improvements in government operations, programs and services. Mr. Dodaro also leads the development of GAO's strategic plans and provides direction for GAO's high risk program that highlight solutions needed to address major management challenges and risks across the federal government.

Prior to assuming his current responsibilities in May 1999, Mr. Dodaro led GAO's Accounting and Information Management Division. His significant accomplishments included providing leadership to help government successfully confront the Year 2000 computing challenge by working with the Congress and the President's Y2K Conversion Council. He also directed the first-ever audit of comprehensive financial statements covering all federal departments and agencies—one of the largest and most complex audits in history. Additionally, he helped conceive GAO's strategy for improving computer security throughout government and updating internal control standards for the federal government.

He has worked closely with Congress and various administrations on major management reform initiatives and has extensive experience working on state and local government issues.

Mr. Dodaro is a National Academy of Public Administration Fellow and a member of the Association of Government Accountants. Recognition he has received includes the:

- 2006 Association of Government Accountants' Elmer B. Staats Award for improving government performance and government accountability.
- 2003 National Public Service Award recognizing outstanding practitioners in public service.
- 2001 Distinguished Leadership Award for sustained outstanding leadership in financial management.
- Institute of Internal Auditor (D.C. Chapter) Person of the Year for leadership in addressing the Year 2000 computing challenge.
- Federal Computer Week Information Technology Top 100 Award, 1999.
- Arthur S. Flemming Award for outstanding individual performance in government, 1989.

Ron Elving, Senior Editor, NPR News

Ron Elving is the senior Washington editor for NPR News, where he directs coverage of the capitol and of national politics. He was previously the political editor for USA Today and for Congressional Quarterly.

Elving's articles have also been published by The Washington Post, the Brookings Institution, Columbia Journalism Review, Media Studies Journal, and the American Political Science Association.

His book, Conflict and Compromise: How Congress Makes the Law, was published by Simon & Schuster in 1995 and is now a Touchstone paperback.

Elving has taught as an adjunct professor in the Graduate Public Policy Institute at Georgetown University and in the School of Communication at American University.

He came to Washington in 1984 as a Congressional Fellow with the American Political Science Association and worked for two years as a staff member in the House and Senate. Previously he had been a reporter and state capital bureau chief for The Milwaukee Journal.

He received his undergraduate degree from Stanford and master's degrees from the University of Chicago and the University of California - Berkeley.

Natwar M. Gandhi, PhD, CGFM, Chief Financial Officer, The Government of the District of Columbia

Natwar M. Gandhi, PhD, is in his seventh year as the independent Chief Financial Officer for the District of Columbia. As CFO, he manages the District's financial operations, works closely with congressional committees that oversee District affairs, and regularly interacts with the Wall Street financial community. Dr. Gandhi previously served as head of the District's Office of Tax and Revenue and as Associate Director of Tax Policy and Administration for the US General Accounting Office.

Rendell L. Jones, Chief Financial Officer, U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Rendell Jones was appointed as the first Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in March 2006. As the CFO, Mr. Jones is responsible for all budget, finance and accounting, Government Accountability Office/Office of the Inspector General liaison, and annual planning activities within USCIS. USCIS, an agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is responsible for securing America's promise as a Nation of immigrants by providing accurate and useful information to its customers, granting immigration and citizenship and benefits, promoting an awareness and understanding of citizenship and ensuring the integrity of the immigration system. USCIS has approximately 9,000 employees and a \$1.9 billion annual budget.

Prior to his present appointment, Mr. Jones served as Deputy Budget Director of the Department of Homeland Security where he was responsible for directing the Department's Budget Office in management and oversight of budget formulation and execution, and related financial planning processes for the Department's \$42 billion annual budget. In addition, in the position of Deputy Budget Director, Mr. Jones was the Department's lead executive on appropriations issues and principal DHS liaison with the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives.

He joined the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in 1996 as a Presidential Management Intern, and held various budgeting positions with the Department's Budget Staff and served as an Appropriations Liaison Officer with the Justice Management Division. During his tenure at DOJ, Mr. Jones also spent one year with DOJ's Civil Rights Division as a Management Analyst where he provided analytical support to the Division's administrative programs.

Mr. Jones is a cum laude graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University with a B.S. in Finance and he holds a Master of Public Administration from North Carolina State University.

Edward J. Mazur, MBA, CPA, Board Member, Governmental Accounting Standards Board

Mr. Edward J. Mazur was reappointed on November 1, 2001, to a second five-year term on the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) effective July 1, 2002. His original appointment was on April 16, 1997.

Mr. Mazur was appointed in March 2003 by the Comptroller General of the United States to serve as a member of the Audit Advisory Committee of the General Accounting Office. In August 2004, he was appointed by the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration to serve as Chairman of SBA's Audit and Financial Management Advisory Committee.

Mr. Mazur was confirmed by the United States Senate on November 22, 1991, to be the first Controller named under the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990. He headed the Office of the Federal Financial Management, in the Office of Management and Budget, between December 1991 and June 1993.

Mr. Mazur served as State Comptroller for the Commonwealth of Virginia, under four Governors, between 1980 and 1991. While State Comptroller, he served on the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Retirement System and on a number of debt issuing boards.

During his career, Mr. Mazur has also held positions with Olin Corporation, Coopers & Lybrand, The American Institute of CPAs, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia State University.

Mr. Mazur has served as President of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers, and President of the National Association of State Comptrollers.

He has received national recognition from the American Institute of CPAs, the Association of Government Accountants, the U.S. Joint Financial Management Improvement Program, and the U. S. Treasury Department.

He is a Certified Public Accountant and holds an MBA from Wharton and a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Connecticut.

David Norquist, Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

David L. Norquist, of Virginia, was confirmed by the United States Senate on May 26, 2006 as Department of Homeland Security, Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. Norquist served as Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Budget and Appropriations Affairs). Prior to this, he served as Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), as well as Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Financial Management). Earlier in his career, Mr. Norquist served on the professional staff of the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Norquist received his bachelor's degree and master's degree from the University of Michigan. He went on to receive a second master's degree from Georgetown University.

Raymond C. Scheppach, PhD, Executive Director, National Governors Association

Ray Scheppach was appointed Executive Director of the National Governors Association (NGA) in January 1983. As executive director, Ray oversees the day-to-day operations of the association and works closely with NGA's chair and vice chair and their staffs to help identify priorities for the nation's governors. The association has three major missions: to produce information and analysis of state innovations and practices, to create a bipartisan forum for governors to establish and implement policy on federal issues and to assist governors in managing state government.

Prior to NGA, Ray worked for seven years at the Congressional Budget Office, serving the last two years as Deputy Director. Prior to that he worked for seven years in economic consulting and two years as an economist with the Standard Oil Company (Ohio).

Under his leadership, NGA has risen to become one of the most powerful lobbying groups in Washington. NGA was ranked 12th by Fortune magazine in its 1999 annual survey of the most influential trade associations, labor unions, and interest groups. As an advocate for federalism, Ray has testified before Congress on behalf of the nation's governors on numerous occasions.

He has written numerous professional articles on various public policy issues and has authored and co-authored four books on economics, including co-writing the 1984 book *New Directions in Economic Policy: An Agenda for the 1980s*. His specializations include federal and state budgets, health care policy, energy policy and United States competitiveness in the world economy.

Ray is one of the country's foremost experts on the role of government in the new economy. He co-authored the NGA report, *Governance in the New Economy*, which examines the forces shaping the U.S. economy and influencing American governance.

Ray received his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Maine, and his master's and doctorate degrees in economics from the University of Connecticut.

Robert J. Shea, Associate Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget

Robert Shea is the Associate Director for Management in the Office of Management and Budget. He is also the head of the President's Budget and Performance Integration initiative.

Mr. Shea was a Professional Staff Member with the House Committee on Government Reform from 1995 through 1996. There he had responsibility for examining the economy and efficiency of government programs, and acted as liaison to the government's Inspectors General. In 1997, Mr. Shea worked as Legislative Director for Congressman Pete Sessions (TX), where he organized the Results Caucus, a group of Members of Congress dedicated to results-based management and solving many of the government's major management problems. In early 1999, Mr. Shea was named Counsel to the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs where, in addition to general oversight of Executive Branch management, he was charged with oversight of the implementation of the statutory framework for performance-based government, including the Government Performance and Results Act and the Chief Financial Officers Act.

Mr. Shea is a graduate of Connecticut College and South Texas College of Law. He is a native of Houston, Texas, and now lives in Alexandria, Virginia with his wife, Eva, and their three girls, Haley, Hannah, and Mary Claire.

Gwendolyn Sykes, MPA, CGFM, CDFM, Chief Financial Officer, U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

In November 2003, the U.S. Senate confirmed Ms. Sykes as NASA's Chief Financial Officer. Ms. Sykes is transforming financial management through workforce development strategies, implementation of NASA's first integrated financial management system and the redesign of its budgeting process. Following the tragic loss of the space shuttle Columbia, Ms. Sykes has led the NASA community in providing financial and emotional support to the families of the lost astronauts through the Columbia Families First Team.

Named by *Black Enterprise*, in 2006, as one of the 50 Most Powerful Black Women in Business, Ms. Sykes is also the recipient of The David P. Richardson, Jr. Nation Builder Award from The National Black Caucus of State Legislators in 2005. In 2004, Ms. Sykes was awarded the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal in 2004 for her leadership of the Columbia Families First Team and in the creation of the NASA Family Assistance Fund. She was awarded the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal in 2003 for outstanding budgetary and financial management leadership of the NASA financial community.

Before joining NASA, Ms. Sykes was a leader in the Department of Defense's financial management and budget organizations. While working in the Pentagon, she participated in the emergency crisis response following the terrorist attack on that building on September 11, 2001. She is also a former staff member in the office of Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK). Ms. Sykes led the office's efforts in ensuring a thorough and complete restoration of the Alaska coastline after the Exxon Valdez disaster.

Ms. Sykes holds a bachelor's degree in Accounting from The Catholic University of America and a master's degree in Public Administration from The American University.

Daniel I. Werfel, Deputy Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management, U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Danny Werfel is the Deputy Controller of Office of Federal Financial Management (OFFM) within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). He is responsible for coordinating OMB's efforts to initiate government-wide improvements in all areas of financial management. Mr. Werfel plays a leadership role in coordinating OMB review of agency efforts under the Financial Performance, Real Property, and Improper Payments initiatives of the President's Management Agenda. Mr. Werfel is also responsible for coordinating the development of government-wide policy on financial accounting standards, grants management, and financial systems.

Prior to his current position, Mr. Werfel served as the Chief of the Financial Integrity and Analysis Branch within OMB, as a budget examiner in OMB's Education Branch, and as a policy analyst in OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Mr. Werfel also served as a Trial Attorney in the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

Mr. Werfel holds a Masters Degree in Public Policy from Duke University, a Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a Bachelors Degree in Industrial and Labor Relations from Cornell University.

Timothy Young, Associate Administrator, Office of E-Government and Information Technology, U.S. Office of Management and Budget

As Associate Administrator, Tim oversees the Federal Government's planning and implementation of E-Government and information technology priorities including meeting the goals of the President's Management Agenda. Tim previously served as the OMB E-Government Portfolio Manager for the Internal Efficiency and Effectiveness (IEE) Portfolio.

Prior to joining OMB, Tim was a Senior Consultant with BearingPoint's Federal Services Consulting Practice and a Consultant with The EOP Group, Inc., a regulatory and political consulting firm. In addition to his consulting experience, Tim worked for the U.S. House of Representatives and The Heritage Foundation.

Tim has a Master of Business Administration from the Kogod School of Business at the American University with a concentration in management of global information technology. Tim also received a B.A. in Political Science from Georgia Southern University.

Juan Carlos Zarate, Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for Combating Terrorism

Juan Carlos Zarate serves as the Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for Combating Terrorism. In his current role, Mr. Zarate is responsible for developing and overseeing the effective implementation of the U.S. government's counterterrorism strategy.

Prior to joining the NSC, Mr. Zarate served as the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes where he led Treasury's domestic and international efforts to attack terrorist financing, build comprehensive anti-money laundering systems, and expand the use of Treasury powers to advance national security interests. Mr. Zarate also led the U.S. government's global efforts to hunt Saddam Hussein's assets, resulting in the return of over \$3 billion of Iraqi assets from the U.S. and around the world.

Prior to working at the Department of the Treasury, Mr. Zarate served as a prosecutor in the Department of Justice's Terrorism and Violent Crime Section, where he worked on terrorism cases, such as the USS Cole investigation. Mr. Zarate previously worked as a federal law clerk for Chief Judge Judith Keep in the Southern District of California.

Mr. Zarate is a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard University and a cum laude graduate of the Harvard Law School. He studied as a Rotary International Fellow at the Universidad de Salamanca, Spain.

Mr. Zarate is the author of Forging Democracy, a book on the impact of U.S. foreign policy on democratization in Central America

Mr. Zarate was born and raised in Santa Ana, California, and he is a member of the California Bar. He is a member of Mater Dei High School's Ring of Honor, its honorary hall of fame.

David M. Zavada, CPA, MPA, Assistant Inspector General for Audits, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

David M. Zavada joined the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Inspector General in January 2006. In his current capacity, Mr. Zavada is responsible for leading performance audits of DHS programs and the department-wide financial audit.

Previously he served as Chief of the Financial Standards and Grants Branch at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). At OMB, Mr. Zavada was responsible for developing financial and grants management policies and leading government-wide financial management improvements under the President's Management Agenda. Mr. Zavada developed revisions to OMB Circular A-123, Management's Responsibility for Internal Control, which applies Sarbanes-Oxley financial reforms to federal government agencies. Mr. Zavada's professional experience also includes ten years with OMB as a Program Examiner.

Prior to joining OMB Mr. Zavada was Director of the Office of Financial Management at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). At FAA, Mr. Zavada led financial management improvements within the agency and established a record of unqualified audit opinions for the first time. Mr. Zavada also issued the first FAA Performance and Accountability Report and established the FAA Audit Advisory Committee.

Mr. Zavada has also worked in public accounting and auditing for Price Waterhouse and for Zavada and Associates, CPAs, where he provided audit and consulting services to government clients.

Mr. Zavada holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and a Bachelors Degree in Accounting from Drexel University.

He is a Certified Public Accountant and a past member of the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board, the Association of Government Accountants Certificate of Excellence in Accountability Reporting program and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants Members in Government Committee.