

AGA National Leadership Conference Speaker Biographies R - Z

John J. Radford, CGFM, CIA, CFE, State Controller, State of Oregon; Member, AGA National Executive Committee

John has over 35 years of government financial management experience starting his career working for the City of Omaha, Nebraska in various financial management positions. In 1983, he moved to Oregon and began work as Budget Officer in the Oregon Judicial Department and was promoted to Management Services Director in 1985. In 1989, the Governor appointed John to the position of State Controller. He has served in this capacity under 5 Oregon governors.

John earned a bachelors degree in General Business from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, holds an MA in Public Administration from the University of Nebraska, and earned an MS in Applied Information Management from the University of Oregon in 1996. John is a Certified Internal Auditor (1974), a Certified Government Financial Manager (1997) and a Certified Fraud Examiner (2002).

He is a current member and served as the 2004 President of the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers; and served as the 1999-2000 President of the National Association of State Comptrollers. John currently serves as a member of the Financial Accounting Foundation (FAF) Board of Trustees.

He is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) and the Association of Government Accountants (AGA). He was a founding officer and past board member of the National Electronic Commerce Coordinating Council (NECCC). He is a former trustee of the International Center for Governmental Financial Management. He currently is a Board of Trustee member of the AGA Academy for Government Accountability and serves on the Government Relations Sub-Committee of the Institute of Internal Auditors International Committee. He is Past President and member of the Oregon State Fiscal Officers Association and an associate member of the Oregon Society of CPA's.

John has made presentations and provided consulting services to various organizations and governments around the globe. These include Russia, China, Mexico, Bosnia, Malaysia, the Czech Republic, Kyrgyzstan, and Israel. John has authored articles for a variety of professional association newsletters; contributed chapters to Essays on Leadership; 21st Century Government published by the NECCC, and published Financial Trends in State Finance in the 2004 edition of "The Book of the States." John is the current author of Government Financial Management and Reporting -- an industry reference guide.

Benidia A. Rice, Director, Child Support Services Division, Office of the Attorney General, District of Columbia

Benidia Rice

Benidia Rice was appointed the director of the Child Support Services Division (i.e. D.C.'s IV-D agency) in September 2003. Before joining the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, Ms. Rice worked for the Arizona Attorney General for more than 10 years, starting in the Liability Defense Division, and later becoming the Managing Attorney in the Child Support Enforcement Division and the IV-D Director for the Arizona Department of Economic Services Child Support Program. Ms. Rice holds an undergraduate degree in Government from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, and a Juris Doctorate from Arizona State University.

Diana Jones Ritter, Commissioner, Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, State of New York

As Commissioner of the New York State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, Ms. Ritter has responsibility for overseeing supports and services for approximately 140,000 New Yorkers with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, as well as for research into the prevention and early detection of mental retardation and developmental disabilities. Through collaboration with family members, a network of some 800 nonprofit providers, advocates, public and private sector leadership and the individuals who receive supports and services, Ms. Ritter will guide New York's service system for individuals with developmental disabilities to even greater heights. Her vision for the agency centers on quality, access, accountability and choice for people with developmental disabilities in a person-focused community-based system of care.

The New York State Senate confirmed Governor Eliot Spitzer's nomination of Ms. Ritter as OMRDD Commissioner on March 14, 2007.

Ms. Ritter's past positions include serving as Executive Deputy Comptroller under former New York State Comptroller Alan G. Hevisi; Deputy Comptroller for the Division of Management Audit and then also Deputy Comptroller for Administration under former state Comptroller H. Carl McCall; Associate Commissioner for Administration and Quality Executive for New York State OMRDD; Executive Deputy Director for the Office of Public Health at the NYS Department of Health; and serving as Budget Examiner for the New York State Division of the Budget.

Ritter holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Morgan State University. She is an active member of numerous professional and community organizations on both a local and national level. She lives in Niskayuna, NY with her spouse Larry Ritter Sr.; two sons, Larry Jr. and Kameron; and her mother, Marion Jones.

Robert Shea, Counselor to the Deputy Director for Management, U.S. Office of Management and Budget

Robert is currently the Associate Director for OMB Administration and Government Performance. He manages OMB's internal affairs and leads the President's Performance Improvement initiative, an integral component of the President's Management Agenda. Additionally, Robert administers the Program Assessment Rating Tool, advises on government human capital policy and leads interagency collaborations in the areas of food safety and implementation of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act,

A graduate of Connecticut College and South Texas College of Law, Robert served as a Professional Staff Member with the House Committee on Government Reform from 1995 through 1996. There he examined the economy and efficiency of government programs and acted as liaison to Inspectors General throughout the government. In 1997, Robert 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, Robert 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.

Robert 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, Chief Financial Officer, Yale University; Member, AGA National Executive Committee

As Yale University's first CFO, Ms. Sykes is responsible for budgeting, accounting and financial reporting, internal control and the integrity of financial information. Prior to Yale, she served as CFO at NASA, a Presidentially appointed position. Her career in government service also included positions in the Department of Defense and in the Congressional offices of Senator Ted Stevens from Alaska. She holds a B.A. in accounting from Catholic University and an M.P.A. from American University. Ms. Sykes now serves as an Adjunct Professor in American University's School of Public Affairs.

In 2006, Ms. Sykes was named one of the 50 Most Powerful Black Women in Business by Black Enterprise, and was recognized by Newsweek magazine as one of the top women leaders in her field. She received the David P. Richardson Jr. Nation Builder Award from the National Black Caucus of State Legislators in 2005. At NASA, she was twice awarded the agency's Exceptional Achievement Medal.

Daniel I. Werfel, Acting 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.

Jerry E. Williams, CGFM, Deputy Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Effective June 26, 2005, Jerry E. Williams became the Deputy Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Williams was the Acting CIO for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), a position he assumed in August 2004. As Acting CIO, Mr. Williams served as the principal Information Technology (IT) advisor to the Administrator of the SBA. In this capacity, Mr. Williams was responsible for a large, complex IT environment that had numerous concurrent development projects and architecture issues.

Mr. Williams oversaw major support contracts and directed career employees, who provided technical assistance to the SBA executive staff and all levels of management to integrate value-added IT solutions into corporate business planning processes. In addition, Mr. Williams was responsible for Federal budgeting requirements and Federal IT regulations and guidelines, including those in the Clinger-Cohen and IT Security Acts.

During his 20 years of service to the U.S. Government, Mr. Williams has been a "behind the scenes" leader serving as a catalyst for significant change in both financial management and IT.

Mr. Williams was initially selected, in July 2003, as the Deputy CIO for the U.S. SBA responsible for IT management including oversight, standards, funding, resource management, project management, and advising senior managers on the strategic use of IT in support of SBA's core business processes.

While at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Mr. Williams served as Chief of the Federal Financial Management Systems Branch. In this capacity, Mr. Williams led a government-wide program responsible for ensuring effective and efficient Federal financial systems through the development of government-wide financial systems policies and improvement strategies. As the senior authority on Federal financial management systems, Mr. Williams both advised and consulted senior Agency and OMB officials on Federal financial management systems issues.

Mr. Williams began his federal career with the Department of Defense in 1984, and has held positions of increasing responsibility in the fields of financial management and IT. In these capacities, Mr. Williams has been both extremely productive and highly dedicated leading a number of both Department-wide and Government-wide initiatives with distinction.

Mr. Williams attended Cheyney University and Troy State University majoring in Accounting and Public Administration. Mr. Williams holds a professional certification in financial management. He lives in Maryland with his wife and two children.

Timothy K. Young, Associate Administrator E-Gov & IT, U.S. Office of Management and Budget

As Deputy 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. He also helps oversee the development of enterprise architectures within and across agencies and usage of the E-Government Fund to support interagency partnerships and innovation, including the direction and activities of the President's E-Government and Lines of Business initiatives. Tim also helps lead OMB's responsibilities in the areas of capital planning and investment control, information security, privacy, accessibility of IT for persons with disabilities, and access to, dissemination of, and preservation of government information. Prior to this role, Tim served as the E-Government Associate Administrator and Portfolio Manager for the Internal Efficiency and Effectiveness (IEE) Portfolio.

Before 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 in Washington, DC.

Tim has a Master of Business Administration (MBA) 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.

Tim resides in Washington, DC with his wife, Michele, and their daughter, Reagan.

Nathaniel L. Young, Jr., Director, Division of Child Support Enforcement, Virginia Department of Social Services

Nick Young, Deputy Commissioner of Virginia's Department of Social Services, is the Director for the Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE). Nick has responsibility for leading the 1,000+ child support enforcement staff in 25 field offices with an \$85 million budget.

Prior to joining Virginia's Social Services team in 1997, Nick was a career army officer. He is a Vietnam veteran. His assignments also included commands in Great Britain, Germany, and Virginia. He retired from command of the Army Logistics Management College at Fort Lee, Virginia in February 1997 at the grade of Colonel.

Nick holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Henderson University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, and a Master of Business Administration Degree from Babson College in Wellesley, Massachusetts. In addition, he is a Distinguished Military Graduate of Army ROTC, and also graduated from the Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (War College).