Issue 03 • November - December 2013

The Washington Connection

AGA
Association of Government Accountants
Washington D.C. Chapter

In This Issue

Luncheon Series

READ BIO

W. Todd Grams
Chief of Staff at the Internal Revenue Service

Wednesday, December 4, 2013
11:30am – 1:00pm

Clyde's of Gallery Place
707 7th Street, NW Washington DC 20001

SEE LOCATION ON MAP

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W. TODD GRAMS

LUNCHEON SPEAKER

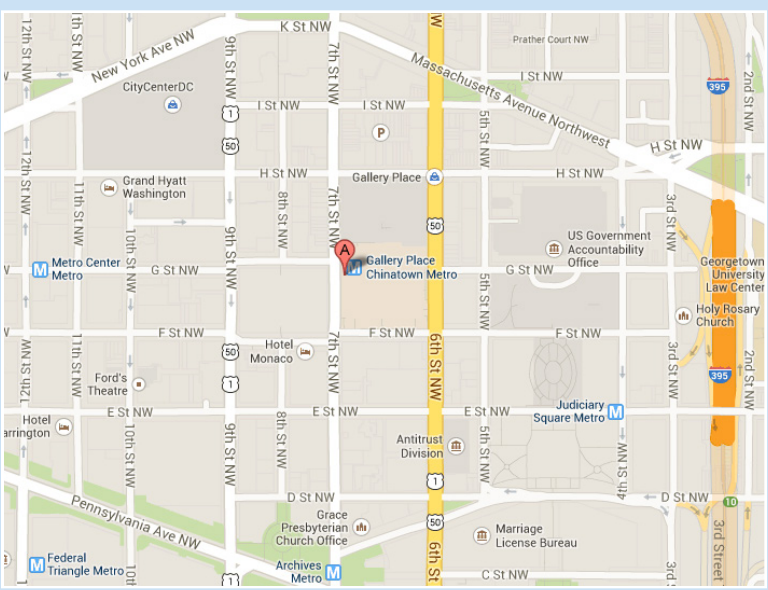
W. Todd Grams rejoined the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) after serving at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) since November 2009. Grams was responsible for the VA's $130 billion budget as well as performance management, enterprise risk management, business oversight, financial management and asset enterprise management.

He also served at the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) from July 2006 to November 2009, where he was responsible for all administrative support functions.

At the IRS, Grams served as the Chief Information Officer from 2003 through 2006 and Chief Financial Officer from 2001 through 2003. Prior to joining the IRS, he served at VA from 1994 to 2000 as the first Chief Financial Officer of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). He served in a variety of positions at the Office of Management and Budget from 1983 to 1994.

DECEMBER

Luncheon Series



Wednesday December 4, 2013
11:30am – 1:00pm

Clyde's of Gallery Place
707 7th Street,
NW Washington DC 20001

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Upcoming Audio Conference

The AGA DC Chapter is hosting an AGA Audio Conference on December 11, 2013, titled "Taking the High Road: How to Succeed Ethically When Others Bend the Rules" at the Smithsonian Institution Castle building located at 1000 Jefferson Drive, Washington DC on the National Mall in the Board of Regents room from 2:00pm to 3:50pm. This Smithsonian Institution Castle building is accessible from the Smithsonian and L'Enfant Plaza Metro Stations and within proximity to AGA member offices. Attendees will earn 2 hours of CPE credit.

EARN 2 HOURS CPE CREDIT

Topic: Problems and consequences attributed to poor ethical decisions can arise when ethical behavior is not defined, understood, or demonstrated. Emphasizing the value of ethics training will foster an environment where:

- Ethical behavior is valued;
- Ethical behavior is considered the norm; and
- Ethical decisions help to contribute to long-term success.

This audio conference features easy-to-understand definitions of ethics, guidelines for tackling difficult decisions, practical examples, and a generous amount of humor; the result is an upbeat look at a key factor in long-term success.

Speaker: Frank Bucaro – Professional writer and speaker on ethics who holds the Certified Speaking Professional designation through the National Speakers Association.

RSVP: Interested parties should register at **Audio Conference Registration** or contact **Norma Myers** by December 9, 2013.

For additional information, please visit the **AGA National website** or contact **Salim Mawani**.

Location and Time

Smithsonian Institution Building
"The Castle" on the National Mall
1000 Jefferson Drive, SW
Board of Regents Room 358
Washington, DC

December 11, 2013
2:00pm – 3:50pm

UPCOMING AUDIO CONFERENCES

December 11	Taking the High Road: How to Succeed Ethically When Others Bend the Rules
January 29	Tackling Improper Payments
March 5	Accountability in Government
April 9	Fraud Detection/Prevention

CERTIFIED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGER (CGFM) COMMITTEE

News and Upcoming Events

Director
Karl Payne

Welcome to a New Year of CGFM Opportunities and News

Thanks to all of our members for the continued support of the DC Chapter CGFM Program. This is article is intended to update you on the latest CGFM developments and provide helpful information on maintaining your certification. If you have questions about the CGFM Program, or if we can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me at **kpayne@kpmg.com**, or Robbie Jordan, Assistant Director at **roberta.jordan@opm.gov**.

Upcoming Chapter and National CGFM Events:

- **Chapter Essay Contest** – We plan to hold an essay contest in late fall (Nov/Dec) with the chance to win exam reimbursements.
- **Chapter CGFM Classes** – The DC Chapter will again host a free training for all three modules of the CGFM Exam. This class will take place in March. These have proven to be very popular classes. Last year, this class was filled to capacity.

Congratulations! These Chapter members earned their CGFM in September!

- Mr. Daniel E. George, CGFM
- Mr. Jason M. Chin, CGFM

Proudly Display your CGFM Designation at Chapter Luncheons

Do you attend the DC Chapter's monthly luncheons? I hope you do – it is a terrific opportunity to network, socialize, hear interesting speakers and gain CPE's. And, when you pick up your name tag at the luncheon registration table, make sure to let the attendant know that you are a CGFM and they will give you a CGFM sticker. Proudly display it on your name tag, and let all of your colleagues know that you have attained a highly valued and recognized certification of your professionalism and competence.

CGFM Mentors

Are you looking for a mentor to guide you while you prepare for the CGFM exams? The National office will help to connect you to volunteer mentors in your area. If you are looking for a mentor, or would like to volunteer to serve as a mentor, contact one of the national CGFM coordinators: Crystal Vanison, Certification Program Coordinator, at 800.AGA.7211 ext. 316, or **cvanison@agacgfm.org**, or Katya Silver, Director of Professional Certification, at 800.AGA.7211, ext. 305, or **ksilver@agacgfm.org.**

Maintaining your CGFM – Did You Know?

- All active CGFMs are required to complete at least 80 hours of continuing professional education (CPE) every two years in government financial management topics or related technical subjects. The 80 CPE hours must be completed within the CGFM's two-year CPE cycle. The CPE cycle is determined by the CGFM award year.
- Active CGFMs are required to maintain supporting documentation on CPE hours earned for a minimum of three years and provide it to AGA upon request. This documentation may be requested by AGA as part of an annual audit of a random sample of CGFMs.

AGA's CGFM Modules 1, 2 and 3 study guides are now on-line

You can now access CGFM Study Guides 1, 2 and 3 on the go! Read, search and review the study guide content on your laptop, tablet or phone — a convenient way to prepare for the CGFM Examinations. Upon purchasing the online version, you'll have immediate access to the entire publication for a period of 12 months. In addition, if a newer version of this study guide is published within this period, you'll also have access to the new version! As always, you may also purchase print copies of the CGFM study guides. Study guides may be purchased through the AGA website. To learn more, visit the national **AGA website**.

Have you checked off what you need to do to reach your CGFM goal?

So, you recognize the many benefits of becoming CGFM certified. Now, do you know all of the steps you need take to reach your goal? Are you aware of all of the National and Chapter level resources available to assist you in meeting your goal? Your Chapter CGFM committee is your local resource for information on requirements, available study and classroom opportunities, advice and general certification information. Another great resource is the National AGA website. Check out the AGA National's **CGFM Certification Directory**. You will find a wealth of valuable information that will help you along your path to attaining certification. Just some of the topics you will find covered on the website are: *Why Earn the CGFM, Where Do I Start, What Do Exams Cover, How Do I Prepare, How Do I Purchase Exams,* and *How Do I Maintain a CGFM.* And, of course, I am available at a Chapter level to answer any of your questions or concerns – Please feel free to reach out anytime.

MEETINGS COMMITTEE

News and Upcoming Events

The Meetings Committee would like to once again thank all of you, Clyde's Restaurant, and our speaker, Ms. Kristen Kociolek, for an outstanding October luncheon. We are confident that everyone enjoyed the presentation on GAO's revised Green Book. We continue to have sellout crowds month after month! That is a testament to the excellent line up of speakers that we have this year, along with the great teamwork from all of our chapter members. For the December luncheon, please ensure to sign-up early, as we expect another early-sell out. Also, make sure you get to Clyde's on time to check in and enjoy the 3-course meal that is offered. **Click here** to register for this event.

We hope to see you in attendance Wednesday, December 4th at Clyde's – Gallery Place/Chinatown.

See you there!

Ryan Bolz	rbolz@kpmg.com
Mark Kandra	mkandra@kpmg.com
Rebecca Jaramillo	rmaster@kpmg.com
Eric Schaefer	eschaefer@kpmg.com

Director
Ryan Bolz

Assistant Director
Mark Kandra

Assistant Director
Rebecca Jaramillo

Assistant Director
Eric Schaefer

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

Mark your calendars!

December	January	February	March	April	May
4	15	19	19	16	14

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE

Upcoming Events

The AGA DC Chapter will be collecting toys for the Toys for Tots Foundation, which has been chosen as our community service project for the month of December 2013. The primary goal of the Toys for Tots program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during November and December of each year, and to distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children throughout the Washington DC metropolitan area.

To support this worthwhile cause we need our members to bring new unwrapped toys or money to our December 4, 2013 luncheon.

We are also encouraging our members, if possible, to have a toy collection at their individual offices. All you need to get started is a large box for toys, a sign stating "Toys for Tots" and a willingness to help needy children throughout the DC area experience the joy of Christmas.

Please remember that if you cannot have a toy collection box at your office, you can still bring an unwrapped toy or money to our December luncheon. Checks are also accepted and should be made payable to Toys for Tots.

Sincerely,
The DC Chapter Community Service Committee

For questions, please contact:

Jennifer Nielsen at **jennnielsen@deloitte.com** / 703-564-7525
Rufus Johnson at 856-470-6857
Tonya Allen Shaw at 202-720-5026

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Sarah Choi, Editor

Sheri Beauregard, Designer

Michael James, Designer

MENTORSHIP COMMITTEE

Mentorship Program

Start this year off with a new MENTOR to help achieve your career enhancing goals! Are you looking for someone to challenge you or need someone from outside of your agency or company to get valuable feedback from? If so, the Mentorship Program is for you!!!

Mentoring
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Become or request to be a mentor and starting building a career-long relationship today.

The Mentorship Program is designed to connect mentees with a career mentor. Through events such as Happy Hours, training luncheons, and networking functions, we plan to provide all the tools you need to form a solid mentoring relationship.

If you wish to join the Mentorship Program or have any questions, please reach out to Sharnell Montgomery at montgomery.sharnel@dol.gov or by phone at 202-693-6854.

Stay tuned for details about upcoming events.

Connections at Your Fingertips... *Just Click*

- AGA Membership Information
- AGA Membership Application
- CGFM Program Information
- CGFM Program Application
- AGA National Home Page
- AGA DC Home Page (Washington DC)
- AGA Northern Virginia Home Page (Virginia)
- AGA Montgomery/PG Home Page (Maryland)
- MACPA Home Page (Maryland)
- VSCPA Home Page (Virginia)
- GWSCPA Home Page (Washington DC)
- AICPA Home Page

Snapshots

Octoberfest

Twelve Early Careers Members enjoyed the excellent German Cuisine and Beer at the Fourteenth Annual Shirlington Octoberfest. We enjoyed the sunshine and good conversation about AGA DC and Early Careers. Hope you will join us at our next event.

Request for Newsletter Submissions, Comments, or Suggestions

Do you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter? Do you have an article you would like to see in print? Have you traveled to any interesting locations? The Washington Connection requests that you submit any and all items of interest to our federal, state, and local members, including: reviews of recently published books related to financial management; unique travel experiences or assignments; lessons learned on rollouts of new systems; and note-worthy accomplishments by our members. We also welcome digital photos that accompany your submission.

Please send your comments and contributions to Sarah Choi, the newsletter editor for the 2013-2014 program year, at **chois@sec.gov**.

Inside the Black Box

by Simcha Kuritzky, CGFM CPA

The Schedule of Spending

Background

OMB Circular A-136 lists the new Schedule of Spending (SoS) as Other Accompanying Information. It is still a work in progress, and is often described as intended for a wider audience than the official financial statements. Thus, it uses different terminology and a different format than the Statement of Budgetary Resources (SBR), even though the data presented on these two reports should agree.

Sections

The SoS has 4 sections. Section I presents summary data as it appears on the SBR. Section II breaks the spending down by Object Class within program category. Section III breaks spending down by the recipient, and Section IV breaks spending down by payment type.

Terminology

I understand OMB is trying to use simpler terms, but I don't think the ones they chose are any more meaningful to the public than the official terms, and they are less precise. Since many of these terms are used throughout the SoS, I list them and their definitions here before describing the individual sections. (See table below).

Section I – What Money is Available to Spend?

This section is the easiest the map to the SBR, though one has to map it backwards. One starts with Total Resources, which is either SBR line 1900 (beginning available and unavailable plus new authority including downward adjustments of prior-year obligations) or 2500 (the change in obligations—other than downward adjustments—plus ending available and unavailable). Circular A-136 prefers to use line 2500 but either will work since the SBR requires both to be equal. The second line on the SoS is Amount Available but Not Agreed to be Spent, which is equal to lines 2204 and 2304, while the third line is Amount Not Available to be Spent which equals line 2404, and the bottom line is Total Amounts Agreed to be Spent which equals line 2190. Since line 2500 is calculated as the sum of lines 2190, 2204, 2304, and 2404, one can set the top line to the sum of the bottom and middle two lines. So while the format implies that one calculates the bottom line by subtracting the middle two from the top line, in fact one starts from the bottom and works one's way up.

Line Name	Equivalent	[Format]	
Total Resources	Sum of below (or 2500)	$	XXX,XXX
Less Amount Available but Not Agreed to be Spent	SBR lines 2204 and 2304	$	XX,XXX
Less Amount Not Available to be Spent	SBR line 2404	$	X,XXX
Total Amounts Agreed to be Spent	SBR line 2190	$	XXX,XXX

SoS Term	SBR Term	SGL Accounts
Total Amounts Agreed to be Spent	Obligations Incurred	Change in 480100, 480200, 488100, 488200, 490100, 490200, 498100, & 498200.
Total Spending	Outlays, Gross	Change in 480200, 488200, 490200, & 498200.
Amounts Remaining to be Spent	Change in Unpaid Obligations	Change in 480100, 488100, 490100, & 498100.
Amount Not Available to be Spent	Unapportioned/Expired	Ending 431000, 442000 thru 445000, 463000, & 465000.
Amount Available but Not Agreed to be Spent	Unobligated Balances, End of Year-Apportioned & Exempt from Apportionment	Ending 451000 thru 462000, 469000 thru 472000.

continued on next page

Section II – How was the Money Spent?

This section is tricky because it breaks down a different kind of spending, gross outlays, by object class and program category. The Agency gets to decide the best way to break down their activities into program categories. While OMB defines object classes, the Agency decides which have significant spending in them and how to combine the insignificant ones together so they are most meaningful. The total of all this spending only reflects disbursements. The penultimate line Amounts Remaining to be Spent adds back the changes in unpaid obligations, accruals, and expenditures so the grand total ties back to Total Amounts Agreed to be Spent, which is the bottom line of Section I as well as Obligations Incurred on the SBR. Circular A-136 gives a convoluted formula to calculate Amounts Remaining to be Spent, but since the other two lines are pretty easy to calculate, I would suggest calculating Amounts Remaining to be Spent as Total Amounts Agreed to be Spent less Total Spending (or you can use the actual SGL account balances listed in the table on preceding page).

Sections III – Who did the Money go to? and IV – How was the Money Issued?

These sections are easier, since it is the Total Amounts Agreed to be Spent (Obligations Incurred) that is broken down by recipient or payment type. I don't know why Section II is the lone section that defines spending as disbursed, but I suspect it has to do with reconciling these figures with OMB's existing databases. The Section IV payment types are all defined in detail in Circular A-136.

Conclusion

I don't know how clear the Schedule of Spending will be to the general public, but I do know preparers will be initially confused by the strange terminology. Some of the formulas are also confusing. I would suggest that all sections use the same definition of spending, so Section II should split out Total Amounts Agreed to be Spent by program category and Object Class. I would also suggest renaming Section III's title **Whom did the Money go to?**

Comments and critiques, as well as specific questions or suggestions for future topics, are always welcome. Send them to ***Simcha.Kuritzky@CGI.com****, and not to the AGA.*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

News and Upcoming Events

The 2013-2014 membership committee is thrilled for the opportunity to help the AGA DC Chapter continue to grow and thrive. Our main purpose is to continue building membership and attracting interest in all DC Chapter offerings, including continuing professional education and networking opportunities.

Co-Director
Hakeem Khwaja

Co-Director
Faith Kim

Assistant Director
Drew Rosen

Assistant Director
Lee Evans

Planned Highlights

Recruitment Contest: The membership committee will continue to run its successful and popular recruitment contest. The first 30 members of the DC Chapter to recruit/sponsor a new member, ***and*** attend a chapter luncheon with the new member, will receive a $50 Visa or Master Gift card. The new member will also receive a $50 Visa or Master Gift card and their first luncheon free. What a terrific incentive! ***To participate in this contest, please email the Membership team (email addresses below) at least 3 weeks prior to the luncheon date with the name and organization of the new member you will be bringing to reserve their spot. If you are the sponsor, please ensure that you are already registered online.***

Happy Hours: The membership committee is planning on hosting at least two happy hours during the upcoming year. Stay tuned for further details.

Publishing Names of New Members: The team will continue to publish names of all new members in the monthly Newsletter.

Photos of New Members and Sponsors at the Monthly Luncheons: The team will continue to provide a monthly newsletter article with photos/names of new members and/or sponsors recognized at the monthly Chapter luncheons.

If you have any questions and/or are interested in learning more about our team, please contact:

Hakeem Khwaja	**hkhwaja@kpmg.com**
Faith Kim	**yfkim@kpmg.com**
Drew Rosen	**dhrosen@kpmg.com**
Lee Evans	**evansw@gao.gov**

Welcome New Members!

Members New to AGA DC Chapter (September 2013)

Name	Company/Organization
David Baskin	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Elizabeth Bowlin	NRC
D. Desmond Decker	Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Robin Gilliam	FASAB
Sheyi Idowu	NID Financial Services, LLC
Kathryn Lewis	Harper, Rains, Knight, & Company
Erin Mooney	Chortek LLP
Carol Nguyen	Ginnie Mae
Sophie Shih	Department of Health and Human Services
Anthony Stevenson	Accounting & Computer Solutions, Inc
Eli Valentin	KPMG
Gregory Viola	Department of Homeland Security
Tiffany Winters	Brustein & Manasevit

DECEMBER - JANUARY

Upcoming Events

December
4

December Monthly Luncheon

Clyde's of Gallery Place
11:30am – 1:00pm

December
11

AGA Audio Conference – Taking the High Road: How to Succeed Ethically When Others Bend the Rules

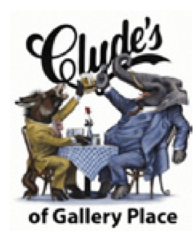
Smithsonian Institution Castle
2:00pm – 3:50pm

January
15

January Monthly Luncheon

Registration Opens Soon

Clyde's of Gallery Place
11:30am – 1:00pm



January
29

AGA Audio Conference – AGA Audio Conference – Tackling Improper Payments

More Info to Come

Smithsonian Institution Castle
2:00pm – 3:50pm

2013 – 2014

Officers and Directors

OFFICERS

President, James Dalkin
Government Accountability Office
jdalkincgfm@gmail.com
202-512-3133

President Elect, Christy Beck
CliftonLarsonAllen
christina.beck@cliftonlarsonallen.com
703-532-2319

Past President, Eileen Parlow
Securities and Exchange Commission
parlowe@sec.gov
202-551-7475

Treasurer, Al Pavot
Securities and Exchange Commission
pavota@sec.gov
703-537-2319

Advisor, Jorge Asef-Sargent
KPMG
jasef-sargent@kpmg.com
202-533-4480

Secretary, Becky Shoustal
Small Business Adminstration
rebecca.shoustal@sba.gov
202-205-7027

Senior Advisor, Karl Boettcher
Treasury Department
karl.boettcher@fms.treas.gov
202-874-6131

ACCOUNTABILITY & OUTREACH

Director, Wendy Morton-Huddleston
Grant Thornton
wendy.morton-huddleston@us.gt.com
703-637-2853

Assistant Director, Eric Ernest
McConnell & Jones LLP
eernest@mjlm.com
301-452-7177

Assistant Director, Armando Mieles
KPMG
amieles@kpmg.com
202-533-8004

ADMINISTRATION

Co-Director, Tyrone Allmond
Allmond & Company
tallmond@allmondcpa.com
301-918-8200

Co-Director, Pushparajan Arokiaswamy
Department of Veterans Affairs
pushparajan.arokiaswamy@va.gov
202-236-3643

AWARDS

Director, Eleanor Long
Ernst & Young
eleanor.long@ey.com
202-327-5903

Assistant Director, Chris McGrath
mcgrathjc@aol.com

Advisor, Pat Wensel
Independent
dpwensel@verizon.net
301-384-0896

AWARDS GALA

Director, Whitney Vickrey
GCE
wvickrey@gcefederal.com

BY-LAWS AND PROCEDURES

Director, Ross Simms
FASAB
simmsr@fasab.gov
202-512-2512

Assistant Director, Maryla Engelking
Department of Defense
maryla.engelking@osd.mil
703-602-0155

CGFM COORDINATOR

Director, Karl Payne
KPMG
kpayne@kpmg.com
703-286-8217

Assistant Director, Robbie Jordan
Office of Personnel Management
roberta.jordan@opm.gov
202-606-1947

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Director, Jennifer Nielsen
Deloitte
jennnielsen@deloitte.com

Assistant Director, Darien Thall
KPMG
dthall@kpmg.com

Assistant Director, Melody Miller
mmiller252@gmail.com

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

Director, Lloyd Farmer
MIL
lfarmer@milcorp.com
703-294-4473

Assistant Director, Joe Kull
PriceWaterhouseCoopers
joseph.kull@us.pwc.com
703-918-1320

Assistant Director, Cynthia Heath
Department of Education
cynthia.heath@ed.gov
202-245-8043

Special Advisor, John Cherbini
Grant Thornton
john.cherbini@gt.com
703-373-8680

EARLY CAREERS

Co-Director, Stephen Wills
sgwillsusa@gmail.com
202-366-2889

Co-Director, Nathan Alston
nathanalston@gmail.com

Assistant Director, Charlie Brown
KPMG
charliebrown@kpmg.com

Assistant Director, Raymond Urias-Rivera
KPMG
ruriasrivera@kpmg.com

EDUCATION

Director, Mari-Ellen Testa
PriceWaterhouseCoopers
mari-ellen.t.gabrielli@us.pwc.com
703-615-8244

Assistant Director, Salim Mawani
srmhokies@yahoo.com
202-304-7456

MEETINGS

Director, Ryan Bolz
KPMG
rbolz@kpmg.com
202-533-4368

Assitant Director, Mark Kandra
KPMG
mkandra@kpmg.com
703.286.6912

Assistant Director, Rebecca Jaramillo
KPMG
rmaster@kpmg.com

Assistant Director, Eric Schaefer
KPMG
eschaefer@kpmg.com

MEMBER SERVICES

Co-Director, Caitlin H. McGurn
PriceWaterhouseCoopers
caitlin.mcgurn@us.pwc.com
703-918-1293

Co-Director, Crystal Heitman
PriceWaterhouseCoopers
crystal.l.heitman@us.pwc.com
703-918-3291

Assistant Director, Matt Hardesty
PriceWaterhouseCoopers
matthew.c.hardesty@us.pwc.com
703-918-3782

MEMBERSHIP

Co-Director, Hakeem Khwaja
KPMG
hkhwaja@kpmg.com

Co-Director, Faith Kim
KPMG
yfkim@kpmg.com

Assistant Director, Drew Rosen
KPMG
dhrosen@kpmg.com

Assistant Director, Lee Evans
Government Accounatbility Office
evansw@gao.gov
256-710-0635

MENTORSHIP

Director, Sharnell Montgomery
U.S. Department of Labor
montgomery.sharnel@dol.gov
202-693-6854

Assistant Director, Lena Lewis
Department of Homeland Security
lena.lewis@dhs.gov
202-447-0709

Assistant Director, Boris Lyubovitsky
blyubovitsky@gmail.com
202-447-0247

NEWSLETTER

Editor, Sarah Choi
Securities and Exchange Commission
chois@sec.gov
202-551-7803

PHOTOGRAPHY

Director, Aida Ernst
aida.ernst@bos.frb.org
202-475-6650

PROGRAMS

Co-Director, Lisa Fiely
Grant Thornton
lisa.fiely@us.gt.com
703-837-4400

Co-Director, Ron Longo
Kearney and Company
ron.longo@kearneyco.com
703-946-0047

Co-Director, Terry Bowie
tlbowiesr@gmail.com
301-357-3214

Co-Director, Doug Glenn
Department of the Interior
douglas_glenn@ios.doi.gov

PUBLICATIONS

Director, Simcha Kuritzky
CGI
simcha.kuritzky@cgifederal.com
703-227-5796

SOCIAL MEDIA

Director, Chari Nash-Cannaday
Government Accountability Office
nashcannadayc@gao.gov

Assistant Director, R. Alan Perry
Government Accountability Office
perryra@gao.gov

WEBMASTER

Director, Tim Coulson
Savantage Solutions
tcoulson@savantage.net
301-258-5600

Assistant Director, Wesley Yon
Clark Kennedy and Company, Inc.
wes@clarkken.com

Assistant Director, Patrick Ezzell
Clark Kennedy and Company, Inc.
patrick@clarkken.com

Assistant Director, Jeanette Santana-Gonzales
KPMG
jsantanagonzalez@kpmg.com