

# Conference Agenda

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

## UI 101 Basics

**10:00 – 11:30 am, Meeting Room 4**

**Scott Sanders**, President and CEO, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)

**David Harrod**, ADP Alliance Relationship Manager

This session is designed to review the basics with respect to how Unemployment Insurance is funded through federal and state taxes and the fundamentals of administration. It is intended to provide information for individuals who are new to responsibilities related to unemployment insurance and provide a refresher for UI professionals.

## Welcome

**1:00 – 1:15 pm, Grand Ballroom A**

**Alisha Benson**, Chief Executive Officer, Greater Spokane Inc.

## National Unemployment Insurance Program Update

**1:15 – 2:15 pm, Grand Ballroom A**

**Jim Garner**, Administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor

In this session, the USDOL Office of Unemployment Insurance will provide an update on the primary performance metrics for Unemployment Insurance and the budget proposal and administrative plans for the US Department of Labor concerning unemployment insurance.

## National Unemployment Insurance Legislative Update

**2:30 – 3:30 pm, Grand Ballroom A**

**Doug Holmes**, President, UWC – Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation.

**Brad Thomas**, Professional Staff, Committee on Ways and Means, US House of Representatives

**Stephanie Ferguson**, Director, Global Employment Policy & Special Initiatives, US Chamber of Commerce

This panel will review current federal legislation that is pending in the US House and Senate and the prospects for enactment of legislation related to Unemployment Insurance in 2024 and 2025.



## Afternoon Beverage Break

3:30 – 3:40 pm, Prefunction 2

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## Review of the Economy and Impact on Unemployment

3:40 – 4:40 pm, Grand Ballroom A

**Nicolas Petrosky-Nadeau**, Vice President, Macroeconomic Research, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

The presenter will provide an outlook on the economy, reviewing current and future macroeconomic conditions and how Fed actions potentially affect unemployment.

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## Roundtable Discussion on UI Law and Policy Issues

**4:40 – 5:40 pm, Grand Ballroom A**

**Doug Holmes**, President, UWC – Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation  
**Stephanie Ferguson**, Director, Global Employment Policy & Special Initiatives, US Chamber of Commerce

**Tony Fiore**, Of Counsel, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter

**Scott Sanders**, President and CEO, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)

The general session will convene as a roundtable discussion of the political climate nationally and state by state and how it impacts the development of improvements to administration and solutions to problems. Topics table by table will include Integrity issues, systems issues, RESEA and return to work coordination.

## Reception

**6:00 – 8:00 pm, Birch Ballroom**

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**Thursday, June 27, 2024**

## **Breakfast**

**7:30 – 8:30 am, Birch Ballroom**

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## **Improving UI Through Collaboration**

**8:30 – 9:30 am, Grand Ballroom A**

**Doug Holmes**, UWC (Moderator)

**Anne Paxton**, Attorney & Policy Director, Unemployment Law Project

**Bob Battles**, General Counsel and Director of Government Affairs Employment Law, Association of Washington Business

**JR Richards**, Director, Unemployment Insurance Customer Support Division, Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD)

**Joy Adams**, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD)

**Wayne Rottger**, Product Intelligence Manager, Experian Employer Services

Representatives of business, worker advocates, and the Washington ESD will discuss the challenges of administration and policy related to unemployment insurance and how collaboration of the primary stakeholders can be effective in providing solutions.

## **UI Trust Fund Solvency – Are you Prepared?**

**8:30 – 9:30 am, Maple Ballroom**

**Kevin Stapleton**, Division Chief, Fiscal and Actuarial Services, Office of Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor

Kevin Stapleton will review the status of federal and state unemployment insurance trust funds after the pandemic, assess the health of state UI trust funds and provide guidance in preparing for the next recession.



## Labor Disputes and Unemployment Eligibility

**9:30 – 10:30 am, Grand Ballroom A**

**Rob Moutrie**, Senior Policy Advocate, California Chamber of Commerce

**Paul Sonn**, State Policy Program Director, National Employment Law Project (NELP)

**Bob Battles**, General Counsel and Director of Government Affairs Employment Law, Association of Washington Business

In 2023 many collective bargaining agreements were negotiated in the entertainment and automobile industries and resulted in extended labor disputes and work stoppages. The panel will discuss the impact of these disputes on UI benefit eligibility, program administration, and the labor market.

## **UI Transformation - SIDES Modules Update, Benefit Charges, Audit Issues and Solutions Roundtable**

**9:30 – 10:30 am, Maple Ballroom**

**Claire McKenna**, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Unemployment Modernization, US Department of Labor

**Christina Corbett**, State Information Data Exchange Services (SIDES) Operations Manager, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)

**Meredith Cole**, Supervisor, UI Tax & Wage Employer Services, Washington State Employment Security Department

**Rich Siegel**, President, Association of Unemployment Tax Organizations

As states and employers return to normal benefit charging and auditing procedures there remain system issues to be resolved to assure proper administration and to prepare for the next recession. The panel will discuss the expanded use of SIDES and coordination between states and business representatives.



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## Morning Beverage Break

10:30 – 10:45 am, Prefunction 2

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## State of Washington Ride Share Program and Gig Worker Safety Nets

10:45 – 11:45 am, Grand Ballroom A

**Joy Adams**, Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, Washington State Employment Security Department

**Allison Ford**, Public Policy Manager, Uber

Federal and state legislation has been proposed and enacted to provide safety net benefits for workers who may not be “employees,” may be undocumented workers, and may not be eligible for regular unemployment compensation. The panel will review the most recent legislation and policy development and particularly the Rides program developed in the state of Washington.

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## Workshare/Short Time Compensation Updates

**10:45 – 11:45 am, Maple Ballroom**

**Jim Garner**, Administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance, US Department of Labor

**Sam Virgil**, UI Strategic Initiatives Manager, Washington State Employment Security Department

**Cheryl Brown**, Program Specialist, UI Customer Support Divisions, Washington State Employment Security Department

**Bob Battles**, General Counsel and Director of Government Affairs Employment Law, Association of Washington Business

**Amy Evans**, Global Benefits & HR Operations, Unemployment Insurance, The Boeing Company

Beginning in the 1970s some states enacted workshare or short time compensation (STC) programs to provide authority to pay pro rata unemployment compensation to employees who reduced the number of hours of work but continued to be employed. Temporary federal authorization for these programs ended, prompting a need for federal authorization that was enacted in 2012. Such programs are designed to permit employers to retain workers and avoid layoffs that would otherwise be triggered during economic downturns. Representatives from US DOL, state workforce agencies and employers will discuss these programs.

## **Recognition Awards Luncheon**

**12 Noon – 2 pm, Birch Ballroom**



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## Roll Call of Recent State Law Changes, New UI Legislation, Lawsuits And Rethinking Return to Work

**2:15 – 3:30 pm, Grand Ballroom A**

**Jim Garner**, Administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance, US Department of Labor  
**Scott Sanders**, President and CEO, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)  
**Stephanie Ferguson**, Director, Global Employment Policy & Special Initiatives, US Chamber of Commerce

Please join our discussion on recent and potential legislation impacting unemployment insurance. Topics will include the President's proposed FY25 budget, policy issues identified by NASWA and the US Chamber of Commerce, and an opportunity for you to share information about new UI legislation.

## **Afternoon Beverage Break**

**3:30 – 3:45 pm, Prefunction 2**

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## **Expanding Quarterly Wage Report Requirements – Policy and Administrative Issues**

**3:45 – 5:00 pm, Grand Ballroom A**

**Alison Jones**, Director, Government Affairs, Compliance, ADP  
**Meredith Cole**, Supervisor, UI Tax & Wage Employer Services, Washington State Employment Security Department  
**Dr. Gina Wolf**, Wolf Chiropractic Clinic  
**Jason Tysko**, Senior Vice President, US Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Legislation has been proposed at the federal and state level to add occupation information and other data elements to be reported by employers. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has also developed a voluntary, public-private, standards-based approach for how employers share information about jobs and employment in ways that can reduce reporting burden while improving workforce data. The panel will review legislation and the various proposals and discuss the impact on employers and state workforce agencies of administrative burden and the value of information in connecting education with jobs in the labor market.

## Closing Dinner

**6:00 – 9:00 pm, Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.**

Join us for an unforgettable evening at the Spokane Convention Center on Thursday, June 27, from 6 to 9 pm. Immerse yourself in the smooth, captivating sounds from the Jazz 3, setting the perfect ambiance for a night of mingling and enjoyment. Conveniently located and easily walkable from the Davenport Grand, this event promises a delightful blend of music and company. We look forward to seeing you there!

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### Walking directions

Head east on W. Spokane Falls Blvd toward Riverfront Park (.1 mi)

Turn left (125ft)

Walk for .1 mile



**Friday, June 28, 2024**

**Breakfast**

**7:30 – 8:30 am, Birch Ballroom**

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**Identity Theft, UI Benefit Overpayment and Recovery**

**8:30 – 9:45 am, Cedar Ballroom**

**Tim Kolar**, State Office Administrator, Unemployment Insurance Agency, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity

**Mark Mayfield**, Senior Software Implementation Manager, Catalis

**Chris Silvern**, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Branch of Training & Special Programs, US Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General (US DOL-OIG)

In light of the dramatic increase in fraud and UI benefit overpayments, recovery of overpayments has become a priority for legislation and UI administration. The panel will discuss reports reviewing the scale of fraud and overpayments and methods that have been developed for states and federal agencies to avoid fraud, increase benefit overpayment recovery, and prosecute fraud.

**UI Appeals and Mock Hearing**

**8:30 – 9:45 am, Birch Ballroom**

**James Weant**, Senior Manager, UI Program Relationship, Equifax

**Scott Keim**, Deputy Attorney General, Idaho Attorney General's Office

**Jennifer Kim-Pierce**, Attorney and Director of Hearings and Appeals, Michigan Health and Hospital Association Service Corporation

**Kevin Britt**, Senior Manager, Claims Services, Equifax

**Wayne Rottger**, Product Intelligence Manager, Experian Employer Services

**Tiffany Strauss**, Senior Director, Employer Tax Services, Equifax

Unemployment benefit appeals include close examination of the terms and conditions of employment and the development of facts with respect to whether an individual may have had good cause to quit work. The panel will conduct a mock hearing and review the key points to address in these administrative hearings.

## Morning Beverage Break

9:45 am – 10:00 am, Prefunction 2

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## UI Tax Filing and Payments – How to Use Payroll Service Providers to Improve State Efficiency

10:00 am – 10:45 am, Cedar Ballroom

[Alison Jones](#), Director, Government Affairs, Compliance, ADP

Proper administration of Unemployment Insurance requires close coordination between state workforce agencies and employer 3rd party representatives that provide UI quarterly reports and respond to requests with respect to the reason for unemployment and unemployment tax audits.

## Integrity Best Practices

10:45 – 11:45 am, Cedar Ballroom

[Jim Van Erden](#), Senior Advisor / ARPA Director, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)

**Andrew Kearney**, Special Agent on Unemployment Insurance Fraud, US Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General (US DOL OIG)

The Integrity of the Unemployment Insurance system has been significantly challenged in light of the significant increase in fraud and overpayments in the state based system. Congress has acted to increase administrative funding available to states to assist in updating old systems that may be vulnerable to fraudsters and to address system capacity and verification of the identity of applicants for unemployment insurance. The panel will provide an update on the NASWA Integrity Center, efforts to reduce fraud in the system, and the status of criminal prosecutions.

## Closing Remarks

11:45 – 12:00 pm, Cedar Ballroom

# 2024 Award Recipients

Each year UWC accepts nominations for awards to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in research, public policy, UI system integrity and contributions to UWC.

A Recognition Awards committee reviews nominations and selects individuals for recognition at the annual National UI Issues Conference.

We are pleased to announce recognition awards for 2024 at this conference.

**The J. Eldred Hill, Jr. Award:** This award is named for J. Eldred Hill, Jr., former president of UWC (then UBA), and is given to an individual for excellence in the public policy arena in service to the employer community.

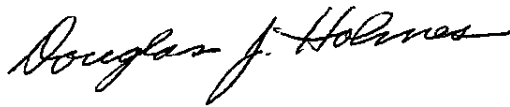
**The UI Integrity Award:** This award is given to recognize demonstrated commitment to preserving the integrity of the unemployment system.

**The UWC Outstanding Contribution Award:** This is given in recognition of significant contributions by an individual to UWC and the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation.

For 2024 UWC and the NFUCWC recognize two individuals to receive the J. Eldred Hill, Jr. award, one to receive the UI Integrity Award, and one to receive the UWC Outstanding Contribution Award.

Please join us in congratulating these individuals in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Unemployment Insurance system.

Sincerely,



Douglas J. Holmes  
President



## J. Eldred Hill, Jr. Award Recipient 2024

### Stephen W. Carter

Steve Carter dedicated much of his professional life to the Unemployment Insurance Industry. He was a national expert on federal and state unemployment tax issues and became the “go to guy” for many employers across the country. His advice over the years enabled employers to fully understand their UI tax obligations and to avoid hundreds of millions of dollars in unnecessary taxes.

Steve initiated and maintained director level connections with state and federal unemployment agencies for over 20 years as the Senior Director of Government Relations at Equifax Workforce Solutions. The partnerships that Steve developed resulted in collaborative discussions and the resolution of difficult problems that otherwise would have gone unresolved. Steve had a knack in cutting to the basic issues and assisting taxpayers and UI administrators to come to agreement. His expertise was broadly recognized in the UI Industry, and he was regularly called upon to conduct presentations at national employer conferences, including the annual National UI Issues conference.

Steve worked directly with many state agencies to develop state unemployment trust fund financing approaches, including legislation. He was always willing to share his experience and expertise for the betterment of the UI system and would coach colleagues and business partners and take on additional projects when necessary.

Steve’s 40+ years of experience included work for two of the major accounting firms, KPMG, and Arthur Andersen LLC, serving as a member of the Michigan Employment Security Appeals Board, teaching as an instructor at the Michigan State University School of Labor Relations, and serving as a member of the Missouri Unemployment Advisory Council.

Steve recently made the decision to retire, but sadly passed away on March 22, 2024, before he was able to enjoy his retirement years. It is our honor to recognize Stephen W. Carter posthumously with the J. Eldred Hill Jr. award for his lifetime of service to the UI industry.



## J. Eldred Hill, Jr. Award Recipient 2024

### Bruce R. Madson

For over 28 years in Ohio and nationally, Bruce Madson has been a leader in policy, legislation and the administration of workforce development and unemployment insurance programs. Beginning with his work as Executive Director for the Central Ohio Rural Consortium to his service as Senior Assistant Director and Deputy Director positions at the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, Bruce has distinguished himself as a thought leader in shaping responses to traumatic economic recessions and workforce programs to meet the needs of employers. In fact, Bruce's commitment to improving these programs continues in his current role as a Specialist Executive at Deloitte Consulting in the Labor and Workforce Practice. His advice has been relied upon by state and federal officials from both major political parties. Bruce's contributions range well beyond a listing of his extensive positions including:



- Senior Policy Advisor Ohio Department of Job & Family Services 09/2020 – 05/2023.
- Chairman Workforce Information Advisory Council 04/2016 – 2023.
- Assistant Director Ohio Department of Job & Family Services 01/2011 – 09/2020.
- Deputy Chief of Staff Ohio Department of Job & Family Services 09/2009 – 01/2011.
- Program Director Ohio Valley Information Technology Alliance 06/2008 – 09/2009.
- Labor Policy Coordinator Ohio Department of Job & Family Services 01/2007 – 06/2008.
- Assistant Director Ohio Department of Job & Family Services 09/2004 – 01/2007.
- Deputy Director, Office of Workforce Development Ohio Department of Job & Family Services 01/2003 – 09/2004.
- Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Workforce Development Ohio Department of Job & Family Services 12/2001 – 01/2003.
- Executive Director, Central Ohio Rural Consortium 06/1996 – 10/2001.
- National Association of State Workforce Agencies
- Four terms on Board of Directors representing OH, MI, IN, IL, WI, MN
  - o Past Chairman of Unemployment Insurance and Finance Committees
  - o Current vice Chairman of Workforce and Labor Market information Committee

In recognition of his contributions to development of national policy and legislation, we are honored to recognize Bruce R. Madson with the J. Eldred Hill Jr. Award.

## UI Integrity Award 2024

### Representative Sean Tarwater

Representative Tarwater has been a key sponsor of critical Unemployment Insurance legislation throughout his time in the Kansas legislature and has chaired the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development committee since 2019. Beginning in 2020, Rep. Tarwater has been instrumental in supporting and passing critical UI legislation to include a complete system and program modernization in Kansas.

Representative Tarwater made UI fraud and identity theft the #1 issue in his House Commerce committee. He identified HB 2196 the priority bill of the session, which offered common sense and evidence-based UI reforms to better serve all Kansans and Kansas employers in the short- as well as the long-term. The reforms he initially championed included:

- helped struggling businesses get back on their feet
- held employers and employees harmless from fraudulent and erroneous UI charges
- strengthened the job refusal reporting process
- protected and ensured the integrity of the KS UI Trust Fund
- codified the *My Reemployment Plan* to support hiring
- mandated Kansas update the state UI IT system (go live 4Q-2024)

Rep. Tarwater was hands down THE legislative champion for the critical and necessary reforms to protect the integrity and solvency of the Kansas UI Trust Fund. Without his leadership and commitment to finding real solutions, more than 59,000 Kansas RATED employers would have experienced UI tax rate increases ranging from 32% to 700% beginning in 2023. Conversely, Kansas employers experienced a 20% decrease in their UI tax rates resulting in \$150M in savings for 2023-2024.

In 2022, Rep. Tarwater successfully championed HB 2703 addressing provisions to the *My Reemployment Plan* program and enacting the Kansas targeted employment act to facilitate employment of persons with developmental disabilities through a tax credit incentive for employers. In 2024, HB 2570 – *The Kansas Unemployment Insurance State Trust Fund Solvency, System Integrity, and Tax Credit Preservation Act of 2024* was passed and signed into law, which provides additional tax savings, correlates and indexes the taxable wage base along with indexed benefits, strengthens “temporary unemployment” provisions, and addresses interview ghosting.

He has consistently supported key Unemployment Insurance legislation during his eight years of service on behalf of Kansans and Kansas employers. Rep. Tarwater distinguished himself throughout the 2021-2024 legislative sessions by championing three critical and considerable employment security reform bills that will have positive and lasting implications for the Kansas business community.

We are honored to recognize Rep. Sean Tarwater with the UI Integrity Award for his leadership and commitment to integrity regarding Unemployment Insurance in Kansas.



## UWC Outstanding Contribution Award 2024

### Neil A. Mac Vicar

Neil MacVicar has served as an effective advocate and as an Attorney representing the Michigan Health and Hospital Services for more than 30 years.

Throughout his career, Neil has been a proponent for developing public policy and maintaining the integrity of the unemployment insurance system both within Michigan and in the Federal arena. He has been a relentless advocate for the employer community and particularly for protecting the interests of reimbursing employers.

Mr. Mac Vicar was an active UWC member. He has served as a presenter at the annual National UI Issues conference convened by the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation. He also served as a Board member for UWC and the National Foundation.



Neil has also been a leader among hospital association unemployment programs, coordinating national meetings to address common unemployment insurance issues arising for hospitals. Neil recently retired from his position as Vice President and Attorney with the MHA Unemployment Compensation Program.

We are honored to present Neil A. Mac Vicar with the UWC Outstanding Contribution Award.

# Speaker Biographies

## Brooks Abramson

*Senior Special Agent on Unemployment Insurance, U.S. Department of Labor-OIG (HQ)*

Senior Special Agent (SSA) Brooks Abramson works for DOL-OIG's Office of Investigations. He is assigned to headquarters where he serves as the Agency's National Unemployment Insurance Fraud Coordinator. Prior to joining OIG HQ, SSA Abramson was an OIG field agent assigned to the OIG's Chicago, Illinois Field Office. In that capacity, SSA Abramson investigated numerous high-impact UI fraud matters, and consulted with special agents in the Midwest on matters related to complex UI fraud investigations.



## Joy Adams

*Director, Employment System Policy & Integrity Division, Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD)*

Joy Adams is the Director of Employment System Policy and Integrity for Washington State ESD. Joy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Washington, and a Masters of Public Administration from The Evergreen State College. After moving to Washington in 1994 as a young Army wife, Joy served fifteen years as staff to the state Legislature in a variety of roles, including four years with the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee. She joined the Employment Security Department in 2010, serving in a variety of roles, including project manager and

legislative analyst on all matters relating to unemployment insurance. In recent years she directed the quality assurance and integrity functions of the UI program, as well as leading efforts to implement, manage, and close out the COVID-era benefit programs.



## Alisha Benson

*Chief Executive Officer, Greater Spokane Inc.*

Alisha Benson is the CEO at Greater Spokane Incorporated (GSI), bringing 16 years of dedicated service to the organization. With a Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington State University, Alisha has held various key roles within GSI, including Chief Strategy & Business Development Officer, Chief Operating Officer (COO), and VP of Education and Talent. As CEO, she provides strategic leadership and direction for GSI, focusing on strengthening the regional economy through transformative initiatives. Alisha's influence extends beyond GSI as she serves on prestigious boards including the Association of Washington Business and the Washington Economic Development

Association. A dedicated wife and mother of two, Alisha demonstrates her unwavering commitment to both her career and family. Her multifaceted involvement underscores her commitment to community development and economic growth in the region.



### **Bob Battles**

*General Counsel and Director of Government Affairs Employment Law, Association of Washington Business*

Bob Battles is AWB's General Counsel and Director of Government Affairs for Employment Law Issues. He is responsible for workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, Paid Family and Medical leave and other workplace issues, including wage and hour, workplace safety, immigration, minimum wage, and paid sick leave matters. In addition, he handles AI, privacy and data breach matters for AWB. Bob has over 3 decades of experience as an attorney specializing in workplace issues and government affairs.

He began his career with the Washington State Attorney General in the Labor and Industries Division. After 10 years with the Attorney General's Office, Bob spent 12 years in private practice at several Puget Sound-area law firms, including Lane Powell PC and Eisenhower Carlson PLLC. While in private practice he represented clients in regulatory issues and complex litigation including the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) and industrial insurance defense. He has litigated cases at all levels in Washington State including the Washington State Court of Appeals and the Washington State Supreme Court. He has also appeared before the United States District Court and the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Bob is a graduate of Gonzaga University School of Law.



### **Kevin Britt, J.D.**

*Sr. Manager, Claim Services, Workforce Solutions, Equifax Inc.*

Kevin Britt is a Sr. Manager, Claim Services for Equifax Workforce Solutions. In this role, Kevin leads a team of consultants who work directly with employer clients, advising on individual claims and hearings as well as providing expert consultation to help the clients develop effective unemployment cost management programs. Kevin also works closely with the UI Program Relationship team to foster strong relationships with state and federal UI agency partners and help the Equifax operations team stay up to date with developments and changes in the UI program. Over his 27 year career with Equifax and its predecessors, Kevin has represented employers in hundreds of

unemployment hearings and presented numerous training sessions to employers. Kevin is a graduate of Creighton University School of Law in Omaha, Nebraska.

### **Cheryl Brown**

*Program Specialist, Supervisor, UI Customer Support Divisions, Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD)*

Cheryl Brown is the program specialist for the Unemployment Insurance Customer Support division (UICS) of the Washington State ESD. Cheryl has over 28 years of service with the State of Washington and non-profit associations. Since 2001 she has overseen the Short-Time Compensation (STC) program in Washington state, "SharedWork program", and the Job Search Review Center. Cheryl is excited to share her passion about the SharedWork program, as it is truly a win for employers, employees, and the community.



**Meredith Cole**

*Supervisor, UI Tax & Wage Employer Services, Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD)*

Meridith Cole started her career in the private sector, before moving to public service where her journey with ESD began. Throughout a 17-year span with ESD, she has served in numerous roles including five years in the Fraud Unit & the remainder in the Tax & Wage Employer Services Division. She has seen a lot of change, but what has never changed is how smart, resourceful, and exceptional the people are in the Washington agency. There is always a willingness to tackle any challenge and a belief that culture matters and people make us great. Her passion is to support people and leaders to achieve unit, division and organizational goals.



**Christina Corbett**

*State Information Data Exchange Services (SIDES) Operations Manager, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)*

Christina Corbett is the Operations Manager for the NASWA SIDES. Christina started her unemployment career with the Kansas Department of Labor in April 2007 as a customer service representative, processing claims. She also held roles as an adjudicator, quality assurance specialist, intake supervisor, and technical lead. In 2014, she added the SIDES Coordinator position. She obtained her Project Management certification in 2019 while working as a business analyst and holds an associate degree from Allen Community College in Business Management. Christina joined

the NASWA team in 2020 as the SIDES Program Specialist before becoming the Program Manager in October 2022 and was promoted to Operations Manager in May 2023. In her current role, Christina oversees the day-to-day activities of the SIDES team.



**Amy Evans**

*Global Benefits & HR Operations, Unemployment Insurance, The Boeing Company*

Amy Evans is the Program Manager for Unemployment Insurance at The Boeing Company. She brings vast experience in corporate unemployment administration as well as public policy impacting unemployment laws and regulations nationwide since 2006. Prior to working at Boeing, Amy served as the Unemployment Compensation Manager at Weyerhaeuser. She has also held the position of Counsel to the Republican Caucus in the Washington State Legislature, working closely with legislators and state agency officials crafting legislation for unemployment insurance. She holds an undergraduate

degree from Pacific Lutheran University and a law degree from Seattle University.



**Stephanie Ferguson**

*Director, Global Employment Policy & Special Initiatives, US Chamber of Commerce*

Stephanie Ferguson's portfolio is comprised of Unemployment Insurance, International Labor, Non-Compete Agreements, and Workers' Compensation policy. Ferguson also oversees the U.S. Chamber's Data Center Initiative. Ferguson has been a prominent advocate for Unemployment Insurance Modernization and recently represented U.S. employers at the International Labor Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. She earned her B.A. in Political Science and Spanish Language & Literature as well as a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Nevada.



**Tony Fiore**

*Of Counsel, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter*

Tony Fiore is a demonstrated advocate with exceptional knowledge of local, state and federal laws and of national and international legal and business regulations. He is a recognized leader among businesses and state and national trade associations. His career is marked by his leadership in bringing about significant reforms to Ohio and other states' unemployment programs, as well as Ohio's civil justice system. He has developed and coordinated the Ohio Chamber's advocacy for the most comprehensive reforms to Ohio's Fair Employment Practices Act since its creation. In addition, Fiore counsels companies on best practices within the workplace, risk management strategies for state-funded and self-insured entities, as well as legislative and administrative changes that impact a company's bottom line. Tony collaborates closely with human resource management professionals across Ohio and in Washington, D.C., through his service as the government affairs director on the Ohio State Council of SHRM. He also serves as editor of the Highlights of State Unemployment Compensation Laws publication of the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation.



**Allison Ford**

*Public Policy Manager, Uber*

Allison Ford is a Public Policy Manager for Uber Technologies Inc., managing transportation, workforce and technology issues that impact the rideshare and app-based delivery industry in the Pacific Northwest region. Previously she held government relations and public policy positions managing international government relations and "Future of Work" portfolio for United Technologies, a high-tech aerospace and building systems manufacture and Van Ness Feldman, an environmental and energy law firm with offices located in Georgetown and Seattle. Ford graduated from Gonzaga University in 2004 with a BA in History, and was a member of the UTC Employee Scholar Program where she received her MPA degree in 2014 from George Mason University. She recently served on the Women's Foreign Policy Group Board of Directors and its Executive Committee.





### **Jim Garner**

*Administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor*

Jim Garner started serving as the Administrator of the Office of Unemployment Insurance in the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration on July 4, 2021. Previously, he served nine years as the Deputy Administrator of the Office of Unemployment Insurance. Prior to his federal service, Jim was appointed by Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius to serve as the Secretary of Labor for the State of Kansas, a position he held for eight years (2003-2011). In that position, he was the senior executive and policy maker of the agency that administered the state's unemployment insurance program, workers compensation program, employment

standards laws, workplace safety program, labor market information services and public employers-employees relations laws. He was also elected to six terms (12 years) as a member of the Kansas House of Representatives, including serving four years as the Minority Leader of this legislative body.

Jim grew up in the southeast Kansas town of Coffeyville and is a graduate of Coffeyville Community College. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from the University of Kansas and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kansas, School of Law. Following law school, Jim served a two-year appointment as a judicial law clerk for U.S. District Judge Dale E. Saffels. In August 2016, Jim graduated from the Federal Executive Institute's Leadership for a Democratic Society program.



### **David Harrod**

*ADP Alliance Relationship Manager*

David Harrod started his career with ADP in 1995, focusing on assisting clients with their Unemployment Claims process. Over the years he has held numerous roles including hearings representative, benefit charge audit, tax rate audit, penalty abatement, business analyst and is currently in relationship management. Prior to joining ADP David worked as a paralegal in the areas of workers' compensation and risk management. He holds specialized certificates as a paralegal, business analyst, and Six Sigma.

David currently serves as the board president of Radiant Health Centers, a non-profit health care and social services agency located in Orange County, California. A lifelong resident of Southern California, David currently lives in the Anaheim Resort District where he is treated to the Disneyland fireworks display every night! He likes to travel and has been to so many great places over the Americas as well as to the Middle East and South Asia.



### **Doug Holmes**

*President, UWC Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation (UWC)*

Doug Holmes began as President of UWC-Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation in November 2006, after more than 22 years in positions in the public sector in which he developed policy and administered state workforce and employment, and training programs as well as the federal/state UI system. He also serves as President of the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation and edits the Highlights of State Unemployment Compensation Laws report each year tracking changes in state and federal Unemployment Insurance law and comparing the primary features of state UI laws. In his career prior to being selected as President of UWC, Doug served as Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Deputy Administrator of the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Director of the Unemployment Compensation Division of the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Ohio UI Tax Director, Chief Legal Counsel for Unemployment Insurance, and Secretary of the Ohio Unemployment Compensation Advisory Council. He regularly serves as a subject matter expert on UI for congressional committees with jurisdiction over Unemployment Insurance. Doug has testified on Unemployment Insurance policy and legislation before the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Ways and Means. Doug is an Attorney, and graduate of the Ohio State University and the University of Toledo College of Law.



### **Alison Jones**

*Director, Government Affairs, Compliance, ADP*

Alison Jones is the Director of Government Affairs for Unemployment Insurance at ADP. She is responsible for relationships with state tax authorities on unemployment insurance tax compliance, policy and technology matters. Prior to joining ADP she spent over 3 years with the U.S. Department of Labor serving in various tax, fiscal, reporting, and grants management related positions including UI Program Supervisor in State UI Modernization, over 11 years with the Texas Workforce Commission Tax Department including Supervising the Austin region Auditors and Examiners, and over 3 years with the Florida Department of Revenue. Alison is a member of the National Payroll Reporting Consortium (NPRC) and the UWC.



### **Andrew Kearney**

*Special Agent on Unemployment Insurance Fraud, US Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General (US DOL OIG)*

Andy Kearney is a data scientist for the U.S. Department of Labor - Office of Inspector General, assigned to the Division of Analysis and Analytics at DOL-OIG headquarters. Andy has spent more than three years developing analytics techniques to identify significant networks of unemployment fraud, particularly on international organized crime and domestic violent gangs. Prior to joining DOL-OIG, Andy served as a lead data scientist at Booz Allen Hamilton, where he led advanced analytics projects for the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security, and United States Postal Service.



### Scott Keim

*Deputy Attorney General, Idaho Attorney General's Office*

Scott Keim is an attorney based in Meridian, ID, with a distinguished career marked by excellence in providing comprehensive legal services across various sectors. Currently serving as Deputy Attorney General at the Office of the Idaho Attorney General since August 2006, Scott oversees legal matters for key state agencies including the Idaho Department of Labor, Department of Health and Welfare, and Idaho Commission on Human Rights. Since moving to the Idaho Department of Labor in 2018 Scott has focused on regulatory compliance, contract negotiation, UI Collections, and UI appeals. Prior to his role with the Idaho Attorney General, Scott honed his litigation skills at Brady Lerma, Chtd./Lerma Law Office, PA, where he represented insurance providers, private clients, and governmental entities in various legal disputes. Scott holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Utah and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Wyoming. He is admitted to practice law in Idaho and Oregon, and before the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho.



### Jennifer Kim-Pierce

*Attorney and Director of Hearings and Appeals, Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Service Corporation*

Jennifer Kim-Pierce is the Director of Hearings and Appeals at the Michigan Health and Hospital Association Unemployment Compensation Program. A lifelong Michigander, Jennifer recalls spending time during her high-school years sitting at her grandmother's kitchen table, watching her law-student aunt study for the Bar and thinking "I never want to be a lawyer; it seems like a lot of work". And yet, that is exactly where her path led. Upon seeing the difficulty family and friends had in navigating a complex legal system, Jennifer chose to become a guide in that process. With over seven years as a paralegal at a law firm specializing in family law, bankruptcy, and criminal defense services, Jennifer took the next step and entered law school. While continuing to work a "day job" and raising her daughter as a divorced parent, Jennifer graduated Magna Cum Laude from Michigan State University College of Law. Next came six years of private practice, first as a solo practitioner and then as a law firm partner. In 2019, Jennifer made the switch to unemployment law, just in time to greet a massively disruptive global pandemic. Working mostly with health care employers, Jennifer garnered a deep knowledge of unemployment law pertaining to reimbursing employers. Jennifer thrives on assisting her clients navigate administrative hearings and appeals across multiple states, as well as providing consultation on unemployment law and human resources policies. Jennifer is committed to preserving and improving the integrity of the unemployment insurance system for all participants, particularly as the system emerges from the challenges presented during the pandemic.



### **Tim Kolar**

*State Office Administrator, Unemployment Insurance Agency, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity*

Tim Kolar is a demonstrated leader in organizational change and restructuring through innovation, collaboration and engagement with various stakeholders. Focused on high-level execution of strategies through a leadership approach of cultivating and coordinating actions at every level of an organization or agency. Proven, immediate results for clients as a management consultant focused on compliance and ethics matters, process improvement strategies, and performing investigations.

Currently rooting out fraud, waste, abuse and inefficiencies in government administered social programs. With current responsibilities, oversee the Investigations Division for the Unemployment Insurance Agency. Serve as the Co-Chair of the Michigan Attorney General's Fraud Task Force. Data Strategist for the Unemployment Insurance Agency. Use data collected internally and through external partnerships to make evidence-based decision making for internal procedure and policy changes, measuring success of initiatives, and attempting to bring forth legislative changes at both the state and federal levels. Project and engagement experience pertaining to corporate compliance programs, governance and regulatory compliance matters, internal investigations, organizational compliance risks, compliance auditing programs and monitoring protocols, change management and restructuring. Have presented to Board of Directors, Legislature, Audit Committees, Regulatory Agencies, Compliance Committees, Counsel and other stakeholders.



### **Mark Mayfield**

*Senior Software Implementation Manager, Catalis*

Mark Mayfield is a dynamic and motivated software development professional with a proven record of generating and building relationships, managing projects from concept to completion, designing operational strategies, and mentoring teams to success. He is an adaptable and transformational leader with an ability to work independently, creating effective presentations, and developing opportunities that further establish organizational goals. Skilled in building cross-functional teams, demonstrating exceptional communication skills, and making critical decisions during challenges.

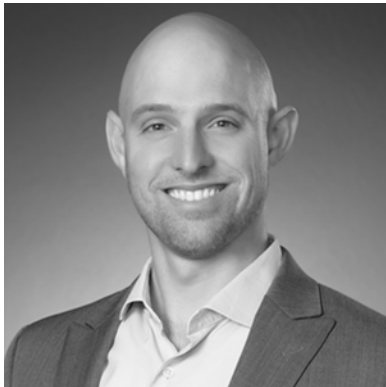
Mark has over 20 years initiating and delivering sustained results pertaining to the Unemployment Insurance program at the state and federal level, both as a leader and expert consultant.



### **Claire McKenna**

*Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Unemployment Modernization, US Department of Labor*

Claire McKenna, Ph.D. is a Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of Unemployment Insurance Modernization in the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL). Prior to her work at DOL, McKenna was a Senior Policy Analyst at the National Employment Law Project, where she focused on strengthening unemployment insurance at the state and federal levels in the wake of the Great Recession. McKenna earned her Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Institute for Work and Employment Research, where, as part of her research, she interviewed a diverse group of women separated from hourly service employment during the pandemic to understand their decision-making and experiences following job loss. McKenna is a member of the National Academy of Social Insurance and has expertise in unemployment insurance, the low-wage labor market, and how race and gender shape labor market opportunities.



### **Rob Moutrie**

*Senior Policy Advocate, California Chamber of Commerce*

Robert Moutrie joined the California Chamber of Commerce in March 2019 as a policy advocate and was named a senior policy advocate starting January 1, 2024, in recognition of his efforts on behalf of members. He leads CalChamber advocacy on occupational safety, tourism, insurance, legal reform, immigration, and unemployment insurance, as well as representing employer interests on education issues. With the COVID-19 pandemic and recent legislation pushing unemployment insurance issues into the spotlight, Moutrie has testified and lobbied extensively on topics including employers' unemployment insurance tax rates, California's fund insolvency, and fraud prevention. As part of that work, Moutrie represents the California employer community in heavily contested legislation regarding unemployment insurance reform and unemployment insurance for strikers.

Before his work at the CalChamber, Moutrie represented public and private clients on matters including consumer fraud litigation, civil rights, employment law claims, tort claims, and other litigation issues in federal and state courts. Moutrie earned a B.A. in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, and a J.D. with honors from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. He is a volunteer instructor for the nationally-ranked UC Hastings Trial Team and an occasional rowing coach at River City Rowing Club in Sacramento.



### Anne Paxton

*Attorney & Policy Director, Unemployment Law Project*

Anne Paxton is an attorney and policy analyst who has worked for the Unemployment Law Project (ULP) since 2017 and now serves as policy director and director of the pro bono program. In those roles, she participates in rulemaking, develops legislation to reform unemployment insurance laws, and recruits and trains volunteer attorneys to assist with ULP's caseload of claimant appeals. She regularly meets with claimant advocates from multiple states as well as with the leadership of the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA), and the Washington Employment Security Department and Office of Administrative Hearings.

A Claimant Experience project she recently led analyzed concerns expressed in 100 detailed claimant interviews; the resulting report, titled "Voices of Washington's Unemployed," was released in March 2024 and featured in a front-page story in the Seattle Times.

She is a member of the state Unemployment Insurance Advisory Committee (UIAC) as a representative of the public.



### Nicolas Petrosky-Nadeau

*Vice President, Macroeconomic Research, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco*

Nicolas Petrosky-Nadeau is Vice President and head of the macroeconomic group at the Economic Research Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Nicolas is a member of the policy advisory group for the President of the San Francisco Fed. In this role, he co-coordinates research briefings to the President and consults on monetary policy strategies and communications as part of the preparation work for FOMC policy meetings. Nicolas also manages the SF Fed Data Explorer, an interactive data application available to the public.

Nicolas's research focuses on the long-run trends and business cycle dynamics of labor markets. He has published articles in leading academic journals, including the *American Economic Review*, *American Economic Review: Macro*, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, *Journal of Economic Theory*, and *Quantitative Economics*, and co-authored a graduate economics textbook with the MIT Press.

Prior to joining the Federal Reserve in 2014, Nicolas was on the faculty at Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business. He has served as an associate editor of the *European Economic Review* and a visiting scholar at several academic institutions and central banks, and has been invited to teach on the macroeconomics of labor markets at a number of foreign central banks. Nicolas received his PhD in economics from the University of Quebec at Montreal and his BA in economics from HEC Montreal.



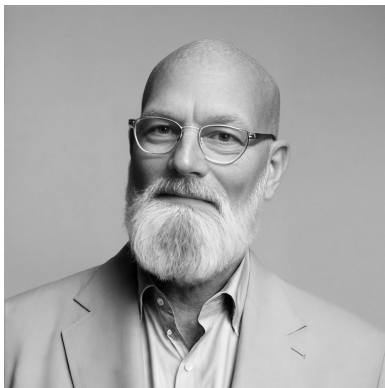
## JR Richards

*Director, Unemployment Insurance Customer Support Division,  
Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD)*

JR Richards has served as Director of Unemployment Insurance at the Washington State ESD for the past two years. Her unwavering passion lies in customer service within the equity, diversity, and inclusion space. She strives to enhance access for customers by placing them at the heart of decision-making processes. JR firmly believes in empowering individuals and approaches leadership with curiosity, authenticity, and vulnerability.

Before joining ESD, JR dedicated six years to the Department of Licensing (DOL). During her tenure, she successfully guided teams through five technology system modernizations and adeptly managed significant organizational changes. Her exceptional leadership earned her the prestigious Governor's Award for Management in 2017, recognizing her contributions to improving DOL's high-volume call center.

JR's roots trace back to a small town in Lewis County. She shares her life in Elma with her husband, Great Dane, and three rescue cats.



## Wayne Rottger

*Product Intelligence Manager, Experian Employer Services*

Wayne Rottger is an accomplished professional with over 30 years of experience in the unemployment management and consulting industry. His expertise spans claims administration, client onboarding and management, customer success, tax account auditing and modeling, and consulting on complex corporate structure changes. Wayne's ability to guide clients through the intricacies of unemployment tax statutes and regulations has been instrumental in helping them make critical decisions.

In 2020, Wayne joined Experian Employer Solutions as the Vice President of Unemployment Tax. His deep understanding of the industry led to the creation of his current role as Product Intelligence Manager, in which he monitors and reports on state and federal legislative changes, conducts informative webinars related to unemployment claims and tax, and provides thought leadership for various HR and Payroll Associations across the country. Prior to Experian, Wayne worked with other third-party agents, including Equifax Workforce Solutions and TALX Corporation.

Wayne's strength lies in presenting complex, industry-specific information in an understandable manner. He has successfully assisted clients across various industries, providing clarity and insights. Wayne holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Relations from the University of Central Missouri.



### **Scott B. Sanders**

*President and CEO, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)*

Scott B. Sanders has been the President and CEO of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) since October 2014. He manages the association of state administrators who handle workforce training, unemployment insurance, employment services, employment statistics, labor market information programs, and veteran reemployment in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and US Territories. The association provides advocacy at the national level for a more effective workforce system, and engages with Congress, the US Department of Labor, employers and the public.

He previously served as Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and was a member of the cabinet of Governor Michael Pence and Governor Mitchell Daniels. DWD managed and implemented training and employment programs for Hoosiers, collaborated on regional economic growth initiatives for Indiana, coordinated the adult education system, and oversaw the unemployment insurance system. He was also involved in launching JAG in Indiana in 2007.

Scott currently serves on the national board for Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), the UWC Foundation and WAPES (World Association of Public Employment Services). He previously served on the American Workforce Policy Advisory Board from February 2019 to January 2021, as well as on the board of the LMI Institute from July 2017 to June 2023 (Chair 2020-2021). Scott also has over 20 years of private sector experience prior to his role at DWD. Scott earned his master's degree in business administration from Northwestern University's J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management and his bachelor's degree from Miami University.

### **Chris Silvern**

*Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Branch of Training & Special Programs, US Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General (US DOL-OIG)*

Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge (ASAC) Christopher Silvern works for DOL OIG's Office of Investigations where he leads the Branch of Training and Special Programs within the Division of Investigations. In this role, ASAC Silvern supervises DOL OIG's National Unemployment Insurance Fraud Coordinator (NUIFC) and provides oversight to DOL OIG's nationwide pandemic UI program. Additionally, ASAC Silvern manages the OIG's participation in the U.S. Department of Justice's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces and International Organized Crime Intelligence and Operations Center. Prior to becoming a supervisor, ASAC Silvern served as a Senior Special Agent in the role of NUIFC and coordinated DOL OIG's response to pandemic UI fraud. Before that, ASAC Silvern spent 15 years as field agent assigned to the Atlantic City, NJ Field Office, where he investigated numerous high-impact UI fraud matters and served as an OIG UI Subject Matter Expert. ASAC Silvern is a former Marine Corps officer who earned a master's degree from the U.S. Naval War College and bachelor's degree from The College of New Jersey.





## Richard Siegel

*President, Association of Unemployment Tax Organizations*

Rich Siegel is the President of Unemployment Tax Management Corp. Siegel has over 34 years of experience representing employers before states' Employment Security Divisions. Siegel continues to serve current clients as well as sitting on numerous business advocacy committees that relate to unemployment compensation. Siegel also currently proudly serves as President of the national association of Third Party Administrators-The Association of Unemployment Tax Organizations ("AUTO"). Founded in 1979, AUTO promotes, protects, and improves the integrity, administration, and operation of the nation's unemployment compensation system for all parties involved - claimants, employers, and state agencies. In October 2020, Rich was

appointed by then-Governor Charles Baker to serve on the Advisory Council to lend counsel to the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance and Secretary of Finance and Administration in their modernization efforts of the Massachusetts On-Line Unemployment System. Rich is also a member of the Board of Directors of UWC Strategic Services.

In 2022, Siegel received the J Eldred Hill, Jr. Award from The National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation. The J. Eldred Hill, Jr. Award is considered the highest award to be given to a leader in the industry in recognition of outstanding service to the Unemployment Insurance System. It is named for the longtime Executive Director of Unemployment Benefit Advisors (UBA).



## Paul Sonn

*State Policy Program Director, National Employment Law Project (NELP)*

Paul Sonn is the State Policy Program Director at NELP, a workers' rights research and advocacy organization headquartered in New York. NELP supports campaigns for stronger protections for workers at the federal, state, and local levels, in policy areas such as minimum wages, unemployment insurance, misclassification, health and safety, fair chance employment, and the role of electronic monitoring and AI in the workplace. Prior to joining NELP, Paul was co-director of the Economic Justice Project at New York University's Brennan Center for Justice, and an assistant counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

He has also served as a Lecturer in Law at Columbia Law School, and is a graduate of Yale Law School and Dartmouth College.



### **Kevin Stapleton**

*Division Chief, Fiscal and Actuarial Services, Office of Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor*

Kevin Stapleton has worked in the Office of Unemployment Insurance (OUI) since 2005. Prior to becoming the Director of the Division of Fiscal and Actuarial Services, Kevin served as a contract economic analyst, an economist, and the lead actuary for OUI's actuarial team and reporting team.

### **Tiffany Strauss**

*Senior Director, Employer Tax Services - Operations*

Tiffany Strauss, Senior Director of Employer Tax Services Operations with Equifax Workforce Solutions, is a 23 year veteran in the UI industry. In this role, Tiffany leads several teams that service approximately 8,000 employer clients and collaborates with state agencies on UI Tax matters. She also stays abreast of changes that may impact the teams and employer clients. Tiffany has a Bachelor's Degree in Management and Leadership and is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio.



### **Brad Thomas**

*Professional Staff, Committee on Ways and Means, US House of Representatives*

Brad Thomas is a Professional Staff Member on the Committee on Ways and Means, subcommittee on Work and Welfare for Chairman Jason Smith (R-MO). His portfolio focuses primarily on unemployment insurance and reemployment services. Previously, he served as a Program Administrator with the Maryland Department of General Services responsible for the management and marketing of the Federal Surplus Personal Property Donation Program for the State of Maryland. In this role, he collaborated closely with the General Services Administration, Small Business Administration, Department of Defense, and Federal Emergency Management Agency to obtain and distribute excess federal surplus property and run the program in compliance with federal regulations and law. Additionally, Brad was a legislative officer in the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Labor from 2019 to 2021. His portfolio at the Department included the Employment and Training Administration and the programs under its jurisdiction; Unemployment Insurance, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Apprenticeship, Jobs Corps, YouthBuild, Reentry Employment Opportunities, National Dislocated Worker Grants, the Senior Community Service Employment Program, and Youth Programs. He also covered DOL VETS and was Vice Chair of the Department's HBCU Initiative Committee.



**Jason A. Tyszko**

*Senior Vice President, US Chamber of Commerce Foundation*

Jason A. Tyszko is the Senior Vice President, Center for Education and Workforce, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Through events, publications, and policy initiatives, the Center for Education and Workforce—in partnership with Chamber members and business leadership—seeks to cultivate and develop innovative thinking that spurs action to preserve America's competitiveness and enhance the career readiness of youth and adult learners.

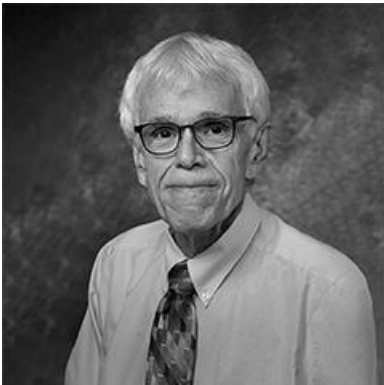
Tyszko's prior experience focused on coordinating interagency education, workforce, and economic development initiatives. In 2009, he served as a policy adviser to Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn's administration and as a member of the Executive Committee that directed more than

\$10 billion in investments to aid in the state's recovery. While in the Office of the Governor, Tyszko chaired the interagency Job Training Working Group and developed Illinois Pathways, the signature public private STEM education strategy included in the state's Race to the Top proposal.

In addition, Tyszko was deputy chief of staff and senior policy adviser to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. There he oversaw the design and launch of the STEM Learning Exchanges, an innovative network of statewide public-private partnerships tasked with coordinating planning and investing to support regional STEM education and workforce programs. He further provided lead staff and policy support to the Illinois Workforce Investment Board.

Tyszko also managed innovative technology projects. This included the build-out of integrated education and workforce statewide longitudinal data systems and the implementation of the Illinois Shared Learning Environment, a transformative learning management system that enables personalized learning through integrated data in a cloud environment.

Tyszko received his Master of Arts from the University of Chicago and his Bachelor of Arts from DePaul University. He is a certified teacher in the state of Illinois. Tyszko resides in Washington, D.C.



**James Van Erden**

*Senior Advisor / ARPA Director, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)*

Dr. Van Erden joined NASWA in 2011 where he provides policy and programmatic analysis and advice on the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program and on a variety of Workforce System programs. He also directs research and development projects on Unemployment Insurance and workforce programs. He was primarily responsible for the establishment and operation of NASWA's Integrity Center and continues to help guide this effort. He also directs NASWA's ARPA effort to assist State Workforce Agencies improve their operations. He also had a long career with the US DOL where he served as the

Administrator of the Office of Work Based Learning, Director of the Bureau of Apprenticeship & Training and as Chief Actuary for the Office of Unemployment Insurance. He earned a PhD in Economics from the University of Utah.



**Sam Virgil**

*UI Strategic Initiatives Manager, Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD)*

Sam Virgil is the Strategic Initiatives Manager for the Unemployment Insurance Customer Support division (UICS) at the Washington State ESD. With more than 20 years of diverse management experience in government, non-profit, and corporate customer service environments, Sam oversees UICS Training Team, Shared Work, WOTC / Bonding Program, and Communications. He provides leadership in facilitation, training, and workforce readiness with a strong focus engagement for both internal and external customers. Sam is certified in SHRM – CP, PHR, and Prosci Change Management and is an active member of IAWP.



**James Weant**

*Senior Manager, UI Program Relationship, Equifax*

James Weant, a veteran of the UI program since 1990, has been serving as the Unemployment Insurance Program Relationship (UIPR) Manager at Equifax since 2015. In this role, he regularly collaborates with key state and federal unemployment leaders to further enhance the integrity of the UI program. Continuing into 2024, James continues his role as Secretary of the Association of Unemployment Tax Organizations (AUTO). Since 2019, James has played a pivotal role on the UWC National UI Issues Conference planning committee since 2019 and has also served on both the UWC Board of Directors and the National Foundation Board of Trustees since 2023.



**Dr. Gina Wolf**

*Wolf Chiropractic Clinic*

Dr. Gina Wolf graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic West in 1993. She utilizes a variety of low force and traditional chiropractic techniques. She has fostered strong relationships within the medical community, implementing a model of collaborative care that offers a multi-dimensional approach to patient care. She frequently works closely with pain management specialists, neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons and physical therapists to ensure optimal treatment outcomes for every patient she treats.

She is also the founder of WorkingHealth, a company dedicated to integrating safety and wellness education for private industry and federal government employees. Her commitment to injury prevention is evident through her clinical expertise, particularly in educating the public on topics such as back safety and repetitive use injuries. Actively involved in professional associations, Dr. Wolf serves as an engaged member of the Washington State Chiropractic Association and represents the state as a Delegate to the American Chiropractic Association.