JASON BOULETTE, Partner, Boulette & Golden L.L.P.
Jason Boulette is Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and has been repeatedly recognized as a Texas Rising Star (Thompson-Reuters Corporation) and one of the Best Lawyers in America (Woodward/White, Inc.). Representing employers in a wide range of employment, labor, and immigration matters, Jason’s practice includes litigation, training, counseling, and corporate immigration services. Previously with Vinson & Elkins L.L.P., Jason founded Boulette & Golden L.L.P. with Mike Golden in 2006.

BECKY L. BROOKS, Director Resource Development GFOAT
Becky Brooks has 30 years of experience in the public finance industry and has owned her own company since 1994. She offers financial management planning and analysis services to local governments. Presently, Becky also serves as director of resource development for GFOAT. Becky holds an undergraduate degree in accounting from McNeese State and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of North Texas.

KAREN H. BROPHY, Senior Assistant City Attorney
Ms. Brophy currently serves as a senior assistant city attorney concentrating on financial and economic development matters for Irving, a city of 216,000 located in the heart of the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex. Ms. Brophy is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. She has 37 years’ experience representing north Texas local governments, including 15 years as city attorney of Carrollton. Her career includes three years as the Arlington Director of Planning and Development Services, a department responsible for the land use planning and building inspections functions. She was a member of the city team that negotiated the master development agreement and lease of Cowboys Stadium. She has successfully obtained state reimbursement for local costs associated with

DWIGHT D. BURNS JR., Senior Vice President, Siebert Brandford Shank & Co., L.L.C.
Mr. Dwight D. Burns, Jr., has been Senior Vice President of Siebert Brandford Shank & Co., L.L.C. since May 2014. Mr. Burns joined Siebert Brandford Shank in March, 2014. He has more than 18 years of experience in government and public finance. In public finance, he has worked in the capacities of investment banker, financial advisor, issuer, and rating analyst. He has advised numerous Texas municipalities, including the City of Dallas, City of Fort Worth, City of Carrollton, Dallas Area Rapid Transit, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, North Texas Toll Authority, Dallas County (including a brief stint as co-financial advisor for Dallas County Hospital District), and the City of Houston. Prior to his work as a financial advisor, he served as Executive Director of Texas Public Finance Authority, managing over $4 billion in municipal debt. He was previously a senior credit analyst at Moody’s Investors Service. In government, he has also served as a policy advisor to an Austin City Council member and a legislative policy analyst for state senators in the Texas Senate. Mr. Burns has a BA from the University of Texas at Austin and an MPA from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin.

ANDY CLARKE, Director, Kroll Bond Rating Agency, Inc.
Andy Clarke is a Director at Kroll Bond Rating Agency, Inc. He focuses on the state and local government areas, including general obligation, tax backed, water & sewer utility, airports and special district bonds. Andy has over twelve years of experience working with public finance bond issuers and municipal credit analysis. Prior to joining Kroll, Andy was a Vice President within the Fixed Income Division of BNP Paribas where he focused on providing letters of credit and other financial services to municipal counterparties across all sectors and geographic areas. Prior to his role at BNP Paribas Andy was a Vice President at Ambac Assurance Corporation, where he worked in the area of municipal credit analysis. Andy began his career as a Rating Specialist at Standard and Poor’s where he covered municipalities within the Northeastern United States. He has a BS from the University at Albany and an MPA from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy.

KEITH A. DAGEN, Assistant Director of Finance, City of Richardson
Keith Dagen, CPA, is the Assistant Director of Finance for the City of Richardson, Texas. He began his government career in January 1998 as a Rate Analyst for the City of Garland, eventually moving into the position of General Ledger
Manager. In September 2003, he accepted the position of Chief Accountant with the City of Richardson. Keith has served as Richardson’s Treasurer and Revenue Manager, and in October 2009 began serving as the Assistant Director of Finance. Keith graduated Summary Cum Laude with a BBA in Accounting from Harding University and received an MBA from the University of Texas at Dallas. He has served as the Vice-Chair of GFOAT’s Financial Reporting and Regulatory Response Committee since 2008 and also serves as a member of GFOA’s Special Review Committee for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting program. Keith is also a member of the Government Treasurers’ Organization of Texas, and served two terms as the Treasurer of the Leadership Richardson Alumni Association.

JENNIFER RITTER DOUGLAS, Managing Director, Specialized Public Finance Inc.,

Ms. Douglas has served as a financial advisor to local governments, including hospitals and universities, since 2001. In 2008, she was one of the founding partners of Specialized Public Finance, and independent financial advisory firm. Prior to that, she was with First Southwest Company. She has worked with a variety of government entities on tax-backed projects, water/sewer projects, economic development initiatives and public/private partnerships, including Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ), 380/381 Economic Grants and Public Improvement Districts (PIDs). She also assists local governments in planning for bond elections. Prior to her work as a financial advisor, she was a Policy Analyst for Debt and Financial Planning for the Government Finance Officers Association (“GFOA”) in Chicago. At GFOA, Ms. Douglas conducted debt trainings for government officials and authored "Conducting a Debt Affordability Study" and "An Elected Officials Guide to Rating Agency Presentations.” She served as a liaison for the association with other municipal bond industry groups and regulatory authorities and still is a frequent speaker for GFOA’s national training courses. She has served as an advisor to the GFOA’s Committee on Governmental Debt Management since 2012. Ms. Douglas worked at the White House from 1995 to 1996. She earned a Master of Public Affairs from Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Southern Methodist University. Ms. Douglas is a registered Investment Advisor Representative with the Texas State Securities Board.

MICHAEL FEIST, Senior Vice President and Senior Municipal Credit Officer - Public Sector Banking, Bank of America

Michael Feist is a Senior Vice President and Senior Municipal Credit Officer for Bank of America’s Public Sector Banking team. In this role, Michael is responsible for delivering financing solutions to meet his clients’ short and intermediate-term funding requirements. His clients include cities, counties, school districts, community college districts, state governments and agencies. Michael has extensive experience structuring tax-exempt and taxable credit facilities, including direct purchase term and revolving facilities as well as liquidity facilities. Michael joined the Bank of America team 33 years ago and the last 10 years has been focused in the municipal market. Mr. Feist received his undergraduate degree from the University of New Mexico.

JOHN FISHBEIN, Senior Program Manager - Technical Services Center, Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA)

John Fishbein is a senior program manager in the Technical Services Center of the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Fishbein came to GFOA in 2002. He is responsible for the day-to-day operation of GFOA’s Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program. He is the author of GFOA’s recent publication on Building a Better Budget Document. He previously authored Preparing High Quality Budget Documents for School District’s and Preparing High Quality Budget Documents. He serves as staff to GFOA’s standing Committee on Governmental Budgeting and Fiscal Policy. He has spoken at national and Internet training seminars and conferences on budgeting.

MONETTE FISHER, Senior Account, City of Decatur

She will complete her Associates degree in Business Administration in the spring. Her career began with Standard Register, a fortune 500 company, as a Purchasing Agent in the Document Management, Secure Document Division and also served as a regional trainer in the Lubbock, Tyler, Shreveport, Little Rock and Fort Worth offices. In 2003, she began working in government finance. She attended the Southwest School of Government Finance through a scholarship from GFOAT. She has been an active member of GFOAT since 2003 and has enjoyed having the opportunity to participate on the Ethics Committee and to serve as co-chair. Her hobbies include fly fishing in Oklahoma with her grandchildren by her side and raising her beagles, Babe and Bently.
JILL FORSYTH, Senior Vice President - Government Finance, Banc of America Public Capital Corp’s

Jill Forsyth is a Senior Vice President for Banc of America Public Capital Corp’s Government Finance team. In this role, Ms. Forsyth is responsible for tax-exempt transactions, master lease financing programs and government real estate transactions. She works directly with issuers including cities, counties, school districts, community college districts, state governments and agencies, to structure unique solutions to finance various projects. Ms. Forsyth has extensive experience with taxable and tax-exempt appropriations-based leases, lease purchase and other asset-secured debt including installment purchase agreements, loans and notes. Ms. Forsyth joined Banc of America Public Capital Corp seven years ago and has over twenty-five years of experience in the tax-exempt financing industry and resides in Arizona. Ms. Forsyth has received both her undergraduate degree and Masters of Business degree from Arizona State University.

JERRY GAITHER, Partner, Assurance Services, Weaver

Jerry Gaither, CPA, CGFM, has more than 35 years of experience auditing government entities and is the partner-in-charge of Weaver’s public sector practice. With extensive experience leading engagement teams in audits, risk advisory services, forensic and litigation accounting support and consulting, Jerry brings specialized government industry knowledge to each of his clients. In addition, he is responsible for developing Weaver’s audit methodologies for financial auditing of government entities including cities, regional governments and public school districts as well as single audits meeting the requirements of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) A-133. He is an associate member of the Government Finance Officers Association and also serves on the Special Review Committee. Jerry is a Certified Government Finance Manager and a former member of the Technical Issues Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants as liaison to the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. With Jerry’s years of experience serving government entities and involvement in standard setting bodies, Jerry’s clients have access to important industry insights often before major changes happen. He graduated with a bachelor’s of business administration degree in accounting from Texas Christian University.

JENNIFER GARZA, Associate Director, U.S. Public Finance-State & Local Government Group

Jennifer Garza is an Associate Director for the U.S. Public Finance Ratings Group, focusing on state and local government ratings. Jennifer is responsible for analyzing and rating issuers and transactions in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas. In addition, she is the lead portfolio analyst for the state of Arkansas and is a leader for the contingent liquidity criteria. Jennifer is a member of a team of analysts that, by incorporating S&P economic forecasts, produces quarterly forecasts of credit conditions for the state and local governments group. Jennifer’s contribution to the quarterly forecasts focuses on the southwestern region economy, which includes: Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Additionally, Jennifer has contributed to criteria development and field research by running and assessing regression analyses, and has published commentaries on credit-related topics relevant to issuers and investors. Prior to joining Standard & Poor’s in 2005, Jennifer worked with a local economic development corporation conducting research and performing economic impact analysis reports. Jennifer is a member of the Southern Municipal Finance Society and the National Federation of Municipal Analysts. Jennifer earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Houston, and a Master of Science in Applied Economics from the University of North Texas.

JACKIE GONZALEZ, CPA, Audit Senior Manager

Jackie has more than 10 years of experience in public accounting, with an emphasis on financial reporting, financial statement audits and federal and state single audits. She works with nonprofit entities, federally-funded school districts, cities, counties and other governmental agencies. Jackie is licensed to practice as a Certified Public Accountant in Texas, and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, where she serves as the vice chair of the Accounting Career Education Committee. She is also a member of the Government Finance Officers Association’s Special Review Committee. She has frequently presents both internal and external CPE topics related to governmental accounting and auditing. She earned a Master of Business Administration degree, specializing in accounting and a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from Texas Wesleyan University.
JASON HADAVI, Chief of Investigations, City of Austin
I am responsible for managing the City Auditor’s Integrity Unit (CAIU), a team of investigators responsible for investigating, detecting, and preventing fraud, waste, and abuse throughout the City of Austin. In addition to managing the CAIU, I am the HR Manager and Ethics Officer for our department.

AIMEE KASLIK, Performance Administrator, City of Irving
Aimee Kaslik serves as the performance administrator for the City of Irving, Texas, where she oversees strategic planning, facilitates process improvements, administers the performance measurement system (PMF), and conducts various surveys to obtain the voice of residents, visitors, businesses, and employees. She is also a member of the Board of Examiners for Quality Texas.

KIMBERLY KNOX, CPA, Boucher, Morgan and Young, P.C.
Kimberly joined the firm in January 2014. Her career includes over 6 years of experience at a large regional firm in Fort Worth. Her experience is in audit and assurance services for a wide variety of clients in various industries, specializing in public sector including cities, school districts, and not-for-profits. Kimberly graduated from Graham High School and Texas Tech University. She is a member of the Fort Worth Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, and currently serves on the Accounting Career Education Committee. She is also a member of the Government Finance Officers Association Special Review Committee.

WILLIAM J. KOCH, President, Avalon Financial Services
Mr. Koch has extensive management and operational credentials that include a strong financial background in accounting, cash management, treasury, and information systems. He has broad industry experience with both publicly traded and privately held firms, including international market activities, and public sector organizations. For the past thirty years, Mr. Koch has been a successful management consultant providing specialized financial services primarily to public sector organizations, including municipalities, school districts, colleges, hospital districts, and regional transportation authorities. With proven financial expertise,solidly versed in governing laws and legal requirements, and extensive knowledge of banking systems and services, he has unique capabilities to offer his clients. Mr. Koch founded Avalon Financial Services in 1996 and serves as its president. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Texas A&M University. Mr. Koch is a registered investment advisor representative and a team member of Valley View Consulting, an investment advisory firm. He is an active member of the Government Treasurers’ of Texas and Government Finance Officers’ of Texas organizations.

BRYAN LANGLEY, Director of Finance, City of Denton
Bryan Langley began his career with the City of Denton in 2007 as the Director of Finance, and in 2010, he was promoted to the position of Chief Financial Officer and Director of Strategic Services. Most recently, in September 2012, Bryan was appointed to the position of Chief Financial Officer and Assistant City Manager for the City of Denton. In this capacity, he is responsible for the Budget, Treasury, Accounting, Debt Management, and Strategic Planning functions for the City. In addition, he also supervises the Information Technology, Human Resources, Library, Customer Service, Purchasing, Warehouse, Municipal Court, Risk Management, and other administrative operations within the City. Prior to joining the City of Denton, Bryan worked as Assistant Finance Director for the Town of Addison, and for the City of Dallas in a variety of capacities in the Office of Financial Services. Bryan earned Bachelor of Business Administration and Master of Business Administration degrees from the University of North Texas. In addition, he holds a Master of Science in Accounting and Information Management from the University of Texas at Dallas. He is a Certified Government Finance Officer, and a member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), the Government Finance Officers Association of Texas (GFOAT), the Texas City Management Association (TCMA), and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

ADAM MCCANE, CPA, Audit Partner, Weaver
Adam has more than a decade of experience in public accounting, which he has spent with a focus on state and local governments. He has provided assurance and advisory services to cities, counties, school districts, special purpose districts, and state agencies of all sizes. His single audit experience includes programs under HUD, Health and Human Services, DOJ, and Dept. of Transportation, among others. Adam is an active local member of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In addition, he serves as the
Treasurer for the Presbyterian Night Shelter of Tarrant County. He has authored numerous articles for professional and business publications, and frequently presents both internal and external CPE topics related to governmental accounting and auditing. Adam earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Texas Christian University.

DAVID K. MEDANICH, Vice Chairman, FirstSouthwest
Since 1981, has worked exclusively in FirstSouthwest’s municipal finance department providing financial advisory services to numerous cities, school districts, counties, and water districts in the authorization, issuance, sale and delivery of all types of tax-exempt securities. David has more than 30 years experience in public finance and has been actively involved in the development of funding plans for infrastructure and economic development, advance refundings, rating presentations, continuing disclosure, regulatory requirements, investment of public funds and currently represents more than 60 political subdivisions in Texas. He began his career in the securities industry by spending two years as a field analyst for the Municipal Advisory Council of Texas.

CHRISTOPHER MERCY, Executive Director, JP Morgan
Christopher Mercy joined J.P. Morgan in 1994. He is a Financial Risk Manager and member of the Columbus U.S. Fixed Income Money Market Team responsible for the trading and management of money market securities for both money market funds and separately managed accounts. Christopher has held the positions of senior portfolio manager and senior trader on the money market desk and municipal trader on the fixed income trading desk.

PAMELA MOON, Executive Director of Finance, City of Lubbock
Pamela Moon is the Executive Director of Finance for the City of Lubbock. In this role she is responsible for overseeing accounting, reporting, treasury, debt, and purchasing for the City. She has been with the City of Lubbock for almost 10 years. Pam was formerly Director of Finance for the City of Poquoson, Virginia, where she also served 10 years. Prior to working in government she worked 7 years as a Business Assurance Manager for Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP where she had numerous governmental, school, and non-profit clients. She graduated with top honors earning a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a concentration in Accounting from the College of William and Mary. Pam is a certified public accountant in Texas and Virginia. She is active in many activities and is currently the President of the West Texas Women’s CPA group.

STEVE MURRAY, Senior Director, Public Finance, Fitch Ratings
Steve Murray is a Senior Director and manager of Fitch’s Austin, Texas office, which covers local government agencies in the southwest U.S. In addition to his work as supervisor of the six-person tax-backed analytical staff in Austin, Steve is the lead analyst for several major cities in the southwest, including Houston, Austin and New Orleans. Steve has been at Fitch for twelve years. Prior to joining the company, he worked in a variety of banking and public sector positions. Steve has both undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Texas at Austin (Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs—1983 graduate).

TADD PHILLIPS, Human Resources Director, City of Georgetown
Tadd Phillips is the Human Resources Director for the City of Georgetown, Texas. He has served as a Municipal Human Resources professional for 13 years having also served the communities of McKinney, San Angelo, and North Richland Hills. He earned his Bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas and his MBA from the University of North Texas. Tadd is certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources by the HR Certification Institute. He is a Past President of the Texas Municipal Human Resources Association and he currently serves as a member of the TMRS Advisory Committee on Retiree Matters. He, his wife Amy, and their three kids are pleased to call Georgetown home.

MIYKAEL REEVE, Director of Finance, City of Red Oak
Ms. Miykael Reeve is the Director of Finance at City of Red Oak, Texas. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Accounting from Northwood University and earned her Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) certificate in January of 2013. She began her career working as an auditor for Shaw, Witherspoon and Company, P.C. She moved from there to become the account manager at the City of Ovilla, Texas, in 2006. Shortly thereafter, she joined Government Finance Officer Associates of Texas (GFOAT) as an active member. In 2008, she was offered the Director of Finance position at the City of Red Oak where she is currently employed. During her tenure, the City of Red Oak has successfully upgraded their bond rating from A- to AA- with Moody’s. She has submitted and earned the
Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for the Comprehensive Financial Report for September 30, 2012, and 2013. She has submitted her Comprehensive Budget for September 30, 2015, for the Distinguished Budget Award. She has implemented policies and procedures that have enabled the City of Red Oak to grow. She was nominated by GFOAT for the co-chair of the Ethics Committee in 2012, where she currently serves. She recently published a poem entitled “Where are you my Star” and continues to write poetry and prose. She learned to play the guitar in 2013 and enjoys composing music. She currently resides in Ennis, Texas, with her two children, Mary Reeve, David Reeve, Jr., and three dogs: Rexie, Honey and Blackie. She may be reached at the mreeve@redoaktx.org.

COURTNEY SHARP, City Manager, City of Midland
Courtney B. Sharp has served as the City of Midland’s chief executive since October 2008, leading a workforce of more than 900 employees with an annual budget of $227 million. Courtney earned his Bachelor of Political Science with an emphasis on Public Administration from West Texas A & M University. He is also a graduate of the Texas Tech Certified Public Manager’s Program. In his time as City Manager, Mr. Sharp has championed innovative and collaborative efforts in pursuit of Midland’s goal to become the flagship city in Texas. Under Mr. Sharp’s leadership, the City of Midland has placed a significant focus on the future of the region in a time of unprecedented growth, overseeing the investment of critical resources toward road reconstruction and maintenance, quality-of-life improvements and long-term infrastructure planning. He has played a key role in the City’s largest public works project to date, a 70-mile water pipeline from T-Bar Ranch to Midland, and continues to drive longer-term regional efforts to diversify the area’s water resources. Prior to his service in Midland, Mr. Sharp served as the City Manager for Mount Pleasant, Texas for four years and as Assistant City Manager for the City of Canyon, Texas for eight and a half years. He previously held the position of Local Government Services Program Coordinator for the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission in Amarillo, Texas for five years. Mr. Sharp has served as the Past President of the Texas City Management Association (TCMA), the East Texas City Management Association and the Panhandle City Manager’s Association. He has also served on the Board of Directors for Region 2 of the TCMA and he is a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). He and his wife Alissa have three daughters, Hannah (21), Reagan (17), and Madison (15).

STEPHANIE L. SANDRE, Senior Associate, Sheets & Crossfield
Stephanie joined Sheets & Crossfield in 2013 and has over 14 years’ experience practicing law with local governments and municipalities. Stephanie’s expertise is in contract law and her practice includes Procurement Contracts, Elections, Interlocal Agreements, Civil Services, and Environmental Compliance. Her career highlights include:
- Drafted the “Jobs Creation Finance Act” (Illinois HB 3353) on behalf of Illinois Representative Michael W. Tryon.
- Drafted and amended proposed TIF Reform Legislation during the 97th Illinois General Assembly and the 98th Illinois General Assembly.
- Assisted the City of Marion in establishing the first STAR Bonds District in the State Illinois.
- Negotiated and prepared over 500 municipal contracts on behalf of over 40 municipalities, including: Development Agreements; Intergovernmental Agreements; Annexation Agreements; and Economic Incentive Agreements.

BENNETT SANDLIN, Executive Director, Texas Municipal League
On October 1, 2010, Bennett Sandlin assumed his role as TML executive director. Prior to his appointment to this position, he served as general counsel for the League, helping cities primarily in the fields of tax, economic development, budget, and finance issues, including the municipal hotel occupancy tax and the economic development sales tax. Bennett authored the Revenue Manual for Texas Cities and was an instructor in Public Funds Investment Training. He has served on the comptroller’s E-Commerce and Technology Advisory Group and the TNRCC Proposition Two workgroup. He is a 1993 graduate of The University of Texas School of Law and has previously worked at the Municipal Affairs Division of the Texas Attorney General’s Office. Bennett and his wife Abby have two children, Audrey and Henry.

GREG SCHAECHER, McCall, Parkhurst, & Horton L.L.P.
Greg Schaecher joined the Dallas office in 2007. A graduate of Creighton University School of Law in Omaha, Nebraska, Greg’s practice focuses on public finance matters.
SUSAN SMITH, Executive Director, TML Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool (TML IEBP)
Susan Smith joined the TML Intergovernmental Employee Benefits Pool in 1994. During her tenure at TML IEBP, she developed the Pool’s Provider Network, bringing managed care options to the TML IEBP membership (1994); served as Central Team Manager (1996); was director of member services over all three service and marketing teams (1997); was appointed as executive director (2000); created the Administrative Services for Public Employee Benefits Alliance (a purchasing cooperative for political subdivisions in Texas) in 2006; and developed an alliance relationship between TML IEBP and UnitedHealthcare (2006). Her multifaceted expertise in the health care industry includes being a hospital administrator and the executive vice president of three hospitals, developing and receiving accreditation for a private school, and serving as C.E.O. of a management service organization for independent providers in the Houston marketplace. Susan has a B.A. from The University of Texas and a master’s degree from the University of Houston. She was born in El Paso, graduated from Monahans High School, and lives in Austin.

REBECCA UNDERHILL, Director of Finance, City of League City
Rebecca brings over 25 years of progressive finance and accounting experience. Prior to coming to the City of League City, Rebecca served in several leadership roles with the City of Port Arthur. Most recently, she held the position of Assistant City Manager for Port Arthur. Rebecca is a CPA with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. Rebecca is also an active member of several financial organizations such as Government Finance Officers Association and Texas Society of Certified Public Accounts.

JOHN VAHEY, Director of Federal Policy, Bond Dealers of America
John is responsible for analyzing federal regulatory and legislative policy related to the U.S. fixed income markets. Prior to the BDA, Mr. Vahey was a Policy Advisor at Third Way’s Capital Markets Initiative where he advised on policy issues in banking, capital markets, and financial regulatory reform issues. While at Third Way, he published reports on high frequency trading in the equity markets and various new bank regulatory programs, including the Liquidity Coverage Ratio and bank stress tests. Prior to Third Way, Mr. Vahey served as a Legislative Assistant for Congressman Gary Ackerman of New York, where he managed his Financial Services Committee work. Prior to his work on Capitol Hill, Mr. Vahey worked as an options market-maker and an analyst at a fixed-income hedge fund. He received his Masters of Finance from Johns Hopkins University and a BA in History from Boston College.

JEFF WALKER, Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Supply and Infrastructure, Texas Water Development Board
Jeff Walker serves as Deputy Executive Administrator for Water Supply and Infrastructure with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). After an agency reorganization in November 2013, Mr. Walker oversees the Board’s efforts on state water planning, project development, financial assistance, project funds disbursement, program administration, project inspection, water use and population projections, facility needs assessment, and reporting. In his current position, he has overseen the development and implementation of numerous process improvements and operational efficiencies to the water planning, project delivery and program activities. In total, Mr. Walker manages nearly one-third of the agency’s staff resources. As senior staff with the Board, he also serves on executive committees overseeing the implementation and management of two voter-approved funds – the State Implementation Fund for Texas and the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund. Previously, Mr. Walker was the Director of Project Development which was responsible for infrastructure financial assistance applications, financial analysis, and closing and delivery of financial assistance funds. As a 24-year veteran of TWDB, Mr. Walker has held numerous positions including agricultural water conservation specialist, financial analyst, and program manager for nonpoint pollution control. Since January 2010, Walker has played a vital role in assisting the Board to deliver more than $3.2 billion in funding water and wastewater projects across the state. Mr. Walker received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University and a Masters of Business Administration from Texas State University.

STEVE WILLIAMS, Assistant City Administrator/Chief Financial Officer, City of Conroe
Serve as a key member of the City’s executive management team by directing, managing, and planning its financial and internal service functions in an accelerated-growth community. Successfully maintaining numerous ongoing relationships throughout the community and within the organization is paramount. Certified Government Finance Officer #158.