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IGFOA 2021 Payroll Seminar | October 21, 2021

Speaker Bios

Jon Beckmann, Superintendent of Finance, *Waukegan Park District*

Jon Beckmann oversees the Park District's \$33 million dollar annual operating and capital improvement budget. He holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from North Park University with a concentration in Organizational Development and Strategic Leadership. He also holds two undergraduate degrees from Illinois State University in Finance and Insurance/Risk Management. He is working on his Master's of Data Analytics at the University of Wisconsin Whitewater. He is accountable for all finance related areas as well as human resources, IT, risk management, and golf operations. Jon is a member of Professional Education Committee and IGFOA Executive Board Member.

Robert M. Buhs, Executive Director, *Illinois Public Risk Fund*

Robert M. Buhs is the Executive Director of the Illinois Public Risk Fund since 2014 providing oversight to the Funds day-to-day operations. The Illinois Public Risk Fund is the largest self-insured risk pool in Illinois serving over 700 members. Bob retired as the Chief/Administrator of the Orland Fire Protection District (OFPD) after 27 years of full-time service and 13 of those years as a Chief Officer. After retiring from the OFPD, Chief Buhs was appointed as the Executive Director of the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association serving until 2014. Bob has been actively involved in the fire service for over 45 years. Bob has served as an adjunct instructor for Lewis University, Northwestern University, and at workshops and seminars dealing with fire department management, accreditation, incident management, and strategic planning. Bob has obtained numerous State of Illinois certifications including Chief Fire Officer Designee, a bachelor's Degree from Southern Illinois University in Fire Service Management and a master's Degree in Public Administration from Governors State University.

Ryhan Carrier, Project Manager, *BS&A Software*

Ryhan has been a member of the BS&A Software team for over eight years. He has held the role of implementation and training specialist as well as project manager. Ryhan has been involved in over 50 payroll implementations, many in the State of Illinois including Elmhurst Park District, Village of Skokie, Village of Willowbrook, and Oakbrook Park District.

Benjamin E. Gehrt, *Clark Baird Smith LLP*

Ben Gehrt focuses his practice on traditional labor law and employment litigation. He has experience in grievance and interest arbitration cases, contract negotiations, and unfair labor practice charges. Ben also represents clients in EEO and wage-hour litigation. Prior to practicing law, Ben worked as a Plant Manager for a food manufacturing company in suburban Chicago. His experience as a supervisor and a manager gives him a unique perspective that helps him relate to the day-to-day challenges our clients face while managing people.

Ben has represented public and private sector clients in contract negotiations and interest arbitration. In those settings, he has helped clients obtain significant cost savings through changes in staffing levels,

wage schedules, retiree insurance benefits, sick leave buyback benefits, and work rule changes, among other things.

Ben is also an experienced litigator. In addition to representing clients in grievance arbitration proceedings, Ben has also litigated cases in the state and federal trial courts. His litigation experience includes cases involving allegations of discrimination, employment cases alleging deprivation of constitutional rights, wage-hour disputes, and disputes over employee benefits under both ERISA and Illinois state law. In addition to his trial court experience, Ben has successfully represented clients in the state and federal courts of appeal.

Additionally, Ben has developed a niche practice at Clark Baird Smith LLP, counseling the firm's clients on a wide variety of wage and hour issues under both state and federal law. In addition to handling the traditional wage payment questions that arise with private sector businesses, Ben is skilled at answering questions that are unique to the public sector, such as questions about compensatory time, 7(k) work periods, pay for canine handlers, and duty shift trades, to name a few.

Ben has been selected as a Leading Lawyer and he was named to the Illinois Rising Stars list. Ben has also authored and contributed to numerous books and articles regarding labor and employment law. He is a co-editor and chapter author for Much Smarter Bargaining. He has also authored contributions to the NPELRA Legal Corner, The Developing Labor Law (BNA), How To Take A Case Before The NLRB (8th Ed. BNA), and a chapter in the Municipal Law Deskbook (ABA 2015) published by the American Bar Association's Section on State and Local Government Law.

In addition to his practice, Ben volunteers as a judge and advisory board member for the NICASA Teen Court program in Northern Illinois.

John E. Motylinski, Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

John E. Motylinski is an associate attorney with Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd. He graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Illinois College of Law and holds an undergraduate degree in political science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He focuses his practice in the areas of local government, municipal, public pension, litigation, labor, and employment law.

Bill Phillips, Assistant Attorney General, Illinois Attorney General's Office

Bill Phillips is an attorney licensed in Illinois and Missouri who is currently serving as an Assistant Attorney General in the Military and Veterans Rights Bureau. Mr. Phillips has worked for the Illinois Attorney General's Office for the past nine years, specializing in workers compensation and military issues. Prior to joining the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, Mr. Phillips worked for a law firm which specialized in government representation and litigation. Mr. Phillips holds a J.D and a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Southern Illinois University of Carbondale.

Mr. Phillips also serves as a Reservist in the United States Air Force JAG Corps. Mr. Phillips' military legal practice includes military justice, ethics, civil law, and legal assistance to service members and retirees.

Mr. Phillips lives in Swansea Illinois with his wife and daughter.

Lisa Simioni, Vice President & Senior Compliance Health Consultant, Segal

Lisa Simioni is a Vice President and Senior Compliance-Health Consultant with Segal in our Chicago office. She has more than 17 years of experience working with Public sector, corporate and multiemployer clients on a wide range of health and welfare compliance matters. Lisa helps clients navigate and ensure compliance with federal and state laws, ranging from day-to-day compliance issues to complex plan design matters for both ERISA and non-ERISA clients. She received a J.D. and LL.M. in

Employee Benefits from the John Marshall Law School and a BA International Business from Dominican University.

Marc Thorson, Executive Director of Regional Technology Services, *Northern Illinois University*

Marc Thorson is the Executive Director of Regional Technology Services in the NIU Division of Information Technology (DoIT). He oversees all aspects of NIU's broadband, Internet service, health informatics, and technology service offerings to communities, school districts, and other government and nonprofits organizations. Prior to joining NIU, Marc has worked in the local government Information Technology field for over 20 years. He is passionate about Information Security and data-driven decision making in environments with resource challenges.

Marc is also an adjunct instructor for the nationally ranked NIU Master of Public Administration program. Marc earned a Bachelor of Science in Management from National-Louis University, and a Master of Business Administration from Northern Illinois University with a focus on Management of Information Services and Marketing.

Kristine K. Willson, Senior Consultant, Human Capital Management and Payroll Consulting, *Sikich LLP*

Kristine K. Willson, CPP, is a senior consultant with over 30 years of professional experience in payroll services. Kristine provides payroll administration, taxation and implementation services to her clients. She also serves organizations with their benefit administration, garnishments and process documentation/improvement needs. Her experience includes international payroll and payroll SOX compliance work, too. Kristine works with clients in a range of industries, including manufacturing, biotech, retail, travel, medical services, property management, construction, insurance and not-for-profit.

Kristine is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), Global Payroll Management Institute (GPMI), American Payroll Association (APA) and American Payroll Association Women in Leadership Program. She is a Certified Payroll Professional (CPP), has completed the Global Payroll Management Certificate Program – American Payroll Association and the Leadership Certification Program – American Payroll Association. In 2019, she was APA Payroll Woman of the Year. In 2010, she received the APA Special Recognition Award and in 2007, she received the APA Meritorious Service Award.