

IGFOA Downstate Chapter Conference Speakers
February 17 – 18, 2022

James “Jim” Arndt, President/CEO of Arndt Municipal Support Inc.

James “Jim” Arndt has served in local government for more than 23 years. Jim recently served as the City Manager for Paducah Kentucky. Prior to becoming Paducah’s City Manager, he served eight years as the City Administrator of Effingham, Illinois. He also has been the Administrator for the City of St. Clair, Missouri and the Village of Union City, Ohio. Before entering the realm of city management, Arndt served six years as a police officer in Mattoon, IL. Arndt is a military veteran, serving three years in the United States Army. During his military career, Arndt spent time in Germany, North Carolina, Georgia, and South Carolina. Arndt has direct executive level experience in municipal finance, budgeting, human resources, executive level recruitments, collective bargaining, compensation and compression studies, succession planning, reinventing organizations, strategic planning, priority setting, City Council Retreats, Leadership Team Retreats, and City Council Orientations and Training.

Anthony Cervini, CPA, Partner-in-Charge, Government Services, Sikich LLP

Anthony M. Cervini, CPA, CFE, is responsible for providing technical services to Sikich’s governmental clients in all areas of governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, budget development, internal controls, revenue and expenditure forecasting, and cash and debt management. Anthony has participated in hundreds of audits of municipalities and other governmental entities since beginning his career with Sikich in 2005. He also has been responsible for serving as lead instructor for governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, cash management and internal control courses internally and throughout the Midwest. Anthony serves as a member of the GFOA Special Review Committee and is the current Chair of the Illinois CPA Society Government Report Review Committee. Anthony previously served as a budget reviewer for the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

Brad Cole, Executive Director, Illinois Municipal League (IML)

Brad serves as executive director of the Illinois Municipal League, which is the statewide association of 1,298 cities, villages, and towns. The League’s mission is to articulate, defend, maintain, and promote the interests and concerns of Illinois communities. Previously, Brad was Senior Vice President of Pepsi MidAmerica, a privately-owned soft drink bottling and distribution business servicing a five-state franchise territory. His duties involved supervision of all aspects of the company, including finance, administration, human resources, fleet management, equipment services, and sales. Prior to entering the private sector, he worked as Downstate Director for U.S. Senator Mark Kirk, of Illinois. In that position, he was a key member of the senator’s senior management team and was responsible for strategies initiative, outreach and constituent services in 95 (of 102) counties of Illinois. Cole served as Mayor of the City of Carbondale, Illinois for two four-year terms, which followed one four-year term on the City Council.

Before entering local government service, Brad was Deputy Chief of Staff to Illinois Governor George H. Ryan. He directly advised the Governor and coordinated the administration of government services relative to the southern 40 counties of Illinois. Active as a leader for numerous public and private organizations, he has served on a library board, a park district board, a school board, a regional healthcare system board, a multi-state economic development commission, and in many other similar posts. He has been appointed to commissions by four of the past five Governments of Illinois and was nominated to national board appointment by President George W. Bush. He is Chairman Emeritus of Sister Cities International (a citizen diplomacy organization based in Washington, DC), having served two years as chairman of its global board of directors. Brad Cole is a graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a bachelor’s degree in a double major of Political Science and Biological Science, and a Master of Legal Studies degree from the SIU School of Law. He originally hails from Macon Illinois.

David Jelonek, CPA, Partner, GW & Associates, P.C.

Mr. Jelonek has over 16 years of experience in local government and has worked in public accounting specializing in local government audit and consulting and as an Assistant Finance Director and Finance Director of a local municipality. Mr.

Jelonek also hosted the IGFOA's podcast series, "Why Government Finance?", where he interviewed many finance professionals across the state. He also serves on the Illinois CPA Society's Government Report Review Committee.

William D. McCarty II, Director of the Office of Budget and Management, City of Springfield, President - Executive Board - IGFOA Chair - IGFOA Legislative Committee

William D McCarty II became Director of Budget and Management (OBM) on May 2, 2011. As Director of OBM, Director McCarty is responsible for overseeing tax administration, accounting, accounts payable, budgeting, payroll, purchasing, and citywide fleet maintenance services. From October 2007 through May 2011, Bill was Chief Financial Officer, Bureau of Property Management for the State of Illinois Central Management Services (CMS). Other State service includes federal finance manager for CMS and lead Medicaid analyst for the Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

From April 2005 through April 2009, he served as Village President of Williamsville, Illinois and prior to that spent three years as Village Trustee in Williamsville. He received a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Notre Dame and holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Illinois – Springfield.

Currently, Bill is President of the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association Executive Board and is Chair of the IGFOA Legislative Committee. He is also a member of the Illinois Municipal League (IML) Legislative Committee, a member of IML's Personnel and Pensions Policy Committee and is Chair of the National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA) U.S. Government Affairs Committee.

Kimberly Richardson, Assistant City Manager, City of Peoria

In January 2022, Kimberly Richardson became the Assistant City Manager for the City of Peoria. Prior to this position, Kimberly served as Deputy City Manager for the City of Evanston. In her role as Deputy City Manager, she oversaw the Fire Department, Health and Human Services Department, Parks, and Recreation Department, and the Finance and Economic Development Division within the City Manager's Office. In addition, she led a number of internal and external racial equity-focused efforts of the City.

Kimberly has spent nearly 20 years in municipal government. Prior to joining Evanston in 2016 as the Assistant to the City Manager, she served as the Assistant to the Village Manager in Flossmoor, IL for ten years, and holds both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University.

Kimberly is currently a board member of the Illinois City/County Management Association (ILCMA) and League of Women in Government, and an active member of the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) and National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA).

Shelly Scinto, Of Counsel, Ice Miller LLP

Shelly Scinto is Of Counsel in Ice Miller's Municipal Finance Group. Shelly has served as bond counsel in public finance transactions for municipal issuers in Illinois, including counties, cities, villages, community college districts, school districts, park districts, and various other entities. Shelly drafts and reviews bond documents, purchase contracts, official statements, offering circulars, tax certificates, ordinances, resolutions and closing certificates. In addition, Shelly works with clients to confirm and ensure compliance with federal securities and tax law, as well as other contractual, federal, and state law requirements associated with municipal financings. Shelly was an attorney in the municipal finance group at Chapman and Cutler LLP from 1998 to 2015 and has served as lead counsel during her career on more than 350 underwritten and privately placed municipal bond transactions throughout the State of Illinois with respect to municipal financings.

Robert P. Vail, Senior Vice President/Managing Director of Public Finance, Bernardi Securities, Inc.

Bob joined the firm in 1998 and manages the Public Finance office in Chicago. Bob is responsible for structuring general obligation, revenue backed, and special tax allocation bond issues for client's in both capped and non-tax capped counties. Bob has worked on 525 Illinois negotiated municipal bond transactions with a total par amount of approximately \$2.195 billion since 1998. Bob has helped numerous municipalities, counties, school districts, and park districts throughout Illinois find immediate and future financing, refinancing and debt restructuring solutions. He has extensive knowledge in advanced and current refunding bond issues, alternate revenue source bonds, enterprise system

revenue issues, and debt and levy structuring. Bob holds a B.S. in Finance from the University of Kentucky and the Series 52, 53, and 63 securities licenses.

John Vezzetti, Vice President, Bernardi Securities, Inc.

John Vezzetti joined the firm in December of 2009 and works in our Peru office. John is responsible for structuring general obligation and revenue-backed bond issues for clients in both capped and non-taxed capped counties. John has helped numerous municipalities, counties, school districts and park districts throughout Illinois find immediate and future financing and debt restructuring solutions. He has extensive knowledge in advanced and current refunding bond issues, alternate revenue source bonds, enterprise system revenue issues, and debt and levy structuring. John is also responsible for performing credit analysis, refunding analysis, and executing transactions involved with the closing of municipal bond issues. John holds a B.A. in Finance from Augustana College and the Series 52 and Series 63 securities licenses.

Randy Charles Wilborn, Vice President and Product Owner, Regions Bank Treasury Management Products and Services

Randy is vice president and a senior product manager within the Treasury Management division of Regions Bank headquartered in Birmingham, Alabama. In his current position, he serves as a product manager for the banks' Treasury Management Disbursements Products, Fraud Prevention solutions and payroll card services.

With over twenty-five years of banking and financial services experience, Randy has held a variety of banking roles. Prior to his current position, he served as a product manager for ACH, EDI (Electronic Data Interchange), and Wire Transfer. Earlier in his career, he worked with Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as a product manager for Business Banking solutions and at Compass Bank where he managed commercial retirement accounts. He also worked as a market research analyst.

Randy earned a B.S. in Accounting with a minor in Marketing from Tuskegee University, a Master of Arts in Public and Private Management from Birmingham-Southern College and completed the BMA School for Bank Marketing and Management held at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Randy earned his Accredited ACH Professional (AAP) designation in 2003 and became a Certified Treasury Professional (CTP) in 2002. He has previously served on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Treasury Management Association (ATMA) and the Alabama ACH Association (ALACHA).

Kevin Wills, Investment Banking Specialist, Bernardi Securities, Inc.

Kevin joined Bernardi Securities in December 2018 and has over 18 years of financial services experience with over 14 years of experience in Illinois public finance. He is responsible for structuring taxable and tax-exempt bond issues in tax capped and non-tax capped counties and has served as lead banker on hundreds of Illinois bond issues, assisting many types of issuers including public school districts, community college districts, cities/villages, airport authorities, park districts, forest preserve districts, counties, public building commissions, and water/sewer districts. Kevin's knowledge and experience in all types of municipal bonds helps him routinely meet the issuers financing needs. He holds a B.A. in Finance and Economics from Illinois State University and is Series 7 and Series 66 licensed.

John Wysocki, Partner-in-Charge, GW & Associates, P.C.

John Wysocki is the partner in charge of GWA's audit practice overseeing over 35 government and not-for-profit audits each year. John was previously a senior manager/executive in the government audit practice of a large national firm. There he ran the audits of numerous Illinois municipalities as well as community colleges, transit agencies and the second largest state university in Illinois. In addition to over 20 years of public accounting experience John also spent five years as the finance director for a Chicago suburb with a population of 58,000. He has developed and conducted training sessions on management and leadership skills, accounting and auditing standards, and internal controls. He has published articles on mentoring and coaching. John also holds the advanced single audit certification from the AICPA.