

*IGFOA Professional Education Committee Academy Team presents the*

## **Illinois Government Finance Professionals' Advanced Academy II Webinar Series | Speaker Bios**

### **Geoffrey E. Buswick, Managing Director & Government Sector Leader, S&P Global Ratings**

Geoffrey Buswick is a Managing Director and Government Sector Leader in the U.S. Public Finance department at S&P Global Ratings. He is interested in credit conditions, market changes, evolving technologies, and Ratings' views on emerging risks in the public finance sector. He chairs state, local government, utility, and transportation committees and is an active primary analyst in the sectors. Along with credit work, Geoff focuses on market outreach, developing research, and analytical education about S&P Global's approach to rating government entities. Geoff has held various senior analytical and management roles in Ratings, including founding the Public Finance Cyber Security Focus Team in 2017.

Prior to joining Ratings, Geoff served as the Finance Director for the City of Gloucester, Mass., and previous to that was the Administrative Officer for the City of North Adams, Mass. Geoff served two stints on the board of governors of the National Federation of Municipal Analysts (NFMA) (2020-2022 & 2010-2013) and was the co-chair for the 2012 and 2013 NFMA Annual Conferences. In 2017, he received the "Award for Excellence" from the NFMA for his work to improve market-wide disclosure of alternative financings.

### **Paige Morgano, Audit Manager, RSM US LLP**

Paige Morgano is an audit manager at RSM focused on the public sector. She has experience working for the Illinois Office of the Auditor General, as well as experience working with state and local governments at large professional service firms and has spent the last 6 years (of her 11-year professional career) with RSM.

### **Bill Sarb, Audit Partner, RSM US LLP**

Bill Sarb is an audit partner at RSM focused on the public sector. Bill's focus has been on state and local government entities for the entirety of his professional career (over 17 years).

### **Courtney E. Soesbe, Vice President, Sr. Relationship Manager, PMA Financial Network, LLC**

Courtney Soesbe has spent her entire professional career at PMA providing investment services to units of local government throughout the State. For over 25 years, she has been the primary relationship manager for numerous municipalities, recommending sound investment advice that has been relied upon by senior government executives. Her expertise garnered throughout different economic cycles allows her to provide tailored advice applicable to various interest rate environments and specific to a particular municipalities investment needs and objectives. Courtney graduated with a bachelor's degree in finance and a master's degree in business administration from Northern Illinois University. She holds her Series 7, 63 & 50 professional licenses and is an active member in both the IGFOA and GFOA.

### **Krystal L. Tena, Associate Director, Local Governments - East Region, S&P Global Ratings**

Krystal Tena is an Associate Director in the U.S. Local Governments group at S&P Global. At S&P, Krystal's credit focus includes school districts, counties, cities, and towns with a regional concentration encompassing the entire Eastern Seaboard. Krystal also serves as lead for the Public Finance Cyber Security Focus Team. Before joining S&P Global, Krystal held a variety of finance, data analysis, and public policy roles in the nonprofit and public sectors, including with the State of California and the City of New York. Earlier in her career, Krystal also worked in nonprofit legal advocacy providing direct legal services for children in foster care in Los Angeles County and indigent individuals in the Central Coast of California. Krystal holds a Master of Public Policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and B.A. in economics, sociology, and Latin American/Latino Studies from University of California, Santa Cruz.

### **Christine Torres, Partner, Crowe LLP**

Christine Torres is a Partner that specializes in external audits for governmental and not-for-profit entities. Christine has over 24 years' experience with government, higher education, transportation, school district, state agency and not-for-profit audits. In addition to financial audits, she has experience with compliance audits that have followed *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Grant Guidance, other attestation engagements and consulting projects.

Christine is active with the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA), serving on the Technical Accounting Review Committee (TARC). TARC monitors and comments on activities and rulings of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and provides testimony on GASB standards and educates the IGFOA membership on those standards. In addition, she is a member of the Association of School Business Officials Report Review Committee. As a member of this committee, she reviews Annual Comprehensive Financial Reports and determines if all criteria have been met for the districts to be awarded the Certificate. Additionally, she participates in the Illinois CPA Governmental Executive Committee and the Illinois Office of the Comptroller's Local Government Advisory Board.

**Heidi Voorhees, President, GovHRUSA**

Heidi has more than 35 years' experience in executive recruitment, general management consulting and local government administration and is the co-owner and President of GovHRUSA, and GovTemps USA, a temporary staffing business. GovHR has worked in 44 states conducting more than 1200 recruitment and selection processes. GovTempsUSA has provided temporary staffing services in 22 states, assisting hundreds of local governments with their interim and long-term staffing needs.

Ms. Voorhees spent 19 years in local government including ten years as the Wilmette, Illinois Village Manager. She is a frequent speaker on current workforce issues and demographics at state and national conferences.

**Julie Zolghadr, Retired Budget Division Manager, City of Springfield**

Julie Zolghadr was a member of the budget staff for the City of Springfield since 1989 and served as the budget division manager since 1995. Her division oversaw the activities of 12 city agencies with a total annual budget of approximately \$260M across 40 funds. The division reviewed all spending documents, personnel transactions, pending legislation, and provided key support to the City's labor relations function through analyzing collective bargaining economic requests.

Julie is a regular presenter for the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association, Illinois Municipal League, Illinois Municipal Clerks Association, Illinois Municipal Treasurers Association, and the Illinois Association of County Board Members. Most recently, she served as a presenter for the June 2022 Austin Texas national GFOA conference where she spoke about the looming issue of what happens after ARPA. She is an advocate of making budget information accessible, transparent, and understandable to all readers.

Julie retired from the City of Springfield on May 5, 2023, and has since become adept at drywall mudding, cleaning out closets, and yelling out the answers during Jeopardy.