

Control is Everything: Building a Strong System of Internal Controls in Your Government Speakers

Mary O'Connor, ASA, CFE Partner, Dispute Advisory Services, Sikich LLP

Ms. O'Connor is Partner, Dispute Advisory Services of Sikich LLP. She has worked exclusively in the field of forensics since 1979 specializing in forensic consulting for litigation and fraud matters for municipalities and corporations. Ms. O'Connor has provided litigation consulting and expert witness testimony to Federal, State and local jurisdictions (including US Tax Court, Delaware Chancery and Property Tax Appeal Boards) across the United States and internationally in Russia and New Zealand. She routinely works with municipal governments and law enforcement to solve issues related to employee dishonesty and internal controls as well as independent support for insurance claims, civil litigation and restitution matters. Ms. O'Connor served as the elected Commissioner of Finance, City Treasurer for the Village of Palos Park, IL for two terms which gives her unique perspective into the pressures and constraints facing local governments when dealing with fraud incidents and internal control matters. Before becoming a Partner of Sikich LLP in 2010, she was employed by the international forensic accounting firm of RGL, Inc., and the international accounting firm of Deloitte. She holds a B.A. from the University of Illinois, Urbana and an MBA with a concentration in finance from Georgia State University, Atlanta. She is a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and holds a certificate in government internal controls from the University of Georgia.

Anthony Cervini, CPA

Mr. Cervini is a senior audit manager at Sikich LLP. Mr. Cervini has more than ten years of experience providing audit and accounting services for a variety of municipalities, park districts and other governmental entities. He also has been responsible for developing and serving as lead instructor for governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, cash management and internal control courses both internally and for the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA), Wisconsin Government Finance Officers Association (WGFOA) and Illinois CPA Society. Mr. Cervini serves on the GFOA Special Review Committee and the Illinois CPA Society Government Report Review Committee, is a contributor to the IGFOA Legislative Committee, and has served as a budget reviewer for the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. Mr. Cervini holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Iowa and an MBA from Benedictine University.

Amy Folden, CPA, CSR, MBA

Ms. Folden is the Internal Auditor for Elgin Community College. Ms. Folden is a certified public accountant and has more than ten years of experience in accounting, auditing, and financial reporting. Ms. Folden is involved with the Association of College and University Auditors (ACUA), the National Alliance for Insurance Education and Research, and the University Risk Management Insurance Association (URMIA). Ms. Folden served as a member of the Finance Committee for URMIA from 2015-2016 and became a Certified School Risk Manager (CSR) in 2012. Ms. Folden holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa and an MBA from Columbia College.

Duffy Blackburn, CPA, CFE, CISA County Auditor, Will County, Illinois

Mr. Blackburn is County Auditor for Will County, IL and has served since November 2008. He is a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Fraud Examiner, and Certified Information Systems Auditor. He earned his bachelor's in economics before earning his MBA and second masters in accounting. He holds certificates from Harvard Kennedy School of Government for Senior Executives in State and Local Government and from MIT in Cybersecurity: Applications and Policy. Mr. Blackburn has earned GFOA CAFR awards at the County, as well as being awarded the 2011 Illinois County Auditor of the Year. He is a lecturer at Benedictine University where he teaches graduate courses in Computer Fraud and Cybercrime, and Information Systems Auditing. Prior to holding the office of County Auditor, he worked in public accounting for the CPA firm of Wermer, Rogers, Doran & Ruzon. He is an appointed member of the Illinois CPA Society's Government Executive Committee.