

IGFOA 2022 Finance Professionals' Advanced Academy Level II

Speaker Bios | April 19, 2022

Sofia Anastopoulos, Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer, IMET

Sofia Anastopoulos is the Executive Director and Chief Investment Officer of IMET. Sofia has spent her career working with the public sector in treasury and investment management, starting with the Government Finance Officers Association. Since GFOA, she has worked for an investment management firm and for her own firm, Public Funds Consulting. Sofia is a graduate of Northwestern University and received an MBA from DePaul University in Chicago. She holds the designation of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

Carolyn Welch Clifford, Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd.

Carolyn Welch Clifford, with Ottosen DiNolfo Hasenbalg & Castaldo, Ltd., has devoted her legal career to the representation of local governments in Illinois with a special emphasis on legal issues involving the fire service. In her practice, Ms. Clifford primarily represents public pension funds, fire and police commissions, and fire protection districts. Ms. Clifford is actively involved in legal issues regarding the management of public pension funds. Ms. Clifford has extensive experience in handling firefighter and police disability pension matters from the initial hearing stage to appellate review. Her experience with employment matters from the initial hiring stage through disability and retirement provides her a unique perspective in advising clients. Ms. Clifford has handled a number of appellate cases and argued before the Illinois Appellate Court. Her appellate cases have included several issues of first impression. Ms. Clifford is currently the Chair of the Public Safety Affinity Group of the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys, and is a frequent speaker on pension topics at the state and national level. Ms. Clifford received her J.D. from the University of Illinois.

Andrew Kim, Director, Public Finance, PMA Securities, LLC.

Mr. Kim joined PMA Securities in 2015. He has been in the public finance industry since 2009 as both an investment banker and a financial advisor, and has extensive experience structuring numerous bond issues for communities throughout the State of Illinois. At PMA, Andrew is responsible for expanding PMA's Public Finance footprint among municipal units of government in the northern region of the State of Illinois. Andrew's education includes a bachelor of arts in economics from Northwestern University and a master of public policy from the University of Chicago.

Scott Nees, Director & Lead Analyst, US Public Finance, S&P Global Ratings

Scott joined S&P's U.S. Public Finance group in 2013, where he has since worked on general obligation, special tax, and special purpose district bond ratings throughout the Midwest, including Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, and North and South Dakota.

Before joining S&P, Scott worked at a consulting firm in central Indiana doing economic development and comprehensive planning for local governments throughout the state.

Scott received a Bachelor of Arts degree from DePauw University, a Master of Arts degree from Georgia State University, and a Master of Public Affairs degree with a concentration in public policy analysis from Indiana University (Bloomington)'s School of Public & Environmental Affairs (SPEA).

Seema Ganatra Patel, Senior Counsel, Chapman and Cutler LLP

Seema Ganatra Patel is Senior Counsel in Chapman and Cutler's LLP Illinois Public Finance Department. Seema serves as bond counsel, disclosure counsel, placement agent's counsel and underwriter's counsel in governmental purpose securities transactions in Illinois and around the country. Her experience includes financings related to general obligation debt, specific revenue pledges, utilities, exempt facilities, tax increment financing (TIF), and property assessed clean energy (PACE). She routinely advises issuers, investment banks, commercial banks, and financial advisors on state law, federal tax law, and securities law matters related to the structure and sale of governmental obligations. She earned her bachelor's degree from Rice University and her Juris Doctorate from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law.

Sean Renshaw, Senior Director, RSM US, LLP

Sean Renshaw, Senior Director for RSM US, LLP, is the national leader of the digital forensics and incident response (DFIR) practice. His team supports global operations for cybercrime and data breach investigations, digital forensics and incident response services within the security and privacy risk consulting group. Sean has over 30 years of experience leading and conducting investigations, and serving as an expert witness throughout the U.S. and globally, in civil and criminal matters in both federal and state courts. He has provided testimony in reports, depositions and before triers of fact extensively in his career.

Sean is a former senior special agent and national program manager with the U.S. Customs Service, and a former consultant with a Big Four accounting firm. He has served as an instructor for digital investigations for the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Customs Service. Sean is frequently a featured speaker on digital forensics investigations and cybersecurity issues at legal conferences and trade association meetings.

Heidi Voorhees, President, GovHR USA

Ms. Voorhees 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, a management consulting, executive recruitment and GovTemps USA, a temporary staffing business.

Ms. Voorhees has led more than 250 recruitments for local government entities in 17 different states and the District of Columbia. Ms. Voorhees spent 19 years in local government administration including ten years as the Village Manager for Wilmette, Illinois. She also worked for the City of Kansas City, Missouri, and the Village of Schaumburg, Illinois. She is a frequent speaker on leadership issues in local government focusing on the importance of recognizing and adapting to the changing demographics of today's workforce.

Ms. Voorhees holds a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University. She also has a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science from Illinois State University.

Julie Zolghadr, Budget Division Manager, City of Springfield

Julie Zolghadr, Budget Division Manager for the City of Springfield, has been a member of the budget staff for the City of Springfield since 1989 and has served as the budget division manager since 1995. Her division oversees the activities of 12 city agencies with a total annual budget of approximately \$280M across 40 funds.

The division reviews all spending documents, personnel transactions, pending legislation, and provides key support to the City's labor relations function through analyzing collective bargaining economic request.

Julie is a regular presenter for IGFOA, Illinois Municipal League, Illinois Municipal Clerks Association, Illinois Municipal Treasurers Association, and the Illinois Association of County Board Members. She is an advocate of making budget information not only accessible to the public but also easily understandable to all citizen stakeholders.