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**Illinois Government Finance Officers Association**  
**UTILITY BILLING SEMINAR**  
**June 12, 2025**  
**Combined Speaker Bios**

**Trent Corbin, Solutions Engineer, Software Solutions, Inc.**

Trent Corbin is a Solutions Engineer at Software Solutions Inc., specializing in government technology solutions that drive efficiency and transparency. With over a decade of experience in software implementation, project management, and public sector operations at the County Auditor's Office, Trent brings deep expertise in financial management and enterprise solutions.

Holding a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor's in Sociology and Marketing from Wright State University, Trent is passionate about making complex technology accessible to government professionals. His work focuses on helping local agencies leverage AI and automation to streamline operations and improve service delivery.

**Beth Beaty, Business Development Representative, Software Solutions, Inc.**

In 2025, Beth Beaty joined Software Solutions (SSI) as a Business Development Representative. Prior to her role at SSI, Beth served as Senior Association Manager for the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA), where she planned and executed the organization's Annual Conference, as well as chapter and committee meetings, professional development programs, and events. She played a key role in implementing strategic initiatives that strengthened member engagement, resulting in exceptional recruiting and retention outcomes.

With nearly two decades of experience in the public sector, Beth's previous role was as Administrative Services Manager in the Finance Department of the City of Urbana, where she gained a deep understanding of local government operations. Beth also served as Treasurer and Regional Coordinator for the Downstate Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (DIGFOA). A graduate of Eastern Illinois University, Beth remains an active member of IGFOA.

**Danielle Melon, Senior Account Executive, Veregy**

Danielle has spent over 20 years in the energy industry as a trusted partner focusing on delivering energy and sustainability-related infrastructure projects, water meters, AMI, leak detection solutions, distributed and renewable energy systems, and smart building services for all segments of the infrastructure space.

Responsibilities include working with entities to identify, design and implement total energy management solutions to reduce utility usage and water loss, drive revenue gains, address facility needs, capture grant and incentive funding, and help entities meet and exceed financial and sustainability goals.

**Erin Q. Perry, PMP, Senior Project Manager/Project Developer, Veregy**

As a Senior Project Manager for Veregy, Erin uses her delivery experience with multiple technologies and

providers to design and implement projects that bring the best value to our customers. She is certified to deliver projects in a traditional Waterfall style or Agile. Responsibilities include design, procurement, price and scope negotiations, quality and risk management, contractor management, customer satisfaction, and schedule. She is an energetic team player, managing projects with the Client's best interests at the forefront. Erin's skill set is a valuable addition to the Veregy team.

**John Lambert, PE, CEM, Senior Project Engineer, Veregy**

John utilizes his extensive background and 30 plus years' experience in the field of Engineering for project development with expertise in energy and water improvements. As a team leader John designs and develops highly successful projects from start to finish drawing on his skill set covering assessments and onsite audits for water all projects. John is responsible for identification and design, savings calculation, development of scopes of work, and cost estimates.

**Ryan Allen, Analytics Manager, Plante Moran**

I have over 5 years of experience in public sector data analytics consulting and technical training. Before that I was a high school math teacher for 7 years. I help my clients visualize their data by using tools like Tableau, Power BI, SQL Server Reporting Studio, and Crystal Reports. I also lead technical trainings for these tools equipping my clients to take analytics into their own hands. One of my favorite projects has been helping the California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency create a first of its kind homeless data integration system to track homelessness and the effectiveness of services provided to those experiencing homelessness.

**Sean Cassidy, Data Governance Manager, Plante Moran**

I have over 10 years of data and project management. I've worked with teams across a wide variety of organizations to establish new Data Governance practices and implemented supporting data governance technology. To support that I've developed the strategy for tracking critical data elements and best practices. I have particularly enjoyed working with public sector clients and managing their unique data challenges.

**Carmen P. Forte, Jr. – Partner, Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins, Ltd.**

Carmen P. Forte, Jr. counsels Illinois municipalities, school districts, libraries, special districts and corporate and non-profit clients. He regularly litigates in state and federal court and various administrative venues for clients in a range of matters. He works with our clients to negotiate and manage development agreements, helping to bring significant residential and commercial development to their communities. He has prosecuted for the firm's numerous municipal clients in the areas of DUI and traffic offenses, local ordinance violations and business, tobacco and liquor licensing matters. He also defends the firm's clients in workers' compensation claims, disability pension matters and matters under the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (PSEBA). Currently, Carmen serves as Village Attorney for the Village of Campton Hills, as Assistant Village Attorney for the Villages of Schaumburg and Vernon Hills, and as Special Counsel for the Village of River Grove.

Prior to joining Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins, Carmen served as an Assistant State's Attorney in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. During his time as a criminal prosecutor, he handled felony and misdemeanor matters and tried numerous bench and jury trials. During his time with the State's Attorney's Office, he served as a law clerk in the prosecution of musician Robert "R" Kelly.

Carmen received his B.A. in Political Science from the University of Notre Dame and his J.D. from the John Marshall Law School. During that time, he interned in the United States Senate, served as a legislative aide in the Illinois House of Representatives, worked as a law clerk with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and was a member of the Notre Dame Glee Club. Carmen is admitted to practice in the state of Illinois, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Carmen knew he wanted to be a local government attorney even as a young child, while attending many village board meetings where his father served as a long tenured trustee in his hometown of Elmwood Park. Building on his interest in those early years, he has devoted his legal career to supporting local government.

Carmen and his wife Ashley, who is also an attorney, live in Campton Hills with their two sons and their dogs, Slinky and Dug.

**James M. Joyce, Senior Associate, *Klein, Thorpe, and Jenkins, Ltd.***

James M. Joyce has over 30 years of litigation experience in state and federal courts in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. James' experience includes bankruptcy and creditors' rights litigation, administration of bankrupt estates, probate, and hearings before numerous state, municipal and federal boards and agencies.

He has been involved in law and chancery cases in most Illinois counties, and foreclosures and injunctions at both state and federal levels. Additionally, James has handled several bench trials and successful jury trials involving municipal issues and zoning concerns.

James is a former member of St. John of The Cross Parish Council, Lyons Townships Advisory Council and former Commissioner on Western Springs Recreation Commission. James is responsible for the successful Chapter 11 reorganization of a healthcare provider.