

## 2017 Speaker Bios

### **Clifford Blackwell, CGFO**

Clifford Blackwell is the Director of Administrative Services for the City of Bedford, Texas. His management areas primarily consist of Finance, Accounting, Cash Management, Investments, Vital Statistics, Utility Billing, Teen Court & Municipal Court. He began his career of local government finance in 1996 with the City of Fort Worth, Texas by working as an Accountant within the Water Department and later working as a budget analyst within the City Manager's Office. His duties consisted of reviewing and monitoring the budgets of several major departments while coordinating the annual budget process on behalf of the City Manager.

In 2000, he landed a position as an Assistant Finance Director with the City of Watauga, Texas. From there, Clifford expanded his financial role to include economic development and represented Watauga in the Quad Cities DFW conglomerate. Later in 2006 and 2008, Clifford became the Finance Director for the Cities of Kennedale and Forest Hill, respectively. In Kennedale, he was able to assist the city in achieving its first ever GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation award. In Forest Hill, he assisted the city in overcoming major budgetary constraints by passing its first balanced budget in ten years.

In January 2010, Clifford joined the City of Bedford as its Director of Administrative Services and has been in the position since his employment. In addition, Clifford is a proud member of the Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA) of the U.S. and Canada as well as the Government Finance Officers' Association of Texas (GFOAT) since June 2000. He currently serves on the GFOAT Board of Directors and is currently the GFOAT President-Elect for 2015- 2016. He is the former Membership Committee Chairperson and currently serves on the Resolution Committee for the Texas Municipal League (TML).

He holds a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Accounting from Prairie View A & M University and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of North Texas.

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Clifford currently lives in Bedford. Aside from work, he enjoys traveling with his family, playing ball or working out and occasionally enjoying a great cigar.



**S. Todd Burchett**  
CPA, ABV, ASA, CFF,  
CFE

**Partner**

**Forensics & Valuation  
Services  
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**T**odd is a Partner with BKD's Forensics & Valuation Services division and leads its Texas practice, providing business valuation, forensic accounting, investigation, bankruptcy and litigation support services, including serving as an expert witness. In addition to being a CPA, Todd has the following accreditations: ABV (Accredited in Business Valuation), ASA (Accredited Senior Appraiser), CFF (Certified in Financial Forensics), and CFE (Certified Fraud Examiner).

He has more than twenty-five years of experience providing client solutions in consulting, accounting, and tax matters. He has performed business valuations for a variety of purposes including gift and estate tax, business planning, succession planning, dispute resolution, and for solvency purposes in bankruptcy.

Todd has also conducted investigations for many different purposes, including testing for misappropriation of assets, conflicts of interest, manipulation of financial statements, billing schemes, false claims, and use of corporate funds for potential abuse or wasteful spending.

Todd has been qualified as an expert witness involving forensic investigations, reconstruction of financial records, tracing of transactions, community property tracing and analysis in estate and probate litigation, financial analysis (including cost allocations), damages analysis and valuations in shareholder disputes, intellectual property disputes, breach of contract disputes, lost income calculations, and analysis for solvency and preference claims in bankruptcy.

Todd is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) where he has served on the Business Valuations Committee, and the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. He is also a member of the American Society of Appraisers and has served on the ASA's International Board of Examiners and as President of the San Antonio Chapter. He has made numerous oral presentations on forensic analysis and valuation of businesses to various professional organizations.

**Karen Daly**

Mountain Plains Regional Director International City/County Management Association

Karen Daly recently became the first Mountain Plains Regional Director for the International City/County Management Association. In June of 2016, she resigned as City Manager of Hutto, Texas after 31 years of service in five Texas cities (Arlington, Longview, Greenville, Sugar Land and Hutto). Karen has served in leadership roles in her profession and in her community. She was recently President of the Hutto Rotary Club for two years and is Secretary of the Hutto Women's Alliance, Board Member for Keep Hutto Beautiful and Treasurer of the Chris Kelley Foundation. She is one of the co-founders of the Texas Women Leading Government movement and is a proud mom of two grown feminists and a mostly-grown husband who is a musician. Karen is a strong advocate for people with intellectual disabilities. Her oldest daughter, Emma, has Down Syndrome. She is also a soccer player and has been playing since the sport was invented.

**Kim Edwards**

Managing Director, Public Finance Piper Jaffray & Co.

Kim has worked in the public finance industry for thirty years. She joined Piper Jaffray & Co.'s Texas Public Finance Group in September 2012, where she provides investment banking services to state agencies, cities, counties, school districts, community colleges, universities and transportation authorities. Prior to joining Piper Jaffray, Kim established the Texas public finance practice for Fidelity Capital Markets in 2009 and served as the Executive Director of the Texas Public Finance Authority from 1997 to 2008, where she was involved in the issuance and administration of over \$5 billion of long-term fixed rate municipal debt and several commercial paper programs. Kim has also served as the Assistant Executive Director of the Municipal Advisory Council of Texas, where she managed a team of municipal credit analysts and implementation of SEC Rule 15 c 2-12. Early in her career, she was a financial advisor to state and local governments as a Vice President for Government Finance Group in Arlington, VA., and worked for the Government Finance Officers Association and Price Waterhouse in Washington, D.C. Kim has served on the executive board of the National Association of Treasurer's State Debt Management Network and the Board of Directors of the Municipal Advisory Council of Texas. She was one of the founding members of the Texas chapter of Women in Public Finance, serving as the President of the Chapter in 2013-14.

Kim holds a B.A. from Rice University, an MBA from the University of Texas, and a Masters of Public Administration from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT Austin.

**Leela Fireside**

Assistant City Attorney City of Austin Law Department

Ms. Fireside is an Assistant City Attorney in the City of Austin Law Department. Her areas of practice include review of bond and other financial transactions, contracts, budget, tax-related matters, fees, public-private partnership agreements, and ordinance review.

Ms. Fireside has a B.A. in Philosophy from Ithaca College in Ithaca NY (1984). She escaped the cold weather and received her J.D. from the University of Texas at Austin (1988).

Ms. Fireside worked as an attorney with the Office of Public Interest Counsel at the Texas Water Commission (predecessor agency to the TCEQ) and as an Assistant Attorney General in the Texas Attorney General's Office. She's licensed in state and federal court and is a member of the Texas Bar College.

At the Attorney General's Office, Ms. Fireside represented environmental agencies in state civil enforcement actions and bankruptcy court. Ms. Fireside also worked in the Consumer Protection Division prosecuting deceptive trade practices act cases and suing to enforce nursing home regulations.

Ms. Fireside has spoken at National Association of Attorneys General conferences on topics relating to pursuing government enforcement actions in bankruptcy court. Since starting at the City of Austin she has spoken at multiple conferences on the process for cities to adopt the budget and property tax rate, at this conference in 2012 regarding City fees, and on other city-related finance topics.

**G. CHRIS HARTUNG**

Owner/President of Chris Hartung Consulting, LLC

Chris Hartung is the owner and President of Chris Hartung Consulting, LLC. Chris has over thirty years of public sector consulting experience in the areas of executive search, compensation, classification and other management consulting projects. Chris also has almost 20 years of experience in managing in city government, including service as Director of Finance, Assistant City Manager, and City Manager in full service municipalities with populations ranging from 15,000 to 160,000. Mr. Hartung served the City of Garland Texas for ten years, seven as Assistant City Manager, and served as City Manager of Denton, Texas for eight years.

**Professional Accomplishments and Education**

Chris received his bachelor's degree in government from Southern Methodist University and his master's degree in public administration from the University of North Texas. He has conducted lectures and seminars for Texas A&M University, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Texas at Arlington, and the University of North Texas. Chris is on the faculties of the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas (LEMIT) and the Certified Public Manager Program (CPM), which is managed by the faculty at Texas State University, San Marcos. Chris has served as an Adjunct at the University of North Texas. He has been a speaker at the annual conference of the National Society of Executive Fire Officers.

Chris has conducted management-consulting assignments in a number of areas including compensation planning and implementation, strategic planning, organizational staffing, total quality management, and executive recruitment. Chris authored an article on local government budgeting in hard times which introduced the term "Backcast Budgeting" and which was published by the Texas Municipal League in the May 2010 issue of its magazine Texas Town & City and an article on the job interview which was published in the November 2011 issue of Public Management, the magazine of the International City/County Management Association. In 2013, he authored an article on the history of Zero Base Budgeting in Garland, Texas which was published by the Government Finance Officers Association.

# Amy Jordan

Assistant Economist

Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas



Amy Jordan is an assistant economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. As a member of the Research Department's regional group, she conducts research on regional economic issues. She writes the release for the Dallas Fed's Texas Service Sector Outlook Survey, analyzing economic conditions in the service sector, including retail. She also collects information for the 11th District Beige Book—a summary of regional economic conditions—and works on the Quarterly Survey of Agricultural Credit Conditions.

Jordan holds bachelor's degrees in mathematics and economics from the University of North Dakota and an MA in economics from Cornell University.

**Joseph Komisarz**

Utility Services Manager, City of Cedar Hill

Joe is the Utility Services Manager for the City of Cedar Hill where he previously served as a consultant and as the Interim Finance Director. The highlight of his work to-date in Cedar Hill has been the implementation of an AMI system for the water utility. Prior to this position, he was employed by City of Fort Worth for 11 years where he served in various positions including the Stormwater Utility Business Manager, Police Department Capital Projects Manager, Assistant Director for Budget and Senior Assistant to the City Manager. This experience was preceded by 28 years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force.

## **Paul Mellor**

Paul Mellor, author of *MEMORY! How to Remember Anything*, was a finalist in the USA Memory Championship, where he recalled the names of over 90 people in less than 15 minutes, remembered in exact order over 100 single-digit numbers after a five-minute study, and recalled the exact order of a shuffled deck of playing cards after less than a three-and-a-half minute review. His fun and energetic programs have been delivered to audiences nationwide. A Communications graduate of Western Carolina University, Mr. Mellor is also the author of *You're Almost There*, chronicling his journey as having run a marathon (26.2 miles) in all 50 states.

## **David Morgan**

David Morgan started with the City of Georgetown in May 2015. Georgetown is currently the fastest growing city in the country over 50,000 in population with an expanding commercial tax base that includes the opening of their first full-service hotel and convention center in an active mixed-use environment last year.

Prior to Georgetown, David worked for the City of Richardson where he served for 17 years in many positions including the deputy city manager/chief operating officer for approximately three years.

While in Richardson David was instrumental in several mixed use, office and retail economic development projects such as the first Alamo Drafthouse in the DFW area, the Richardson Restaurant Park, State Farm's regional office hub, and Raytheon's Intellicenter Site. David also led the development of numerous public improvement projects that include recreation facilities, fire stations, trails, road rehabilitation, and land preservation. Additionally, David worked closely with community leaders to create and strengthen neighborhood development and renewal efforts.

David received a bachelor's degree in communication arts from Austin College in Sherman, Texas, and a master's degree in public administration from Texas Tech University. He is a member of the Texas City Management Association and the International City/County Management Association where he was in the first class of Leadership ICMA. David is married to his college sweetheart, Leticia, and they have two boys that keep them very busy.

## **Diane Palmer-Boeck**

Diane Palmer-Boeck, CPPO, CPPB, has 21 years municipal procurement experience and 26 years experience in public procurement, beginning with the US Army in West Germany, Redstone Arsenal, AL and Ft Hood, TX .

Diane is currently the Chief Procurement Officer at the City of Plano overseeing the activities of the Procurement, Inventory Control and Project Management Divisions.

Diane served on the Board of Directors for the National Purchasing Institute from 1998 - 2006 and is a Past President. She has served on the education and certification committees for the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing and is currently on the Board of Examiners for Universal Public Procurement Certification Council.

The City of Plano has received the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award each year since its inception in 1995.

**Linda T. Patterson, CCM**

President Patterson & Associates

Linda T. Patterson is a registered investment advisor and president of Patterson & Associates, an institutional money management firm founded in Austin, Texas, in March 1994. The firm serves public and private entities with full investment advisory services and cash management consulting and has over \$5 billion currently under management. Before starting Patterson & Associates, Linda served as deputy state treasurer/director of investments of Texas and was city treasurer of the City of Fort Worth from 1985-91.

Linda initiated and played the central role in passage of the Public Funds Investment Act of 1987, which opened investment alternatives for all Texas governmental entities. In 1989, she initiated the Public Funds Collateral Act. She sat on the national GFOA Cash Management Committee and has been on the Board of Texas Tech University Southwest School of Governmental Finance since 1989.

Linda was a Fulbright Scholar and teaches nationally on cash management and prudent investing and recently authored a second book on public funds investing.

## **Miykael Reeve**

Ms. Miykael Reeve is the County Auditor for Ellis County. A long-term resident of Ellis County, she received her Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) from Northwood University and earned her Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) certificate in January 2013. She began her career working as an Auditor for Shaw, Witherspoon and Company, P.C. She soon after joined Government Finance Officer Associates of Texas (GFOAT) as an active member. On September 1, 2017, she was sworn in as the Ellis County Auditor. Prior to that, Ms. Reeve was hired in 2008 as the Finance Director for the City of Red Oak. During her tenure, the City of Red Oak successfully upgraded their bond rating from A- to AA with Fitch. She submitted and earned the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for the Comprehensive Financial Report for September 30, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and submitted for 2016. She submitted and earned the Distinguished Budget Award her Comprehensive Budget for September 30, 2015, 2016 and 2017. She implemented policies and procedures that enabled the City of Red Oak to grow. Ms. Reeve was also nominated by GFOAT for the Co-chair of the Ethics committee in 2012, where she currently serves. In 2015, she was also nominated to serve on the GFOAT Board of Directors where she served until April of 2017 as North Texas Rep. She currently resides in Ennis, Texas with her two children.

## **David R. Rodriguez**

Senior Regional Manager City Services  
Texas Municipal Retirement System P.O. Box 149153  
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512 695 -2132

### **Education**

BS 93 Bachelor of Science /Texas Tech University  
CPM 99 Certified Public Manager/ Southwest Texas State University  
MABC 11 Masters Business Communications /Jones University

### **Employment**

Senior Regional Manager City Services /TMRS Regional Manager City Services /TMRS  
Membership Development Manager /TMRS Membership Development Representative  
/TMRS Regional Sale Director / New York Life  
Senior Manager and primary contact for City Services concerning field requests prepare  
and make presentations, concerning actuarial, legislative, and investment  
methodologies. Implement regional seminars and coordinate e-mails communication  
with Regional Managers. Review, prepares, and composes correspondence directly with  
member cities and membership. Attend and participate in annual association  
conferences directly involved in board and advisory committee representation. Interface  
with actuaries regarding city rate evaluations and responsible for strategic and  
budgetary plan. Prepare both newsletter and web site spots for agency and  
Communications Department. Coordinate and develop utilization of technology  
capabilities for cities. Continue utilizing either Internet or Intranet increasing electronic  
means of correspondence. Maintain and update all field resources.

**Micki Rundell**

Micki retired in September 2015 from the City of Georgetown after 23 years, most recently as CFO. While in Georgetown, she helped implement both an AMR and AMI system, and was responsible for numerous software conversions. Micki joined Fathom in October 2016 as their Government Finance Specialist, working with municipal water utilities. Her role allows her to share opportunities for improved customer service, as well as, better management of water resources.

Micki holds a BBA from the University of Mary Hardin Baylor in Belton, TX, and is a Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO). She is also a past president of GFOAT. Micki lives in Georgetown, and is active with the Palace Theatre and the Animal Shelter Advisory Board.

**Bennett Sandlin**

Since October 1 of 2010, Bennett Sandlin is Executive Director of the Texas Municipal League. Prior to that, he was General Counsel of the League, where he helped cities primarily in the fields of tax, economic development, budget, and finance issues, including the municipal hotel occupancy tax and the economic development sales tax. Bennett authored the Revenue Manual for Texas Cities, and was an instructor in Public Funds Investment Training. Bennett is a 1993 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law and has previously worked at the Municipal Affairs Division of the Texas Attorney General's Office.

**Robert B. (Bob) Scott**

C.P.A., Assistant City Manager/CFO, City of Carrollton

Bob has responsibility for all aspects of the City of Carrollton's financial operations. He has a master's degree in accounting and a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from Texas Tech University. Mr. Scott began his career in public accounting, ultimately serving as an audit manager with responsibility for a large number of governmental clients. Mr. Scott has extensive experience in accounting and financial reporting issues, having served on various GASB review committees and task forces. He has been a reviewer for the last three editions of GFOA's Governmental Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting (known as the "Blue Book") and various other GFOA publications. He is a past chair of GFOA's Committee for Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting (CAAFR), and he currently serves on the GFOA's Executive Board. While in public accounting, he served as a Practice Fellow for the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and later as representative to the Governmental Accounting Standards Advisory Committee. In 2008, the AICPA named him the outstanding C.P.A. in local government.

**Laura Slaughter**

Laura Slaughter is the Executive Director at the Municipal Advisory Council of Texas (Texas MAC). Texas MAC is a membership organization whose purpose is to promote effective and efficient investment banking, underwriting, trading and sales of municipal debt by collecting, maintaining and distributing information relating to issuing entities. As Executive Director, Ms. Slaughter is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization and its twenty-six employees. She has been with Texas MAC since 1983 and is a graduate of the University of Texas with B.B.A. in Marketing.

**David Vaughn**

David Vaughn has worked in municipal government for nineteen years and has served as the City Manager of the City of Burnet since March of 2011. Mr. Vaughn graduated with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration and a Master's in Business Administration from Tarleton State University Central Texas, and has earned distinction as a Certified Government Finance Officer.

Throughout his career, Mr. Vaughn has had the opportunity to be at the forefront of several highly contested issues, including negotiating one of the first wastewater discharge permits in the Highland Lakes and serving as one of the lead negotiators in the development of LCRA's Water Management Plan for the protection of drinking water for over a million citizens in Central Texas.

He is a dedicated public servant and continues to serve the people of his city, region and the State of Texas.

## **Melissa Byrne Vossmer**

Melissa Byrne Vossmer is the City Manager of Ingleside, Texas. She started in Ingleside on February 13, 2017 after leaving the City of Lago Vista where she had been City Manager for 2 1/2 years. Melissa has been in local government management for 35 years serving the cities of Leavenworth, Kansas; Lawton, OK; Waco and San Antonio as well as the Village of Angel Fire, NM before returning to Texas in 2010 as City Manager of Angleton, TX. She has served as the Texas City Management Association (TCMA) President and as a Vice-President for the Mountain Plains Region of the International City/County Management Association. In all her communities, she has been active in service clubs and non-profits having served on the Board of Directors of the Waco YWCA and was awarded the Pathfinders Award. She has volunteered in libraries, art galleries and almost all Chamber fundraisers with the exception of golf!! At her age, she has been in the “profession” long enough to have always been the “first woman” in her position and has enjoyed being the first though it has frequently been exhausting and always challenging. She is the co-author of Democracy at the Doorstep, Too! in collaboration with Mike Conduff. She has been married for almost 39 years to the most patient and confident man in the world – Mark – and has one son, Jacob.