

**The Honorable Gregory Brent Warr**  
**Mayor**  
**City of Gulfport**  
**City Hall**  
**2309 15th Street**  
**Gulfport, Mississippi 39501**  
**Telephone: (228) 868-5810**  
**Internet Website: <http://www.ci.gulfport.ms.us/govpage.htm>**

Mayor Brent Warr is a family man, married to Laura Meeks Warr of Houston for 17 years. They have two children who represent the fourth generation of Warr's to call Gulfport home.

After he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Stephen F. Austin State University, Mayor Warr established his first successful business in 1987, Warr's Men's Clothing in Gulfport. He also began a real estate investment and management business. In 1996, Mayor Warr was a founding director of Coast Community Bank and has also acted as the bank's Vice Chairman. Other civic contributions include Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, President, The Harrison County Chapter of the American Heart Association, President, and Chairman of the Legislative Affairs Committee, Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Warr is also a member of the PTA and is a Youth Department Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church, Gulfport.

**Frank D. Banda, CPA**  
***Principal - Government Services Practice***  
***Reznick Group P.C.***  
***7700 Old Georgetown Road***  
***Bethesda, Maryland 20814***  
***Telephone: (301) 280-1856***  
***Email Address: [frank.banda@reznickgroup.com](mailto:frank.banda@reznickgroup.com)***  
***Internet Website: <http://www.reznickgroup.com/index.php>***

Frank Banda is a principal in the National Government Services Management Consulting Group of Reznick Group and leads the firm's Government Services Practice.

Frank has more than 22 years of audit, accounting and consulting experience. He is a Certified Public Accountant and holds a bachelors degree in accounting from the University of Maryland, where he serves on the Business Schools Alumni Association Board of Directors. Frank is a member of the Association of Government Accountants (AGA), and has served as the Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation.

As the firm's Government Services Principal-in-Charge, Frank oversees delivery of services to clients Federal clients such as the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Historical Trust and Accounting (OHTA), Bureau of Indian Affairs, Minerals Management Service, and Housing and Urban Development.

Frank is the also one of the lead engagement principals overseeing the Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA) implementation of the State's plan for Hurricane Katrina Relief efforts. The MDA oversees the State's distribution of \$5 billion in Federal Grants to homeowners who suffered flood damage to their residences during Hurricane Katrina. The Reznick Group team consists of over 300 people, including two of the firm's principals, senior managers, managers, staff members and over 15 subcontractors and consultants, which provides program and project management to the MDA. Under Frank's leadership, Reznick Group has implemented a "No Fraud" tolerance in administering the tax dollars of the citizens of the United States. He has worked diligently with the State of Mississippi to establish policy to protect each stakeholder in the program, i.e., the U.S. Federal Government, the State of Mississippi, the mortgagor, the property owner, and the insurance company.

Prior to joining Reznick Group, Frank co-founded an e-commerce software development company and served as Chief Financial Officer (CFO). He also served as the CFO of an information technology services company whose principal client was the federal government. In this role, Frank managed the company's financial operations and led the company's mergers and acquisitions activities. In addition, Frank led initiatives to create efficiencies and cost savings for internal operations, including standardizing financial processes.

**Steve M. Lord**  
***Acting Director***  
***International Affairs and Trade Team***  
***U. S. Government Accountability Office***  
***441 G Street, NW***  
***Washington, DC 20548***  
***Telephone: (202) 512-4379***  
***Email Address: [lords@gao.gov](mailto:lords@gao.gov)***

**Stephen Lord** is an Acting Director in GAO's International Affairs and Trade team. With over 23 years of GAO experience, Mr. Lord has energized and led high-performing teams across an unusually broad range of national security and foreign assistance work in headquarters, GAO's former European Office, and on the ground in Iraq. He has successfully led teams in producing over 40 reports, testimonies and related products that have had significant impact in helping focus congressional attention on such critical issues as the war in Iraq, U.S. export control and security assistance programs, and World Bank lending operations. He was also a major contributor to GAO's effort to craft clear and transparent protocols for dealing with international organizations, such as the World Bank, U.N. and NATO. Mr. Lord also led IAT's recruiting efforts in 2001-2002 and was GAO's representative to the National War College in 2003-2004. Mr. Lord is a recipient of GAO's honor awards for meritorious service, outstanding achievement and teamwork. Mr. Lord holds a bachelor's degree in foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia and an M.B.A. from George Mason University. He also graduated from the National War College with a master's degree in national security strategy.

**Evelyn Echols**  
**C/O Linda Marshall**  
**Linda Marshall Communications**  
**1419 Bordeaux Court**  
**Highland Park, Illinois 60035**  
**Telephone: (847) 507-4988**  
**Email Address: [lmmarshallcom@aol.com](mailto:lmmarshallcom@aol.com)**  
**Internet Website: [www.evelynechols.com](http://www.evelynechols.com)**

**WHAT A GAL! WHAT A LIFE! WHAT A MOTIVATOR!**

Walter Cronkite says it best: “Evelyn Echols ranks right up there with the most interesting people I’ve ever known.” Thus begins his introduction to Echols’s memoir, **“Saying Yes to Life.”** Cronkite continues, “By the time you’ve read this book, I expect that you will agree with me.”

*Travelweekly.com* columnist Arnie Weissmann says of Echols book: “I have just finished reading what is undoubtedly the most juicy, romantic, funny, suspenseful, intimate, inspiring, celebrity-packed autobiography of a travel agent that has ever been written.” Weissmann adds, “and, she is a fabulous raconteur.”

Read **“Saying Yes to Life,”** and learn why you will wind up wanting not only to meet the incomparable Evelyn Echols, but to spend hours in conversation with her. You’ll be clamoring to hear more of the fascinating, deliciously amusing, touching and inspiring tales she tells of her life from Illinois farm girl, to glamorous New York model, to trailblazing entrepreneur, to outstanding keynote speaker, to senior citizen diagnosed with macular degeneration! Hear Echols deliver one of her many inspirational speeches, and you will demand an encore.

Evelyn Echols, at 92 years of age, is one of those rare finds. She has pretty much done it all! In the 1950’s she launched her career as an entrepreneur. She began by opening a travel agency in New York – a first for a woman – and through sheer brilliance and gumption, landed *Pepsi* as a client and wound up in Joan Crawford’s social circle.

In the early 1960’s in Chicago, Echols created a travel program to train underprivileged young women to enter the job market. For graduation and to further motivate her students, the tenacious Echols convinced United Airlines to fly the class over the Chicago skyline as they received their degrees – an event that received national press coverage.

In 1962 Echols established the Echols International Travel and Hotel School in Chicago – the first travel school in the United States – which, over the next 35 years, was recognized for providing the most comprehensive career training program in travel and hospitality in the nation.

### **Evelyn Echols (Continued)**

Echols was named Entrepreneur of the Year by both the New York and Chicago chapters of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO). She is a member of the Chicago Area Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame and Who's Who in America®. She has received awards from many foreign countries for her work in creating goodwill among nations through the medium of travel.

Echols currently hosts the cable television program entitled *Stayin' Alive* on Chicago Cable Channel 25, sponsored by the Chicago Department on Aging. The purpose of this program is to encourage more senior citizens to become involved in volunteer efforts.

In addition to her legendary career success, Echols nurtured a marriage she described as "44 glorious years of wine and roses" to prominent advertising executive Dave Echols. Together, until his death in 1995, the couple met and mingled with royals, politicians and celebrities galore. Echols counts the likes of Eleanor Roosevelt, Joe DiMaggio, Joan Crawford, Helen Hays and Celeste Holm among her long list of personal friends.

Echols has been very active in helping to create awareness that age-related macular degeneration need not deter anyone from living a full life. She was invited to appear before a congressional committee in Washington, DC, to support the allocation of more funding to fight the disease, which is the leading cause of irreversible visual impairment and blindness among persons aged 60 and older.

As a speaker, Echols can add new dimensions to the topics of entrepreneurship, travel and living life to its fullest. She will share her wealth of knowledge and experiences, her visions and dreams and her remarkable ability to cope with a visual impairment in an electrifying motivational presentation.

After a recent appearance as keynote speaker at the *Women Igniting Entrepreneurship* conference at Syracuse University, Dr. Michael Morris, Director of the School of Management, wrote Echols, saying, "In spite of a truly excellent slate of over 25 speakers, your session was clearly rated the best. Delegates continue to follow up with me and all of them mention your talk."

Echols is sure to captivate any audience, winning their hearts and their standing ovation. As an interviewer, reviewer, or events coordinator for a corporate, civic, social or charitable organization, you owe it to yourself and your audience to let Evelyn Echols tell how she's still – and others can begin – "***Saying Yes to Life!***"

**Linda A. Wawzenski**  
***Assistant United States Attorney***  
***Deputy Chief, Civil Division***  
***Northern District of Illinois***  
***United States Attorney's Office***  
***219 S. Dearborn Street, 5th Floor***  
***Chicago, Illinois 60604***  
***Telephone:*** (312) 353-1994  
***Email Address:*** [linda.wawzenski@usdoj.gov](mailto:linda.wawzenski@usdoj.gov)

An assistant United States attorney in the Chicago United States Attorney's Office, Linda A. Wawzenski currently serves as Deputy Chief of the office's Civil Division. As part of her duties, she supervises all of the office's civil fraud work, which includes the coordination of parallel criminal cases. She handles a variety of affirmative cases, the majority of which involve health care fraud.

This past year she received a judgment after trial of \$64.2 million in a health care fraud case alleging Anti-Kickback and Stark violations. Also in 2006, she completed a settlement of \$49.2 million with Omnicare, Inc., based on allegations that the company illegally switched Medicaid-covered nursing home patients across the country to more expensive forms of certain drugs.

She has made presentations to various organizations on health care fraud issues including the American Hospital Association, the American Bar Association, the Health Care Compliance Association, the National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association, the National Conference on Healthcare Compliance, the Radiological Society of North America, and the American Health Lawyers Association.

**Steve Morgan**  
**City Auditor**  
**City of Austin, Texas**  
**Office of the City Auditor**  
**301 W. 2nd Street, Suite 2130**  
**Austin, TX 78701**  
**Telephone: (512) 974-2061**  
**Email: [steve.morgan@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:steve.morgan@ci.austin.tx.us)**  
**Internet Website: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/auditor/default.htm>**

**Stephen L. Morgan, CIA, CGAP, CGFM, CFE**, is the city auditor of Austin, Texas, directing a full scope audit office that conducts performance audits, fraud investigations, and consulting engagements. Mr. Morgan played a key leadership role in helping the City of Austin evolve its performance measurement and management system into a model for other government organizations. Before joining the City Auditor's Office, Mr. Morgan was an evaluator in the U.S. Government Accountability Office's National Productivity Group. For many years he has also been an instructor, designing and delivering courses on performance measurement, management, and auditing. His Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) offices have included president and governor, Austin Chapter, chair of the International Government Relations Committee, and currently North American director and Chairman of the North American Board. In January 2001, Mr. Morgan was appointed (reappointed in 2005) by the Comptroller General of the United States to the Advisory Council on Government Auditing Standards. He co-authored two textbooks: *Performance Auditing: A Measurement Approach* and *Auditor Roles in Government Performance Measurement: A Guide to Exemplary Practices at the Local, State, and Provincial Levels*. In May 2007, Mr. Morgan accepted the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum's (NIAF's) Excellence in Government Performance and Accountability Award from the Comptroller General of the United States. Also, in March 2002, Mr. Morgan became the fourth annual recipient of the Harry Hatry Distinguished Performance Measurement Practice Award from the American Society of Public Administration honoring his lifetime of contributions to public service. Mr. Morgan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in government (with honors) from the University of Texas at Austin; he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He also holds an MPA from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs of the University of Texas at Austin.

**David Hoffman**  
**Inspector General**  
**City of Chicago**  
**City of Chicago Inspector General's Office**  
**P.O. Box 2996**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60654-2996**  
**Telephone: (773) 478-7799**

**Email Address: [dhoffman2@chicagoinspectorgeneral.org](mailto:dhoffman2@chicagoinspectorgeneral.org)**

**Internet Website: <http://www.chicagoinspectorgeneral.org/message.html>**

On September 8, 2005, David Hoffman was appointed Inspector General of the City of Chicago by the Mayor. On October 6, 2005, the City Council confirmed Hoffman's appointment. Hoffman's term as Inspector General is four years.

Prior to becoming Inspector General, Hoffman was an Assistant United States Attorney in Chicago from June 1998 through September 2005. Hoffman prosecuted a wide variety of federal cases including the prosecution of 48 defendants who used rented babies to smuggle liquid cocaine in baby-formula cans from Panama to Chicago, New York, and England. In 2002, Hoffman and his colleagues on the case received the Department of Justice's Director's Award for this prosecution. Hoffman's other cases include the prosecution of three Chicago Police Officers for civil rights violations when they committed perjury and submitted false police reports relating to numerous gun and drug arrests. Hoffman also prosecuted the owner and clerk of a federally-licensed gun shop, along with the gun shop itself, for an extensive, fraudulent scheme to sell guns to convicted felons through straw purchasers and then to cover up the illegal sales. In September 2002, U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald selected Hoffman to be a Deputy Chief in the Narcotics and Gangs Section. In that role, Hoffman led the office's gang unit, supervising 10 Assistant U.S. Attorneys and all federal gang investigations and prosecutions. In conjunction with other law enforcement agencies, Hoffman helped to create new gang strategy plans in Chicago in which federal, state, and local law enforcement leaders built consensus on top gang targets, shared intelligence, and coordinated gang prosecutions. Beginning in January 2003, Hoffman also served as the U.S. Attorney's Office's Co-Coordinator of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a federally-funded anti-gun-violence program in which law enforcement and community groups work together to reduce gun violence in Chicago. Hoffman helped create PSN "parolee forums" to deter gun felons from possessing guns by telling them about both strict federal gun penalties and constructive job and education programs.

Prior to joining the U.S. Attorney's office, Hoffman served as a law clerk for Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist on the United States Supreme Court during October Term 1997. The prior year he served as a law clerk for Judge Dennis G. Jacobs, United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, in New York City. After his clerkship with Chief Justice Rehnquist, Hoffman worked for one year as a litigation associate at the law firm of Howard, Darby & Levin in New York City.

Hoffman is a 1988 cum laude graduate of Yale University with a B.A. in History. Hoffman was captain of the Yale rugby team. In 1995, Hoffman graduated with High Honors from the University of Chicago Law School. In law school, Hoffman was Articles Editor of the *University of Chicago Law Review*, was a Tony Patino Fellow for public service leadership, and received the University of Chicago's 1994 President's Award for Volunteer Service for creating the "Neighbors" community service program in Woodlawn.

**Preston B. Benoit**  
**Director**  
**Office of Management and Policy**  
**Audit Division**  
**U.S. Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration**  
**1125 15th Street, NW, Suite 700A**  
**Washington, DC 20005**  
**Telephone: (202) 622-5896**  
**E-mail: [Preston.Benoit@tigta.treas.gov](mailto:Preston.Benoit@tigta.treas.gov)**

Preston began his civil service career with the IRS in 1987 and two years later joined the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA - formerly the IRS Inspection Service) as a management auditor. In 1995 Preston was promoted to a senior auditor and then in March 1998 he was selected as an audit manager. After almost 2 years as an audit manager, Preston undertook a 2-year assignment in the Former Soviet Republic of Georgia as a resident advisor on internal controls for the U.S. Department of the Treasury technical assistance program. He moved to Georgia in January 2000 and returned to his audit manager position in December 2001. In 2006, Preston was selected as the Director of the Office of Management and Policy for TIGTA's Office of Audit. During his career with the IRS Inspection Service and TIGTA, Preston has audited a variety of IRS programs and areas including, among others, electronic filing, and voice telecommunications charges, the employee/independent contractor issue, conflicts of interest in the IRS Appeals function, notice reengineering, the Electronic Return Originator Monitoring Program, the Bank Secrecy Act Compliance Program, collection case modeling, and the tax gap.

Preston has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from Keene State College in Keene, NH; a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Franklin Pierce College, Rindge, NH; and a Master of Science Degree in Business Education from New Hampshire College (now known as Southern New Hampshire University) in Manchester, NH. Prior to starting his civilian career he served 4 years in the U.S. Army as an Electronic Warfare/Signal Intelligence Analyst. While serving in the Army, he studied Russian and graduated with honors from the Defense Language Institute. In 1993, he obtained his Certified Internal Auditor designation through a competitive examination and qualifying work experience.

**Maryanne Strasser**  
**Audit Manager, Disaster Acquisition Division**  
**Department of Homeland Security**  
**Office of Inspector General**  
**Disaster Assistance Oversight**  
**245 Murray drive, S.W.**  
**Stop 2600, Bldg. 410**  
**Washington, DC 20528**  
**Telephone: (202) 254-5418**  
**Email Address: [maryanne.strasser1@dhs.gov](mailto:maryanne.strasser1@dhs.gov)**

Mary Anne Strasser came to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Inspector General's Office of Disaster Assistance Oversight over a year ago from having spent over ten years as a Comptroller at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

At the Office of Inspector General (OIG), she has been actively involved with the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE) and the development of an OIG Emergency Management Oversight Team. Mary Anne has worked to develop a Strategic Plan for the new Acquisition Division and is now working on the development of a Government-wide Strategic Plan for Audit of Disaster Activities.

During her years at FEMA, Mary Anne was responsible for the financial management and reporting of over 37 Presidential declared disasters including the \$8.8 billion response and recovery effort for the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 and Hurricane Katrina - \$27.6 billion in August 2005 and Hurricane Rita - \$2.5 billion in September 2005. She participated in many key presentations to representatives of Congress, the White House and Federal Office of Budget and Management and was selected as by the Director to be a member of the National Emergency Response Team for 6 years.

Prior to joining FEMA, Mary Anne worked in Colorado as Certified Public Accountant and is experienced in grant, financial and internal control audits of State and local governments, non-profit and commercial entities.