

## **Ernest A. Almonte, CPA, CFE, CGFM**

Ernest A. Almonte is the Auditor General of the State of Rhode Island, a position he has held since 1994. As Auditor General, he is responsible for auditing of the \$6 billion State Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, the \$1.9 billion Federal Single Audit, Municipal Oversight, Performance Audits, Fraud Audits, and oversight of quasi-public agencies. He manages a staff of 46 and has over 28 years experience in the accounting profession.

From 1982 until 1994 he had his own CPA firm in Smithfield, RI, servicing clients from New England and several other states. From 1989 to 1994, he was Chairman of the Board of the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency.

He holds both a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and a Master of Science in Taxation Degree from Bryant University. Mr. Almonte is a graduate of the Senior Executives in State and Local Government at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

In addition to being a Certified Public Accountant, he is also a Certified Fraud Examiner, and a Certified Government Financial Manager. He has been active in the AICPA and other professional associations, as well as charities. He presently serves as a Trustee of St. Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island. Mr. Almonte was appointed by the Secretary of Defense as the State of Rhode Island Chairman of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and by the Comptroller General of the United States to the Government Auditing Standards Committee. He served as the Chairman of the Members in Government Committee of the AICPA, the New England Intergovernmental Audit Forum and the Electronic Government Committee of the National State Auditors Association. Mr. Almonte is currently a member of the AICPA Board of Directors, the President of the National State Auditors Association, and President of the Rhode Island Society of CPAs. He is the Chair of the Finance Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Mr. Almonte is the recipient of the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council “Robert M. Goodrich Distinguished Public Award” – 2004, the Giovanni da Verrazzano Man of the Year – For Outstanding Service to the Rhode Island Community – 2005 and the Rhode Island Society of CPA’s – Centennial Outstanding CPA in Government. “Accounting Today” named Mr. Almonte in 2005 as one of the Top 100 Most Influential People in the Accounting Profession.

Mr. Almonte is an active speaker on various topics such as government finance, electronic government, auditing, fraud, the CPA profession, and others.

## Bradley D. Belt

Bradley D. Belt is the former Executive Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, a wholly owned government corporation that insures the pension benefits of workers and retirees in defined benefit plans sponsored by private sector employers. Mr. Belt is currently an advisor to companies and financial institutions on pension policy, investment strategy, and governance issues. He resigned his position earlier this year to pursue business interests in the private sector.

As the chief executive officer of the PBGC, Mr. Belt was responsible for the Corporation's operations, including administration of the country's second largest insurance program covering 44 million Americans in more than 30,000 defined benefit plans, providing benefit payments of more than \$4 billion annually to more than half a million retirees, and management of more than \$56 billion in assets. In addition to his management responsibilities, he assisted in shaping and communicating Administration policy on pension and retirement security issues.

During his tenure, PBGC restructured its operations, adopted a new liability driven investment policy, implemented performance-based human capital management strategies, established new risk management and internal control systems, and negotiated the largest and most complex financial settlements in the Corporation's 30 year history.

Mr. Belt has extensive management, operations, financial markets, and policy development experience in the private, public, and non-profit sectors. His government service includes senior staff positions with the Securities Exchange Commission and United States Senate, including as counsel to the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs. In the private sector, he has been an executive of a financial services and technology company, managing director of merchant banking and public affairs strategy firms, and a management consultant. He also served as senior vice president of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Mr. Belt was named by *SmartMoney* as one of its "Power 30" in finance and by *Workforce* magazine as one of its "10 Most Forward-Thinking Leaders in Workforce Management," and he has been profiled in *National Journal* and *Government Executive* magazines. He has served on the boards of private sector companies and professional and civic organizations. He is a Senior Advisor to CSIS and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation. Prior affiliations include the bipartisan National Commission on Retirement Policy, the Board of Governors of the Securities Traders Association, and an appointment by President George W. Bush to the Social Security Advisory Board.

Recipient of an Eisenhower Fellowship, Mr. Belt completed the senior executive fellows program at the Kennedy School at Harvard University, received his law degree from Georgetown, and obtained his undergraduate degree in business administration from the University of Nebraska. He is a member of the New York, District of Columbia, and U.S. Supreme Court bars.

## **Earl E. Devaney**

Earl E. Devaney has served as the Inspector General for the Department of the Interior since August 1999. Mr. Devaney has since transformed the Office of Inspector General into an innovative organization dedicated not only to detecting fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement within the Department of the Interior, but also to assist the Department in identifying and implementing new and better ways of conducting business. Mr. Devaney and his team of senior managers have worked diligently toward developing strong working relationships with senior departmental managers, congressional staff and key congressmen and senators. Armed with a philosophy that blends cooperation with strong oversight and enforcement, the Office of Inspector General for the Department of the Interior has made significant advances under the leadership and vision of Mr. Devaney.

Mr. Devaney began his law enforcement career in 1968 as a police officer in his native state of Massachusetts. After graduating from Franklin and Marshall College in 1970 with a degree in Government, Mr. Devaney became a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service.

At the time of his retirement from the Secret Service in 1991, Mr. Devaney was serving as the Special Agent-in-Charge of the Fraud Division and had become an internationally recognized white collar crime expert regularly sought by major media including *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *CNN*. During his tenure with the Secret Service, Mr. Devaney was the recipient of five U.S. Department of Treasury Special Achievement Awards and numerous honors and awards from a wide variety of professional organizations.

Upon leaving the Secret Service, Mr. Devaney became the Director of Criminal Enforcement for the U.S. Environment Protection Agency. In this position, Mr. Devaney oversaw all of EPA's criminal investigators and assumed management responsibility for EPA's Forensics Service Center and the National Enforcement Training Institute. Mr. Devaney's years of managerial excellence were recognized in 1998 with a Presidential Rank Award.

## Ron Elving

Ron Elving is the senior Washington editor for NPR News, where he directs coverage of the capitol and of national politics. He was previously the political editor for *USA Today* and for *Congressional Quarterly*.

Elving's articles have also been published by *The Washington Post*, the Brookings Institution, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *Media Studies Journal*, and the American Political Science Association.

His book, *Conflict and Compromise: How Congress Makes the Law*, was published by Simon & Schuster in 1995 and is now a Touchstone paperback.

Elving has taught as an adjunct professor in the Graduate Public Policy Institute at Georgetown University and in the School of Communication at American University.

He came to Washington in 1984 as a Congressional Fellow with the American Political Science Association and worked for two years as a staff member in the House and Senate. Previously he had been a reporter and state capital bureau chief for *The Milwaukee Journal*.

He received his undergraduate degree from Stanford and master's degrees from the University of Chicago and the University of California - Berkeley.

## **Katherine V. Schinasi**

Ms. Schinasi was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 1997. She currently serves as Managing Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. This group has responsibility for examining the effectiveness of government acquisition and procurement practices with the goal of optimizing the ability of agencies to achieve desired outcomes. In doing so, the group identifies ways the government can structure and manage the acquisition function not only to maximize return on investments but to strengthen accountability and integrity within the procurement arena. Within this context, the group assesses trends in acquisition spending, use of contracting tools, selection and management of suppliers, reliance on contractors to carry out critical government functions, protection of critical U.S. technologies, potentially wasteful or abusive spending practices, among other cross-cutting concerns. In addition, the group conducts in-depth and across-the-board analyses of the government's largest and most complex acquisition efforts—namely weapon systems, space systems, and homeland security systems—with an eye toward providing the Congress with early warning on technical and management challenges.

Ms. Schinasi joined GAO in 1978. She has worked on a variety of international and defense issues including U.S. foreign assistance programs, U.S. and multilateral trading relations, U. S. relations with post-Soviet bloc countries, military service-developed weapons programs, and acquisition policy issues.

Ms. Schinasi earned a Masters of Arts degree in International Relations from American University. She attended Sweet Briar College and received her Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of Maryland. She is married with two children and lives in Washington, D.C.

## **David M. Walker**

David M. Walker became the seventh Comptroller General of the United States and began his 15-year term when he took his oath of office on November 9, 1998. As Comptroller General, Mr. Walker is the nation's chief accountability officer and head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), a legislative branch agency founded in 1921. GAO's mission is to help improve the performance and assure the accountability of the federal government for the benefit of the American people. Over the years, GAO has earned a reputation for professional objective, fact-based, and nonpartisan reviews of government issues and operations.

The long tenure of the Comptroller General gives GAO a continuity of leadership and independence that is rare within government. Both elements help to allow GAO to consider long-range and cross-governmental issues and alert policymakers to problems looming on the horizon, such as the growing burden of entitlement programs and the need to transform the federal government to meet the needs of the 21st century.

Before his appointment as Comptroller General, Mr. Walker had extensive executive level experience in both government and private industry. Between 1989 and 1998, Mr. Walker worked at Arthur Andersen LLP, where he was a partner and global managing director of the human capital services practice based in Atlanta, Georgia. He was also a member of the board of Arthur Andersen Financial Advisors, a registered investment advisor. While a partner at Arthur Andersen, Mr. Walker served as a Public Trustee for Social Security and Medicare from 1990 to 1995. Before joining Arthur Andersen, Mr. Walker was Assistant Secretary of Labor for Pension and Welfare Benefit Programs from 1987 to 1989 and in 1985, was Acting Executive Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. His earlier technical, professional, and business experience was with Price Waterhouse, Coopers & Lybrand and Source Services Corporation, an international human resources consulting and search firm.

Mr. Walker currently serves as Chair of the U.S. Intergovernmental Audit Forum, the Center for Continuous Auditing, and as a principal of the U.S. Joint Financial Management Improvement Program. He is also a founder and principal of the U.S. Joint Auditing Standards Coordinating Forum.

Mr. Walker is on the Board of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions and various educational and not-for-profit entities. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration, the National Academy of Social Insurance and an active member of various professional, public service, and other organizations, including the Sons of the American Revolution. He is listed in Who's Who in the World and Who's Who in America.

Mr. Walker is the author of *Retirement Security: Understanding and Planning Your Financial Future* (John Wiley & Sons, 1996) and a co-author of

Delivering on the Promise: How to Attract, Manage and Retain Human Capital (Free Press, 1998). He has also written numerous articles and opinion letters on a variety of subjects. Mr. Walker is frequently quoted on a range of government and management issues and has been the subject of several cover stories in various national, professional and governmental journals.

Mr. Walker is a certified public accountant. He has a B.S. degree in accounting from Jacksonville University and a Senior Management in Government Certificate in public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has received honorary doctorate degrees from several colleges and universities, including his alma mater. Mr. Walker has also won a number of awards domestically and internationally for outstanding leadership.

He is married to the former Mary Etheredge, and they have two adult children - a daughter, Carol, and a son, Andy - and three grandchildren.