

Speaker Biographies

Hector Balderas

In November of 2006, at the age of 33, Hector Balderas was elected to the Office of New Mexico State Auditor, making him the youngest Hispanic statewide elected official in the nation. Balderas was raised in Wagon Mound, New Mexico, a small northern New Mexico community with a population of 310.

Hector graduated with a BA (Bachelor's of Arts) in Political Science from New Mexico Highlands University. He also earned his Law degree from the University of New Mexico. He was the first person in his family to earn a college degree, as well as the first person to become an attorney from Wagon Mound.

After graduating from law school, Hector remained in Albuquerque working as a criminal prosecutor. During his tenure with the district attorney's office, Hector prosecuted more than 1,100 criminal cases involving white collar crimes, fraud, DUI, and Domestic Violence. Thereafter, he ventured out on his own and developed a solo criminal and civil law practice.

In December 2003, Hector, with his wife and three young children, moved back to his hometown of Wagon Mound. At the age of 30 and with no political experience, Hector ran for a seat in the New Mexico Legislature. Hector defeated the heavily favored incumbent by a 2-1 margin in the democratic primary and prevailed over the republican opponent in the general election.

In his first legislative term, Hector passed broad sweeping legislation to strengthen sex offender penalties, developed incentives for clean energy investment, and funded virtual education in rural public schools. Hector also sponsored the truthful interrogations bill which gained national recognition as one of the most important reforms to the criminal justice system. Hector was named Rookie Leader of the Year by the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce and Outstanding Rookie by the League of Conservation Voters.

During his second legislative session, Hector took on the task of amending the entire State criminal code to reflect more consistency and parity in sentencing. Balderas also advocated for DUI reform and led the fight to pass price gouging legislation to protect consumers in a time of disaster. In April of 2006 he was a delegate for the American Council of Young Political Leaders or (ACYPL) as he traveled to Pakistan. He was one of only six delegates to participate in the U.S. State Department sponsored 13 (thirteen) day envoy to Pakistan. While there Hector met with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, all Political Party leaders, and conducted national print and Television interviews commenting on American Muslim relations.

As New Mexico's State Auditor, Hector Balderas provides regulatory oversight of over \$60 (sixty) billion in public assets and tax dollars. Auditor Balderas is also tasked with managing all government contracts and professional compliance of over 63 (Sixty-three) private accounting firms statewide. During his first year in office, Auditor Balderas has aggressively exercised his authority to combat fraud and corruption in New Mexico. Additionally, he has expanded the profile of his office by hiring criminal investigators, developing a fraud hotline, and expanding

training and outreach operations throughout government. In October of 2007 State Auditor Balderas was honored by Hispanic Business magazine as one of the 100 most Influential Hispanics in the nation.

Jeremiah P. Carroll, CPA

Jeremiah P. Carroll is a Certified Public Accountant and Director of the Clark County Audit Department where he manages a staff of fourteen employees. He has held the Director's position since March, 1986. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting from the University of Akron. He is the past President of the Nevada State Board of Accountancy as well as the past chair of the Nevada State Society Government Accounting Committee. Mr. Carroll previously served on the Board of the National Association of Local Government Auditors and was also active on Committees for the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy. He has an AICPA Certificate of Educational Achievement in Government Accounting and Auditing and has been a part-time instructor of government accounting at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is the past Chair of the Professional Issues Committee for the National Association of Local Government Auditors. In 2004-2005 he served as the president of the Nevada Government Financial Officers Association. He currently is chair of the Western Intergovernmental Audit Forum. Jerry and his wife of thirty-one years, Anne Marie, have four children.

Donald R. Drach

Don Drach is Director, International Relations, in the U.S. Government Accountability Office's Strategic Planning and External Liaison office. He also serves as the editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Government Auditing and was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the INTOSAI Development Initiative, an international training organization. Mr. Drach is an Adjunct Faculty member in GAO's Learning Center.

Prior to joining GAO in 1981, Mr. Drach was manager of teacher training programs for the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Education from 1975-1980. From 1971-73, he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia.

Mr. Drach holds a Bachelors Degree in political science/international relations from the Pennsylvania State University and a Masters Degree in education from Boston College. He studied at the University of Liberia and the University of Puerto Rico, and is a certified government financial manager.

Taylor Dudley

Taylor is the Deputy City Auditor for the City of Austin, Texas. He has worked 18 years for Austin conducting and managing performance audits, investigations, and special projects, yet still claims to have a sense of humor. In working for an organization with an operating budget of \$2.5B and a CIP budget of ~\$900M, Taylor has done work related to nearly every traditional city function, such as parks, police, fire, and libraries, while also getting to work on many of Austin's less traditional services such as the electric and water utilities, airport, convention center, health clinics, etc. He has

led and worked on peer reviews of other audit organizations, is certified as an internal auditor (CIA), a fraud examiner (CFE), and as a government auditing professional (CGAP), and has a Bachelor's in Economics from the University of Texas.

Brian A. Estes

Brian Estes is Executive Director of the Western and Pacific Northwest Intergovernmental Audit Forums and works in the Office of Strategic Planning and External Liaison for the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Seattle, Washington. Within the Office of Strategic Planning and External Liaison, Brian manages a number of initiatives associated with the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum including the development of the NIAF Strategic Plan, among other efforts.

Brian is on the Board of Directors of the Seattle Chapter of AGA and serves as AGA's Northwest Regional Coordinator for Education. Brian also is a former President and Board member of the Evergreen Chapter, American Society for Public Administration. He is a Certified Adjunct Faculty Member with GAO and has provided training to AGA, IIA, and other organizations on a variety of audit related topics. Brian has a BA in political science from UCLA, a MPA degree from the University of Washington, and holds a CGFM certificate.

Jenner Holden

Jenner is a Senior IT Auditor on the Information Technology Audit Team at the Arizona Office of the Auditor General. Jenner joined the Arizona office as a pioneering member of the IT audit function in 2005. He started his audit career as a performance auditor with the California Bureau of State Audits in 2004. Jenner currently specializes in conducting information security audits, including assessments of the security of web-based applications. He also has experience conducting reviews of general IT controls.

Jenner graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in Economics and a Masters of Public Administration. He is a member of the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) and is a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA). Jenner lives in Avondale, Arizona with his wife and four children.

Elaine M. Howle

Elaine M. Howle is California's independent State Auditor who serves the State of California by providing accurate, unbiased, and timely assessments of financial and operation aspects of state and local government entities. Ms. Howle has more than 20 years of auditing, management, and leadership experience with the Bureau of State Audits (bureau) and its predecessor office, the Office of the Auditor General. She began her career in state government in 1983, joining the Office of the Auditor General, the predecessor agency to the State Auditor's Office, as an entry-level auditor conducting performance audits on a variety of state and local governments. She was made a supervising auditor in 1987 and a principal auditor in 1994. Ms. Howle became Deputy State Auditor in 1999 before being appointed California's first female State Auditor in 2000.

As California's State Auditor, Ms. Howle oversees the operations of the nonpartisan State Auditor's Office made up of a diverse staff of talented professionals. The work from her office serves an important role in the State's system of checks and balances by examining the fiscal health and performance of state and local entities to ensure that government provides the essential services to the public in the most efficient and effective manner. Her performance audits provide information to improve public accountability and facilitate decision making by parties with responsibility for overseeing or initiating corrective action. Her office conducts the annual financial audit of California's large, complex financial system and provides an opinion on the financial statements. Ms. Howle's office also audits annually the State's compliance with federal regulations governing the administration of billions of dollars in federal funds California receives each year. Moreover, her office investigates allegations received and reports substantiated claims of fraud and abuse in state government. Further, legislation authorizes her office to identify, audit, and report on state agencies that her office identifies as being at high-risk for waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement, or that have major challenges related to efficiency of effectiveness.

Ms. Howle has a strong national presence and is actively involved in various national organizations devoted to government accounting. Ms. Howle is a certified public accountant and a certified government financial manager. She serves on the Performance Audit Committee, Single Audit Committee, Human Resources Committee, and Auditor Training Committee of the National State Auditors Association, and she is a member of the U.S. Government Accountability Offices', Domestic Working Group. Ms. Howle is also involved in the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers; the Association of Government Accountants; and the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society.

Ms. Howle has a bachelor's degree in sport's management from the University of Massachusetts and a master's of business administration from California State University, Sacramento.

Stan Stenersen

Stan Stenersen has created and presented writing workshops for dozens of audit and evaluation agencies across the country. Stan has held a number of positions throughout his career that make him uniquely qualified to speak to us today. He has been a journalist, a Congressional staffer, a university instructor, and an auditor and evaluator for state and federal agencies. He is currently a senior communications analyst with the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Seattle, where he helps audit teams design report messages and write their reports. He also has his own consulting business, which provides writing training for government agencies and major corporations. He has been a presenter for such organizations as the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Institute of Internal Auditors, the Association of Government Accountants, and various state CPA societies.

Jacquelyn L. Williams-Bridgers

Jacque Williams-Bridgers is Managing Director of the International Affairs and Trade (IAT) team for the U.S. Government Accountability Office. Under Jacque's leadership, IAT supports the U.S. Congress in its oversight of U.S. foreign affairs programs and activities, including

public diplomacy, development assistance, international security, and nuclear non-proliferation. IAT also evaluates how well U.S. interests are served by U.S. trade policy and agreements, and assesses the U.S. role in multilateral organizations and international financial institutions. Prior to her appointment to IAT in January 2004, Jacquie led GAO's Strategic Planning and External Liaison unit where she advanced GAO's strategic focus through development of partnerships and capacity building initiatives with public and private sector accountability organizations around the world. She began her professional career in GAO in 1978, working over a sixteen-year period on audits, program evaluations and policy analyses of housing, community development, disaster assistance, small business and transportation issues.

In 1995, Jacquie was appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate as Inspector General of the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, and later the U.S. Information Agency and the Broadcasting Board of Governors. As Inspector General, Jacquie led the program evaluation, audit and criminal investigation organizations responsible for oversight of U.S. foreign policy implementation, U.S. embassy operations, embassy security, U.S. intelligence overseas, and international broadcasting including Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the Voice of America.

Jacquie has advised governments around the globe on methods to ensure integrity and transparency in operations. Following her appointment as Inspector General she joined PricewaterhouseCoopers, where she initiated a practice area to provide assistance to governments on anti-corruption matters. She later established a consulting practice, JāDa International, LLC, to advance governmental integrity globally through professional services to organizations and foreign governments.