


# Speaker's Biographies

**Monica Aleman-Smoot,** Attorney, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
Mónica Alemán-Smoot is an attorney with the Texas Department of Transportation. She has worked at the department for 10 years and oversees the Risk Management and Prevention program. Mónica graduated from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas with a Bachelor of Arts and received her Master of Public Administration from Texas State University and her law degree from the University of Texas. She is licensed to practice in the state of Texas. Prior to her work at the Texas Department of Transportation, she worked with the Texas Legislature and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. During her tenure at the Texas Department of Transportation, she drafted and assisted with the creation of the agency's Ethic's Policy. Mónica also assisted and implemented HB 1128 which established the department's Cost Savings program.

**Lucy Andre,** Chief of Staff, Stadler US, Inc.
Lucy Knight Andre serves as the CEO of Stadler Signalling North America and the Chief of Staff, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary of Stadler US Inc. in Salt Lake City, Utah. Since joining Stadler in 2016, she has helped oversee the set up and expansion of Stadler's North American operations. Lucy has seen the company grow from 8 full time employees to over 550, build and fill a 500,000 square foot manufacturing facility, and secure over $3.5 billion dollars in orders. A native of Salt Lake City, Lucy obtained a bachelor's degree from Webster University in Vienna, Austria and was employed there as an editor for the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis before returning to Salt Lake City to earn a law degree from the University of Utah. She has since worked as a college professor, a prosecutor, a partner at a law firm, and as in-house counsel for multiple organizations. A passionate advocate of transit and a believer in enhancing local communities, Lucy also participates on many corporate and community boards and is actively involved in a variety of non-profit organizations.

**Edward (Ted) Boling,** Partner, Perkins Coie, LLP
Ted advises clients on renewable energy and transmission projects, resource development, transportation, and related infrastructure development, building on more than 30 years of high-level public service. Ted Boling's experience includes deep involvement in the environmental review and authorization of federal infrastructure projects, environmental mitigation and conservation programs, and leadership of the comprehensive revision of CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. He served on the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), in the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), and in the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Ted counsels companies, agencies, and nongovernmental organizations that must navigate regulatory and funding programs to advance renewable energy, transmission, transportation, critical minerals, and manufacturing projects. His work

includes: Offshore wind development projects and policy advocacy for industry and conservation organizations. Transmission projects planned and designed to bring renewable energy to market. Water resource projects that are necessary to meet the demands of a changing climate. Semiconductor manufacturing facilities that are eligible for funding under the CHIPS and Science Act. Critical minerals projects that advance domestic production goals. Ted's work at CEQ included the development of the National Ocean Policy, CEQ's climate change guidance, and the use of environmental management systems in environmental impact assessment. He drafted NEPA guidance on mitigation and monitoring, cumulative impacts analysis, and the development of categorical exclusions from detailed NEPA documentation. Ted advised on the establishment of numerous national monuments, including the first marine national monuments in the United States and the largest marine protected areas in the world. He represented CEQ as a member of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the board of directors of the Udall Foundation, and the U.S. delegation to negotiations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. He also assisted in briefing three cases before the Supreme Court of the United States. At DOI, Ted served as a deputy solicitor and counselor to the assistant secretaries for land and minerals management and for fish and wildlife and parks. Ted handled matters involving energy development on the outer continental shelf, including offshore wind power development, and the fast-track process for solar and wind energy projects on public lands. He has provided legal and policy advice on environmental issues concerning the Federal Columbia River Power System and the California Central Valley Project. At DOJ, Ted was a senior trial attorney and litigated significant cases involving NEPA, endangered species, marine mammals, wetland protections, and management of public lands. He was involved in litigation concerning the Northwest Forest Plan, National Forest manament decisions, and Federal Transit Administration decisions and U.S. Coast Guard activity in New England. Education & Credentials Mary Washington College, B.A., 1986 Washington University School of Law, J.D., Editor-in-Chief, Washington University Journal of Urban and Contemporary Law (now Journal of Law and Policy), 1990 Bar and Court Admissions District of Columbia Virginia

**Sejin C. Brooks,** Partner, Baker Moran

Sejin C. Brooks focuses on eminent domain litigation and real estate transactions involving entities with the power to condemn. He has practiced almost exclusively in the field of eminent domain and acquisitions for almost two decades, and has handled thousands of parcels through acquisition, including more than 400 cases through Special Commissioners' Hearings in Texas. His broad range of clients include public, private and government entities with and without the authority to condemn, commercial real estate developers and market participants, landowners, and tenants. Sejin effectively approaches issues by balancing the immediate and long-term needs of clients and by applying his experience in both legal and business negotiations.
Prior to joining Baker Moran, Sejin was at Barron, Adler, Clough and Oddo, PLLC and was an Assistant Attorney General at the Office of the Attorney General of Texas, Transportation Division and represented the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) primarily in condemnation matters, as well as various other litigation matters. While serving as an Assistant Attorney General, Mr. Brooks managed litigation regarding the DFW Connector Highway

Construction Project (a multi-billion-dollar project in the DFW Metroplex). Prior to his time as an Assistant Attorney General, he served as an Assistant District Attorney in Oklahoma where he oversaw the Child Abuse and Sex Crimes Desk leading to numerous convictions.
Sejin earned his B.A. from the University of Oklahoma in 1994 and attained his J.D. with honors from the University of Tulsa in 1999. He served as a former member of the Oklahoma Child Death Review Board and Board of Directors for "Kids' Space" Muskogee County Child Advocacy Center. He also volunteered with Court School and CASA to teach children how to testify.
Sejin is a member of Texas Bar College. He is the Chair of the International Right of Way Association's Committee on Real Estate Law and is active with the Transportation Research Board's (Member of the National Academes) Eminent Domain Committee. He has been a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association since 2000 and the State Bar of Texas since 2005 and has been admitted to practice in the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals 10th Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the Northern, Eastern and Western Districts of Oklahoma, and the Eastern District of Texas.

**Education**

- J.D., The University of Tulsa School of Law, 1999
- B.A., University of Oklahoma, 1994

**Admissions**

- State Bar of Texas and the Texas Bar College
- Oklahoma Bar Association
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, Tenth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas

**Michael Bryant,** Civil Rights Division Director, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)
Michael D. Bryant serves as director of the Civil Rights Division. Bryant joined TxDOT in 2012 as an attorney in the General Counsel Division where he worked on various matters related to the Civil Rights Division, and HUB and DBE issues. Prior to his current role, Bryant worked at the Office of Governor Rick Perry, serving as counsel to the Trusteed Programs within the office, including the Economic Development & Tourism Division, the Texas Music Office, and the Texas Film Commission. Bryant is the immediate past Chair of the Committee on Civil Rights for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. He is an alumnus of Morehouse College and The University of Texas School Of Law.

**Marc Butorac,** Vice President, Kittelson & Associates, Inc.
Marc is a professional engineer who has provided management and oversight on transportation engineering/planning/research projects and served as an expert witness on a variety of civil and criminal cases across the United States. Marc expertise includes parking lot design and circulation, access control, eminent domain, traffic control, land development (including

commercial, mixed-use, destination resort, casino, industrial and residential developments), special event management, NEPA EIS/EA/CE projects, and traffic engineering. Marc served as past Chair for the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Access Management Committee, past president of the Oregon American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Board, and past Oregon Institute of Transportation Engineers Section President. He currently serves as an Associate Member of the Parking Consultant Council, Communication Coordinator for the TRB Land Use and Eminent Domain Committee, Vice President and Board Secretary for Kittelson & Associates, Inc., and President of Kittelson, LLC.

**Chance Costello,** Policy Advisor, Office of the Senate Majority Leader, Senator John Thune (R-SD)

**James Cownie,** Chief Counsel, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)
Jim Cownie is Chief Counsel for the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Jim practices primarily in the areas of construction and government contracts. Jim has been with MnDOT for 25 years. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School and is currently the Chair of the Construction Law Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association.

**Carrie Cox,** Chief Legal Counsel and the Director of the Office of General Counsel (OGC)., Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)
Carrie Cox is the Chief Legal Counsel and the Director of the Office of General Counsel (OGC). The OGC acts as legal counsel for WisDOT and works closely with WisDOT leadership to provide guidance on a wide variety of legal issues. Carrie has been at WisDOT since 2011. As a project attorney, she worked on several large, complex projects including the Zoo Interchange, I-39/90 and a WIS12/18 (Beltline) study. Prior to joining OGC, Carrie was the Vice President of Legal and Regulatory Affairs for Charter Communications and an attorney in private practice with Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C., Milwaukee. Carrie graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science from UW-Milwaukee and a juris doctor from Marquette University Law School.

**Jim Ferguson,** Sr. Product Consultant, Infotech
Jim is a Senior Product Consultant at Infotech, bringing a deep understanding of the company's extensive product portfolio and a 14-year tenure with the Gainesville, FL-based firm. Prior to his career at Infotech, Jim dedicated 25 years to public service at the Nebraska Department of Transportation. During his time there, he served in various capacities, most notably as the Contracts System Administrator for 10 years. This extensive background provides him with a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities faced by industry clients. For Jim, fostering strong relationships with clients, internal teams, and partners is the most rewarding aspect of his work.

**Gavin Diaz,** Sr. Territory Manager, Infotech
Gavin is a territory Manager for the Middle America market. Gavin has over 13 years of experience working with federal, state and local government, as well as consultants and contractors. He has a strong understanding of the full project lifecycle for the infrastructure industry and how agencies can leverage technology to achieve their goals. With experience in customer success, onboarding and sales, Gavin is a subject matter expert with a holistic lens on

how to serve Infotech customers best.

**Paul Dorothy,** Sr. Civil Engineer, SEA Consulting Limited, P.A.
Dr. Dorothy received his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering and his Master of Science in Civil Engineering from Michigan State University, and his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from The Ohio State University. He is a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.), a Project Management Professional (PMP), a registered Professional Planner (AICP), a registered Professional Transportation Planner (PTP), and a Certified XL Tribometrist (CXLT). Prior to joining S-E-A, Paul worked for 19 years on a variety of large engineering projects, including the Cleveland Innerbelt Project, a $1.8 billion transportation project where he was the Chief Engineer/Project Manager. He specializes in highway design, including complex interchange design, trade-offs in highway geometrics and intersection design; maintenance of traffic, including work zone design, work zone analysis, and work zone policy; traffic engineering, including signal systems, operational analysis, and signing and striping; safety, including crash analysis, roadside design, and work zone analysis; constructability, including constructability analysis and construction phase sequencing; project management, including project scheduling, project sequencing, and project integration; transportation planning, including NEPA analysis and provisions for bicycles and pedestrians; premises liability, including code/standards evaluation, slip/trip/fall analysis, and ADA; driver training effectiveness; municipal engineering, including local street, storm water, and sanitary design; and value engineering. Paul has over two decades of peer-reviewed publication experience, authored NCHRP 422: Trade-off Considerations in Highway Geometric Design, and was the principal investigator for the development of the Traffic Analysis Toolbox Volume XII: Work Zone Traffic Analysis. He is an active member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), the Project Management Institute (PMI), the American Planning Association (APA), and the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS).

**Allison Ishihara Fultz,** Parnter, Kaplan Kirsch LLC
Before rejoining the firm in early 2025, Allison served as Chief Counsel of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), an operating administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), where she was the agency's top legal officer. In this role, she provided strategic counsel to the agency and USDOT on complex regulatory, legislative, and policy matters affecting the nation's rail system. Leading a team of legal professionals, she ensured compliance with federal laws while advancing FRA's mission to promote safety, efficiency, and sustainability in rail transportation. Her responsibilities included drafting, revising, and reviewing regulations, negotiating agreements with industry stakeholders, and managing the legal dimensions of federal grant and loan programs. Allison's leadership and extensive experience have made her a trusted advisor in navigating the intricate legal and regulatory landscape affecting transportation infrastructure. She also is a licensed architect, currently inactive, and has practiced in both the United States and Canada. Allison has directed feasibility studies, master plans, and building projects for institutional, government, and educational clients from the project programming stage through construction. Education: J.D., American University School of Law M.Arch., Princeton University A.B., Princeton University Bar Admissions Maryland District of Columbia Court Admissions: U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia U.S. District Court, Eastern District, Michigan U.S. District Court, Northern District, Illinois Organizations

**Danette Galbraith,** Litigator, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Dani graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law School in 1998. She has been Southwest Regional Counsel for the Missouri Department of Transportation for 5 years. One of her primary responsibilities is representing the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission, the governing body of the Missouri Department of Transportation, on eminent domain matters. The southwest region encompasses 21 counties in southwest Missouri.

**April Greenhouse Weaver,** Deputy General Counsel, Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County
April Greenhouse serves as Deputy General Counsel for the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO). She manages the transaction and records management divisions in the Legal Department, supports the General Counsel with Board Governance and advises the Executive Management Team. April has 13 years of public law experience and enjoys sharing best practices in transit law at legal seminars and various METRO training programs. She was recently appointed as Chair of the Contract Law Committee on the Transportation Research Board. April is also a panel member of the Legal Aspects of Transit and Intermodal Transportation Programs, a division of the Transit Cooperative Research Program. She volunteers as a board member for DiscoverU (a non-profit of United Way) supporting low-income and underprivileged students in Houston.

**Emily Hebein,** Legislative Director, Office of Representative Bob Latta

**Colette Holt,** Legal Counsel and Consultant, Colette Holt & Associates
Colette Holt provides legal counsel and consulting services to governments and businesses on procurement and contracting; employment discrimination; regulatory compliance; organizational change; program development, evaluation and implementation; and issues relating to inclusion, diversity and affirmative action. Ms. Holt is a nationally recognized expert in designing, implementing and defending affirmative action programs. She has concentrated her practice in these areas for over 25 years, after serving in senior legal and management government positions. Colette Holt & Associates was founded in 1994 and has become the nation's premier law and consulting firm on these issues. Licensed to practice law in Illinois. In particular, she provides expert witness testimony and consultations in suits involving public and private procurement and employment policies. Ms. Holt evaluates the effectiveness of employment and contracting policies and processes and proposes solutions to support leadership's commitment to improvement and innovation. She has served as co-consultant with and counsel to economics consulting firms in conducting numerous studies of contracting and employment discrimination. In addition to work for public sector clients, the firm counsels government vendors on compliance with federal employment and procurement regulations, including serving as a court appointed compliance monitor for firms entering into consent decrees with prosecutors. Ms. Holt is General Counsel to the American Contract Compliance Association, the national organization of officials responsible for minority, women and disadvantaged business initiatives. Ms. Holt is a frequent author and media commentator on affirmative action, and employment topics. She is the former Vice-Chair of the American Bar

Association's Public Contract Law Section. Ms. Holt was appointed an Adjunct Professor at the Loyola University School of Law and The John Marshall Law School. Education Yale University, B.A., Philosophy University of Chicago, J.D.

**Gary Holtmeyer,** Risk Management Assistant Chief Counsel, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)

**David F. Innis,** Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office of San Francisco

**Patrice Kelly,** Co-President, Patrice Kelly Global Solutions, a Wholly Owned Subsidiary of Current Consulting Group. LLC
Before joining Current Consultant Group as the Co-President of Patrice Kelly Global Solutions, Patrice was the longest serving Director of the Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance (ODAPC) in the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Patrice was the leading trusted advisor to the Secretary of Transportation, Federal agency leaders, and White House personnel under many Presidential Administrations. She has advised Congressional staff and testified before Congress. She was the Federal government's top expert in DOT drug and alcohol regulations, policies, and national drug control policies from a transportation perspective. Now, Patrice provides expert advice to other domestically and internationally recognized experts. Patrice is a sought-after public presenter and trainer. She has spoken at plenary and breakout sessions for the Federal Transit Administration's annual conferences for more than a decade. A graduate of Boston College, and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, Patrice received her Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center. Patrice began her career on Wall Street. She has worked for the Supreme Court of the United States, the late Senator Ted Kennedy, the US Department of State, and in law firms in Washington, DC, before beginning her 34-year DOT career at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). During her time with DOT, Patrice served on a 2-year special assignment with National Drug and Alcohol Screening Association (NDASA). Patrice retired with more than 35 years of government service in 2025. Patrice was the first FAA attorney to revoke an air carrier's certificate for failure to implement drug and alcohol testing. She initiated the FAA's first civil penalty cases to enforce the FAA's drug and alcohol testing regulations. She served as a Special Assistant US Attorney on several FAA cases. For several years, Patrice was the FAA's Senior Attorney for Aerospace Medical Issues and special counsel for the Federal Air Surgeon. Since 1993, Patrice has written and/or substantively provided input into many of the DOT's regulations on drug and alcohol testing for the Office of the Secretary and the DOT Agencies, including the Federal Transit Administration. She was the primary author of the DOT's oral fluid testing regulation in 2023. Patrice was the only DOT official to have ever served as the decision-maker on Public Interest Exclusions against non-compliant service agents who posed a significant threat to safety. She is a champion for safety who maintains a passion for mentoring others.

**Elizabeth Keyes,** Chief of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT)
Elizabeth Keyes is the Chief of Legal and Regulatory Affairs at the Connecticut Department of Transportation where she serves as advisor to Commissioner Garrett Eucalitto and oversees the

Offices of Legislative Affairs, Legal Affairs, Consultant Selection, State Traffic Administration and the Division of Internal Audit. Elizabeth joined CTDOT in 2023 with more than 15 years of state experience that spans all three branches of Connecticut government. Most recently, Elizabeth spent eight years as Legal Counsel to the Senate Majority Caucus in the Connecticut General Assembly. From 2011 to 2014, she was the Executive Assistant to the Commissioner at the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Following her graduation from law school, she served a clerk in the Connecticut Appellate Court. Elizabeth holds a BA from the College of the Holy Cross and a dual JD/MPA from the University of Connecticut. She is admitted to the bars of Connecticut and New York.

**Katie Kraft,** Partner, Thompson Coburn LLP
Katie Kraft is a seasoned expert in federal regulatory and compliance issues related to public transit. With a deep background from her former high-level role in the transit industry, she offers clients strategic advice on a range of topics including federal public sector procurement, competitive solicitations, project delivery, Title VI, Section 13(c) labor protection, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise requirements.
She is particularly adept at helping clients navigate the implications of the Buy America Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021), which strengthened domestic preference requirements for federal infrastructure funding. Katie supports both public agencies and private companies in meeting these requirements.

Katie has a proven track record of addressing intricate legal issues before federal courts, private arbitrators, and administrative bodies. Her appellate work, often involving significant constitutional issues, showcases her exceptional writing skills—she has authored influential briefs in appellate and Supreme Court cases impacting the transportation sector.

Clients value Katie's thoughtful, level-headed approach and her ability to manage high-pressure situations effectively. She draws on her experience as Vice President and Deputy General Counsel of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which provides her with a unique perspective on the pressures faced by transit agency leaders. Her comprehensive legal advice considers not just the letter of the law but also its practical implications for transit operations, projects, and activities.

Education:
Saint Louis University School of Law, J.D., 2006
Saint Louis University, B.A., English, Minor in Psychology, 2003

Bar Admissions
District of Columbia
Illinois (Inactive)
Missouri (Inactive)

Court Admissions
U.S. Court of Appeals, 1st Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia
U.S. Court of Appeals, 9th Circuit
The Supreme Court of the United States
U.S. District Court, District of Columbia

**Karen Landers,** General Counsel, San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS)
Karen Landers is General Counsel for San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS). MTS provides bus and light rail transit in the city of San Diego, nine surrounding cities and areas of south and east San Diego County. MTS ridership in Fiscal Year 2015 was 96,710,268, or almost 315,000 daily riders. Landers received a B.S. in Urban Planning from the University of Southern California and her law degree from UC Hastings College of the Law. After law school, she spent nine years as litigation associate with the law firm of Best Best & Krieger LLP, primarily representing public agencies in labor and employment, eminent domain/inverse condemnation and construction disputes. She then worked as a Senior Deputy County Counsel for the County of San Diego, representing various County departments, boards and commissions. In 2011, Landers joined MTS as General Counsel. At MTS she represents the agency in all legal matters and supervises the Land Management, Risk/Workers Compensation and Internal Audit departments. MTS has two in-house attorneys and uses a panel of outside counsel firms for representation and advice related to specialized matters.

**Jomar Maldonado,** Director for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality
Jomar Maldonado is the Director for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at the Council on Environmental Quality. In this role, he provides policy guidance to Federal agencies and regulatory interpretation to assist with their compliance with NEPA. Jomar has over 20 years of environmental policy and legal experience within the Federal government working on environmental review matters such as NEPA, Endangered Species Act, Floodplain Management, Wetlands Protection, and similar requirements. Prior to joining CEQ Jomar worked as the Project Development Team Lead within the Office of Environmental Review and Project Development for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). His career includes experience as an environmental attorney at FHWA and as the Environmental Officer of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. In his various roles he has worked on many complex issues such as assignment of NEPA responsibilities to States, initiatives to expedite permitting of Federal projects, resiliency/ hazard mitigation, floodplain reviews, environmental review of the National Flood Insurance Program, Buy America requirements, contract administration for highway projects, environmental justice considerations, and tolling and innovative financing for highways. Jomar is originally from Puerto Rico. In 2000 he earned his Bachelor's of Science degree in environmental science from the University of Puerto Rico. He earned a joint Juris Doctorate and Masters in Public Policy from the University of Maryland in 2003.

**Vince Malone,** Chief of Staff and Administration, WeGo Public Transit
Vince Malone previously served as Director of the Civil Rights Division with Tennessee Department of Transportation. He is appointed to serve on the U.S. Transportation Research Board (TRB) Standing Committee on Contracting Equity and serves several executive committees

with AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials). He was Chief Compliance, Risk, and Human Resource Officer for SRS, Inc. of Hendersonville. Malone holds a J.D. in Law from the University of Florida and a B.A. in Political Science from Lipscomb University. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Sumner Development Corporation and as a Commissioner and Chairman of the Gallatin Housing Authority. He is also an officer and board member with 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee.

**Faris Mohammed,** Attorney Adviser, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

**Claudette Orlando,** Senior Commercial Counsel, Via Transportation

**Terri L. Parker,** Chief Counsel, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT)
Terri Parker is the chief counsel for the Missouri Highway and Transportation Commission. She is the chair of the tort and risk management committee.
Education:
University of Missouri School of Law - JD (1992)
University of Missouri - Columbia - Bachelor's (1988)

Bar Membership
Missouri

**Tracey Payne,** Acting Commissioner, Chicago Department of Aviation
Tracey Payne proudly serves as Acting Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA), overseeing the City Department that owns and operates O'Hare and Midway International Airports. Prior to her appointment as Acting Commissioner, she served as the CDA's Managing Deputy Commissioner/Chief Administrative Officer, overseeing day-to-day operational aspects of finance, payroll, workforce development, intergovernmental affairs, and professional development. In this role, she cultivated positive employee engagement through various initiatives to foster a culture of continuous learning and led a team that engages with all 50 City Wards through activities and education to support workforce development. Before joining the CDA, she worked for more than 25 years with the Chicago Department of Law, where she last served as Chief Assistant Corporation Counsel. Tracey's practice concentrated on airport financing, airport concessions, real estate, and safety and security matters for the airports. Tracey's commitment to serving the City of Chicago is unmatched. Throughout her tenure at the City, she has provided legal advice and counsel to several City Departments. In addition, she served as Deputy Commissioner in the Department of Buildings, where she was responsible for a $5 million budget to implement and manage the Troubled Buildings Program. This program helped rid the City of Chicago of over 800 troubled and crime infested buildings, resulting in the repair, restoration and new ownership of hundreds of buildings, as well as the prosecution and fining of the building owners in excess of $1 million. Tracey's career path also led her to work as a Staff Attorney for the United Auto Workers-General Motors Legal Services Plan, where she practiced in the transactional and litigation areas. Tracey has a passion for promoting the power of innovation and creativity in every aspect of her career. Tracey received her undergraduate degree from Southern Illinois University and Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign. Tracey is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority Incorporated. Tracey has a strong passion for outdoor activities, including gardening, fishing and walking. She is also dedicated to community service and takes great pride in mentoring the youth.

**John Putman,** Partner, Kaplan Kirsch LLC
Prior to rejoining the firm, John was a Senior Advisor at the Colorado Department of Transportation from 2023-2025, where he advised the Executive Director and Governor on rail and transit issues and served as the Governor's Chief Negotiator for the renewal of the 99-year Lease of the Moffat Tunnel under the Continental Divide. The Governor appointed John to be a member of the Front Range Passenger Rail District Board and Colorado Rail Safety Industry Advisory Committee. John was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Transportation in May 2022, after serving as Deputy General Counsel since January 2021. In his role, he collaborated with the Department's senior leadership and oversaw a legal team of nearly 500 attorneys, addressing complex legal and policy issues across all operating administrations within the Department. The scope of his legal work and program oversight included implementation of the IIJA (also known as BIL), rulemaking, grant and loan programs, operations, enforcement, permitting, environmental, civil rights, consumer protection, accessibility and other issues affecting all modes of transportation. John has also served as Director of Environmental Programs at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). In this capacity, he oversaw divisions responsible for air quality, water resources, waste management, and environmental health and sustainability. Before his state and federal service, John built a distinguished career as a transportation, environment, and energy attorney in Denver and Washington, D.C. He has advised state departments of transportation, local governments, transportation agencies, airport proprietors, and private entities nationwide. John's leadership extends beyond traditional counseling roles. He has chaired and served on numerous boards and councils, including the Regional Air Quality Council, Boulder Planning Board, and Boulder Board of Open Space Trustees. He has also contributed as an expert consultant and committee member for organizations such as the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the Transportation Research Board, the National Academies, and Airports Council International – North America. Education: J.D., University of Chicago B.A., Williams College Bar Admission: Colorado Court Admissions: Many Federal Appeals and District Courts

**Steven Rhyne,** Visual Communication Specialist, Kittelson & Associates
Steve is a Visual Communication Specialist who focuses on geospatial data analysis, 3D visualization, and infographic creation to support complex planning and engineering projects. Steve works closely with project managers and clients to develop visual communication and analysis strategies designed to ensure clear, concise, and compelling project communication with the community. Steve utilizes a variety of industry-standard tools while researching and developing new techniques to help further visual communication practices. He has a reputation of continually "raising the bar" while maintaining workflow efficiency and meeting the project needs. While not working, you can find Steve behind the camera lens, photographing outdoor landscapes and nature. His passion is hiking to unique remote wilderness destinations and capturing the Milky Way and other astrophotography images.

**Joshua Root,** Deputy Chief Counsel, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)
Josh has nearly 20 years' experience working with government and private sector clients with an emphasis on eDiscovery and Privacy. Josh transitioned to public service with the tragic collapse of the 35W bridge in Minneapolis Minnesota when his firm was awarded a contract with Department of Transportation and he met the amazing staff at MnDOT. Josh is a regular contributor to the Sedona Conference and enjoys a good nerd session on electronic systems and the complications they bring to litigation

**Christine Ryan,** Partner, Nossaman LLP
Christine Ryan, head of Nossaman's Austin office, guides public agencies through the process of structuring, developing, financing and operating large, complex and high-profile infrastructure projects, as well as smaller projects delivered through alternative methods – in Texas and around the nation. A 20-year veteran of the Firm, Christine develops strategies for project development during the procurement process; drafts and negotiates public-private partnership (P3) agreements, design-build contracts and procurement documents; and advises clients regarding insurance, innovative financing and privatization issues. Her practice also includes contract administration, claims management and dispute resolution. Nossaman is special counsel to the Texas Department of Transportation for its massive design-build and P3 program. Christine has been with the program since its inception – taking the lead on many projects and providing significant assistance to the agency in drafting and modifying the state's enabling legislation, as well as standardized procurement documents for both small and large, complex design-build projects. Education University of Southern California School of Law, J.D., 1992, Editor, Interdisciplinary Journal University of California, Los Angeles, B.A., 1988 Admissions Texas California Hawaii

**Nicholas Schlechte,** Crash Reconstruction Expert/Private Investigator, Kittelson, LLC

**Annette Simelaro,** Deputy General Counsel, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)

**Heidi A. Skinner,** Assistant County Counsel - Litigation and Public Safety, San Diego County
Heidi Skinner has been an attorney for 26 years, working exclusively for public entities. Heidi's practice focuses on risk assessment, risk mitigation and risk reduction for public entities. Heidi currently works for the County of San Diego, as the Assistant County Counsel overseeing all litigation matters as well as the public safety group. Before that, Heidi worked for the State of California, Department of Transportation for 17 years, litigating, then supervising a team of attorneys handling civil litigation matters, including dangerous condition cases, employment, eminent domain, and inverse condemnation. She was the Chair of the Statewide Tort Committee and the Safety Legal Risk Management Committees. Heidi has tried dozens of trials and uses her experiences from jury trials to advice clients on innovative strategies to avoid or reduce risk. Risk Management does not mean saying "no". Rather it means continually reviewing risk management strategies to achieve ethical, equitable solutions to transportation management and operations.

**Shao Pat Tsen,** Deputy Executive Director, Consumer Policy, Transportation, and Enforcement, California Public Utilities Commission

Shao Pat Tsen serves as Deputy Executive Director for Consumer Policy, Transportation, and Enforcement at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). She leads Rail Safety Division and the Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division at the CPUC. In her role, she oversees Transportation policy and enforcement, with safety oversight for rail, ferries, tour busses, limousines, transportation network companies like Uber/Lyft, and autonomous vehicles. In addition, she oversees consumer protection efforts through utility enforcement staff dedicated to protecting Californians from fraud, waste and abuse. Ms. Tsen joined the CPUC as an Administrative Law Judge in 2013, and served as Assistant Chief Administrative Law Judge from 2018 to 2022. Her formal proceeding work at the CPUC helped set rates, implemented state policy goals, ensured public safety, and adjudicated customer complaints for CPUC regulated utilities in communications, energy, transportation, and water; She was also a certified neutral for the CPUC's Alternative Dispute Resolution program. Before joining the CPUC, Ms. Tsen was a Senior Corporations Counsel for the Department of Corporations (Now Department of Financial Protection and Innovation) and reviewed securities offerings and merger/acquisition transactions of California companies. She is a graduate of U.C. Berkeley and University of the Pacific- McGeorge School of Law. She is a founding member of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander employee resource group at the CPUC. Outside of work, Ms. Tsen serves on the Executive Committee for the Public Law Section of the California Lawyers Association, she is a member of the Asian Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento, and a member of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and a long time mentor and advisory council chair for the California Legal Pathways Foundation. She is an adjunct profession at McGeorge School of law.

**Fred Wagner,** Principal Environmental Advisor, Jacobs

Fred Wagner, Jacobs' Principal Advisor Environmental Solutions, assists private developers and government agencies plan and build essential infrastructure. Fred joined Jacobs following an extensive career in environmental and natural resources law, representing a wide variety of clients in the transportation, energy, mining, and commercial development sectors. Fred previously served as Chief Counsel of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) under President Obama. At FHWA, Fred helped lead the administration's efforts to streamline the environmental review and permitting processes for building major transportation and energy projects. Those efforts led to crucial bipartisan congressional reforms in surface transportation authorization laws, as well as subsequent regulatory innovations. At Jacobs, Fred collaborates with the company's expansive roster of technical and engineering experts on completing complex environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). He also helps project developers secure permits and approvals from regulators under a variety of federal programs, including Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. Fred's environmental law practice culminated last year in his representation of the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition before the U.S. Supreme Court. The recent ruling in that precedent-setting case will have broad implications for NEPA practice for years to come. Education J.D. University of Virginia School of Law, 1987 Tufts University,1984 Bar Admissions District of Columbia

**Ian Williams,** Associate, Venable LLP
Ian Williams advises clients on the legal issues impacting the development and deployment of autonomous vehicles (AVs), connectivity and spectrum use, electrification, and privacy and cybersecurity issues related to emerging transportation technologies. Ian counsels clients on compliance with federal and state transportation laws and regulations for both novel and traditional vehicles, and represents client interests before the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). Prior to joining Venable, Ian served as the inaugural Fellow for the University of Michigan Law School's Law and Mobility Program and as an instructor and co-instructor for courses focused on legal and policy issues relating to AVs. Ian is a member of TRB's Standing Committee on Emerging Technology Law.

**Holly Wilson,** Assistant General Counsel, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)