



March 31 - April 1, 2016 | Lake Arrowhead Resort

## Moderator & Speaker Biographies

### Ken Al-Imam, Interim Chief Financial Officer, City of San Juan Capistrano

For the past twenty-five years, Ken has audited local governments throughout Southern California. In June of 2015, Ken joined the City of San Juan Capistrano as its Interim CFO. Ken is a frequent speaker on government accounting standards. He is a member of the Governmental Accounting and Auditing Committee of the California Society of CPAs and CCMA (the California Committee on Municipal Accounting). CCMA is the California body that provides guidance to California agencies on how to implement new government accounting standards. Most of the CCMA white papers issued over the past 15 years were drafted by Ken.

### Michael Antonucci, Emergency Services Manager, County of San Bernardino Fire Office of Emergency Services

Mike entered the fire service nearly 41 years ago and has occupied every position at least once. He recently retired as the Fire Chief of Upland as well as the EMS/Disaster Services Chief. Mike now serves as an Emergency Services Manager for the San Bernardino County Fire Department Office of Emergency Services. He has been an indispensable member of the Urban Search and Rescue community for over 15 years. Mike holds a Bachelor's of Arts and Master's of Science in Public Administration, is actively involved with the California Fire Chiefs' Association and founded the CFEDWEST (California Fire, EMS and Disaster Educational Foundation) annual conference in Palm Springs, California nine years ago.

### Neil C. Blais, President and CEO, Blais & Associates, Inc.

Neil is responsible for leading business development, government relations, contracting and administration management services.

After graduating in 1984 with a Bachelor's of Science in Aerospace Engineering, from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Neil entered the aerospace industry, starting with Lockheed Aircraft Services and quickly moving to McDonnell Douglas. While at McDonnell Douglas he was responsible for managing design changes to the MD-80, which required coordinating the efforts of over 3,000 engineers. Neil was one of the youngest engineers to be promoted to Ship Captain, where he was responsible for shepherding the first LTU MD-11 production airplane to certification.

Neil became involved in the emergency management industry following the Northridge Earthquake in 1994. He consulted to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Management helping the state with recovery efforts, which included recovery efforts for wildfires, winter storms, and flooding. Neil subsequently began working with several communities assisting with their recovery and mitigation efforts to increase resilience against future disasters. These work efforts resulted in Neil becoming a national expert on hazard mitigation and sustainable community development.

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## **Moderator & Speaker Biographies Continued**

### **Mona Bontty, Southern Regional Administrator, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)**

Mona Bontty currently serves as the Southern Regional Administrator for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) located in Los Alamitos, CA. In this capacity, she is responsible for overseeing emergency management and response activities for the Southern California Region which encompasses 11 Counties, inclusive of a few of the largest Counties in the United States in which two of them border the Country of Mexico. In addition the Southern Region has a population of over 21, 000, 000 people, two nuclear power plants, and several volcanic areas. Since her appointment as Regional Administrator, Mona has directed the Southern Region's response to various emergencies, including fires, earthquakes, floods, drought, and wind events.

Mona has over 24 years of experience in State government. Prior to joining Cal OES she held positions with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control managing public participation, mitigation and remediation of hazardous cleanup sites throughout California. Throughout her career she has held various leadership roles in the development, organization and implementation of community engagement strategies and programs, facilitating staff training and development and leading strategic planning for operational initiatives. Her educational background includes a Master's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing and a Master's Degree in Human Resource Management. Mona is also a graduate of UCLA where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and remains a committed fan of her alma mater sports teams. During the exchange with Chilean officials Mona looks forward to sharing best practices and gaining insight on approaches to community planning and preparedness, response and recovery to volcanic events that will help refine the California State Emergency Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### **David Bowdich, Associate Deputy Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation**

David Bowdich, formerly assistant director in charge of the FBI's Los Angeles field office, has been named associate deputy director of the bureau, its third-ranked executive position. Bowdich is responsible for the agency's non-operational divisions and branches and be succeeded at the LA office by Deirdre Fike, special agent in charge of the FBI's division in Anchorage, Alaska.

Bowdich joined the FBI in 1995 as a special agent and served as a SWAT member, sniper and gangs and violent crimes investigator during his assignment at the bureau's San Diego field office.

The former New Mexico detective and police officer helped the FBI launch the U.S.' first hybrid squad against kidnapping groups with operations across the U.S. and Mexican border.

His previous roles at the FBI include special agent in charge of the LA office's counterterrorism division and special assistant to the associate deputy director at the bureau's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

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### **Gregory Bradbard, President & Chief Executive Officer, Inland Empire United Way**

Gregory Bradbard serves as the President and CEO for Inland Empire United Way (IEUW). With 18 years of leadership, management, fundraising, and programmatic experience, Greg brings growth-oriented passion to United Way's focus on improving the lives and futures of low-income families and children in the Inland Empire. Greg has served in senior management and development positions in several nonprofit organizations, has a track record for developing effective strategic plans, and has secured and managed a variety of grants, contracts and social service programs. Past roles have included serving as the Executive Director for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Orange County, Executive Director for the Irvine Public Schools Foundation, and Director of Development for Families Forward.

Under Greg's leadership, IEUW has increased its community impact, created the Mentor Connection initiative, developed the successful Challenge for Children Winter Benefit, launched the Inland Empire's Nonprofit Resource Directory - ieCapaciteria.org, and combined operations with Desert Communities United Way. Greg has appeared on many local radio and television programs focused on the topics of poverty and child abuse and he writes a regular column in the Foothills Reader section of the L.A. Times. He also serves as Vice Chair for the Funders Alliance of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties and participates on several other local collaborative initiatives.

### **Steve Breen, Author & Illustrator, San Diego Union-Tribune**

Born in Los Angeles in 1970 and raised in Orange County, Steve received a degree in political science in 1992 from UC Riverside. Steve became the editorial cartoonist for the Asbury Park Press (NJ) in 1996, and in 2001 was hired by The San Diego Union-Tribune. He is a two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize (1998 and 2009). Steve has also won the 2007 Berryman Award, the 2009 Thomas Nast Award, the 2010 Fischetti Award and the National Headliner Award in 2009 and 2013.

Steve's children's books are published by Penguin and include Stick (2007), Violet the Pilot (2008), The Secret of Santa's Island (2009), and Pug and Doug (2013) and Unicorn Executions and Other Crazy Stuff My Kids Ask Me to Draw (2014). Steve enjoys running, reading and playing the guitar. He lives in San Diego County with his wife and 6 children.

### **Jarrold Burguan, Chief of Police, San Bernardino Police Department**

Chief Jarrold Burguan has been with the San Bernardino Police Department since January 1992 and has been serving as the City's police chief since December 2013. Throughout his career he has worked in, supervised or managed units in every division of the department.

Chief Burguan has earned a Bachelor's Degree and a Masters Degree in Management from the University of Redlands, he is a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police (Police Executive Research Forum - Boston University, 2012) and POST Command College (Class 53), he also holds a POST Management Certificate.

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## **Moderator & Speaker Biographies Continued**

### **Jeffrey V. Dunn, Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP**

Jeffrey V. Dunn is a highly sought after legal counsel to public agencies in complex litigation matters. Recognized as one of California's leading local government litigation attorneys, he was selected as one of California Lawyer magazine's Attorneys of the Year for 2014, the Daily Journal's Top 20 Municipal Attorneys in 2013 and Top 25 Municipal Attorneys in 2011. He was also recognized as one of California's Top 100 Attorneys by the Daily Journal in 2013.

Jeff has gained national recognition for his successful representation in one of the most controversial issues currently facing California cities and counties: municipal regulation of marijuana distribution facilities. He was trial and appellate counsel in key published decisions affirming local government's authority to protect public safety and local land use authority, including the unanimous decision by the California Supreme Court in *City of Riverside v. Inland Empire Patients' Health and Wellness Center* (2013) 56 Cal.App.4th 729. He has discussed this subject on the NBC Nightly News, in the Washington Post and in other national and local television, radio and print media.

### **Kelly J. Fredericks, Chief Executive Officer, Ontario International Airport Authority**

Kelly J. Fredericks is the new CEO for the Ontario International Airport Authority (OIAA), tasked with restoring Ontario International Airport as the region's economic engine. Fredericks comes to Ontario via Rhode Island having served as President/CEO of the Rhode Island Airport Corporation (RIAC), operator of TF Green, the commercial airport serving Providence and the New England Region.

As CEO of RIAC, Kelly oversaw the operation and related economic development of a six-airport system consisting of medium-hub T.F. Green, two non-hub primary commercial airports (Westerly State and Block Island), a joint use military facility (Quonset State), and two corporate/general aviation facilities (North Central State and Newport State).

Fredericks, who has 33 years of aviation related industry experience, was nominated for the position by a two-member ad hoc subcommittee of the OIAA. He has served in senior leadership roles in the management of large, medium, small and non-hub airports, as well as overseeing the planning, design and construction of billions of dollars of airport development projects as an aviation consultant.

### **Kelly Huston, Deputy Director, California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)**

As Deputy Director of Cal OES, Kelly leads a team of communications professionals working daily on a wide range of public safety issues including disaster mitigation, response and recovery. Kelly is also on the leading edge of technology and has implemented several Web 2.0 programs at Cal OES- including the use of social media to reach Californians in a new way. He also served as a Governor's appointee in 2005 as the Deputy Communications Director for Governor's Office of Homeland Security. In that role he developed the Governor's statewide media relations strategy in homeland security and developed statewide crisis communications training for state and local agencies. He also worked closely with all of California's public safety agencies as a liaison.

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### **Kelly Huston, Deputy Director, California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) (continued)**

Kelly holds a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Communication and is an instructor for the California Specialized Training Institute in southern California teaching portions of the statewide Crisis Communication & the Media classes. Kelly is a State of California and FBI-trained Crisis/Hostage Negotiator. He is a member of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and a tireless advocate for animals in his spare time.

### **Jim Kennedy, Council Member, City of Victorville**

Jim is a partner with Kennedy & Kennedy in San Bernardino, California. He earned his BA (1972) and MBA (1977) from California State University, San Bernardino and has been in practice since 1970. His principal area of practice is accounting and auditing, with special emphasis in nonprofit organizations, timeshare resorts, real estate, and manufacturing.

Jim has extensive experience with the AICPA Peer Review Program. He is currently serving his fourth term as a member of the California Peer Review Committee and served a term on the AICPA Peer Review Committee from 1993 until 1995. From 2003 to 2005, he served as chair of the California Peer Review Committee. In 2008, he was appointed to the AICPA Peer Review Board, which administers the peer review program nationwide. He is currently the peer reviewer for approximately 60 local CPA firms throughout California.

Jim has been an author and instructor for the California CPA Education Foundation since 1994 and teaches the annual update course in California for Nonprofit Accounting and Auditing and a workshop on performing audits in accordance with OMB Circular A-133. He is a regular speaker at accounting and auditing conferences and workshops for California CPAs.

Jim is a past president of the Inland Empire Chapter of the California Society of CPAs and has served on the statewide accounting and auditing technical committee. He has also been a volunteer board member for a number of community organizations. He served for six years on the Victor Valley Water District, including a term as President from 2005 until 2007. Jim was elected to the Victorville City Council in November 2010 and won re-election in November 2014.

### **Stephan Larrick, Open Data Project Lead, Sunlight Foundation**

As Open Data Project Lead for the nonpartisan Sunlight Foundation, Stephen Larrick heads the a team of open data policy experts in their work of advocating greater transparency and accountability in local government through the use of technology, policy analysis, and journalism. His current efforts to support his team's work in mid-sized American cities participating in the What Works Cities Initiative have facilitated the launch of open data initiatives and the development of newly adopted open data policies in cities across the country.

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### Stephan Larrick, Open Data Project Lead, Sunlight Foundation (continued)

An urbanist turned open government advocate, Larrick was Director of Planning for the City of Central Falls, Rhode Island before joining Sunlight, where in addition to his duties as city planner, he worked to rethink local government service delivery with a heavy emphasis on civic technology and open and inclusive governance. Larrick received his Bachelor's of Arts in Urban Studies and Political Philosophy from Brown University, and lives in Washington DC with his fiancée.

### Chris McKenzie, Executive Director, League of California Cities

Chris McKenzie was appointed in 1999 as the sixth executive director of the League of California Cities, the private nonprofit corporation founded in 1898 that advocates for cities before the Legislature, Governor, and federal and state courts as well as in statewide ballot measure elections. The League also provides extensive training and education services to city officials. Born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, McKenzie holds a master's degree in urban planning as well as a law degree. His over 30-year career includes stints as a local and state government administrator and attorney as well as statewide association work. He reports to the 52-member League board of directors, comprised of city officials from all regions of the state.

### John McMahon, Sheriff, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff John McMahon is a resident of the High Desert with over 30 years of law enforcement experience. He began his career with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department as a patrol deputy at the Needles Police/Sheriff's Station, after which he was assigned to the Victorville and Hesperia Patrol Stations. Once promoted to sergeant, he worked supervisory positions at the West Valley Detention Center and Glen Helen Rehabilitation Center jail facilities, as well as the Victorville City Station and Employee Resources.

At the rank of lieutenant, John was second in command of the Sheriff's Academy and the Fontana Station. As Captain, he was commander of the Central Detention Center, Apple Valley Station, and West Valley Detention Center. As deputy chief, John oversaw the Detentions and Corrections Bureau, followed by an assignment to manage the Desert Patrol Bureau. John was then promoted to assistant sheriff. On December 31, 2012, John McMahon was appointed to Sheriff by the Board of Supervisors to fulfill the unexpired term of Sheriff. On Friday, June 21, 2013, John formally announced his candidacy for Sheriff and on June 3, 2014, he won in the primary election.

John possesses an Associate of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Victor Valley College, and a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Management from Union Institute & University. He is certified as a Jail Manager through the American Jail Association, and is a graduate of the Los Angeles Police West Point Leadership Program.

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### **David McPherson, Principal, HDL Companies**

David McPherson is a Principal at HDL Companies. Prior to joining the firm he served 28 years in local government for the cities of Newport Beach, San Jose and Oakland. While working for the City of Oakland, he became the first Tax Administrator in the Country to successfully tax medical marijuana. David is one of the state's most recognized experts in cannabis horticulture, processing and dispensary operations. He uses his industry experience to assist local and state agencies in developing medical marijuana policies for regulation, compliance, auditing and economic development. David worked closely with the League of Cities and lobbyists on the development of AB 243, SB 243 and AB 266 which established the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act.

David received his Bachelor's Degree in History from California State University, Fullerton and his Master's Degree in Public Administration from California State University, Long Beach. While at Long Beach, he was named "Future Urban Administrator of the Year".

### **Breanna L. Medina, MSLM, CEM, Emergency Management Coordinator, Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District and City of Rancho Cucamonga**

Breanna L. Medina is the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Rancho Cucamonga Fire Protection District and the City of Rancho Cucamonga which serves a total combined population of 170,000 people. Responsible for all phases of emergency management, including mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, Ms. Medina holds a Certified Emergency Manager credential from the International Association of Emergency Managers, an Emergency Management Program Specialist certificate from the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI), a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master's degree in Leadership and Management with a concentration in Organizational Development. She serves on the California Emergency Services-Southern Chapter Board as well as the California Fire Chiefs Association Full Board as the Emergency Management Section President.

### **Geoff Neill, Principal Policy and Fiscal Analyst, California State Association of Counties**

Geoff Neill is the principal policy and fiscal analyst for the California State Association of Counties. He has worked on a variety of issues during his ten years there, including the state-local fiscal relationship, taxes, revenue, elections, and public safety realignment. He studied philosophy at UC San Diego.

### **James Ramos, Chair, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors**

James Ramos, MBA, was elected to and sworn in as Third District Supervisor of San Bernardino County in 2012. In 2015, Supervisor Ramos was unanimously elected by his colleagues to serve as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for two years.

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### **James Ramos, Chair, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors (continued)**

From 2005-2012, the Supervisor was a member of the San Bernardino Community College Board of Trustees, where he served as president and was the first Native American to be elected to the board. In 2008, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Ramos to the California State Native American Heritage Commission for which currently serves as chairman. Governor Jerry Brown appointed Ramos in 2011 to the prestigious State Board of Education becoming the First Native American appointed in the history of California. Ramos is also the immediate past Chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

Ramos is a proven civic leader and has served on numerous boards and organizations promoting business, economic and social opportunities in the greater San Bernardino area, including the San Bernardino County Museum Association, Loma Linda University Children's Hospital Foundation, Foundation Board of Governors, California State University San Bernardino, Dorothy Ramon Learning Center, St. Bernadine Medical Center Foundation, San Bernardino Valley College Foundation, Crafton Hills College Foundation, Arrowhead United Way, and KVCR (Public Television) Foundation for Education.

Ramos earned his associate's degree at Victor Valley Community College, his bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Accounting from California State University, San Bernardino, and a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Redlands.

### **Mike Soubirous, Council Member, City of Riverside**

Mike Soubirous was first elected to serve as Ward 3 City Council Member in November 2013 (short term-18 months). Mike was re-elected in June of 2015 and is serving his second term. Mike is president and owner of a local small business providing traffic consulting.

Mike is a fourth-generation native Californian who started his community service at age 8, serving his church, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the Civil Air Patrol. Mike attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1976. Mike joined the California Highway Patrol in 1982.

Mike retired from the California Highway Patrol as a Lieutenant and acting Commander. Mike was assigned to the CHP's Riverside, San Bernardino, San Gorgonio Pass, South Los Angeles, and Central Los Angeles Area offices during his 29 years of service. Mike held several key positions and posts during his nearly three-decade service with the CHP. He was assigned to motorcycle patrol, investigated officer-involved shootings, served as a training officer and, prior to retirement, served as the Commander of the San Gorgonio Pass Area CHP office. Mike was honored in 2012 with Western Riverside County's Law Enforcement Appreciation Committee's (LEAC) Lifetime Achievement Award.

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### Craig Steele, City Attorney, City of Highland

Craig A. Steele is a shareholder in the Public Law Department at Richards, Watson & Gershon and serves on the Firm's Management Committee. Mr. Steele has over 23 years of experience practicing local government law and has worked in government and politics for over 30 years. Mr. Steele is the City Attorney for the Cities of Highland, Monrovia, and Seal Beach. He serves as Counsel to the Successor Agency to the redevelopment agencies in those cities and also the former redevelopment agency for the City of Indio. Mr. Steele also serves as General Counsel to the Los Angeles County Children and Families First Proposition 10 Commission ("First 5 LA"). He served as Agoura Hills City Attorney from 1999-2012 and Interim CEO of First 5 LA throughout 2012. In addition to his public agency practice, he has represented candidates for local, state, and federal offices and other private interests on a variety of election and political law matters. He is the author of several local ballot measures, including open space preservation, local taxes, fireworks regulation and transportation.

Mr. Steele concentrates on the representation of public agency clients in a wide range of government law areas and has spoken and written extensively on open government issues including Campaign Finance Regulation, Lobbying, Public Records, Open Meeting Laws and Conflicts of Interest Law. His article "The Rules on Lobbying: What Every Local Official Should Know" was published in the January, 2010 issue of Western City Magazine. He is a past member of the FPPC Committee of the League of California Cities' City Attorneys Department and also served on a task force of the Institute for Local Government drafting a resources book on open space acquisition by cities.

Mr. Steele is a past President of the Board of Directors of the Community Center of La Cañada Flintridge, Secretary and a member of the Board of Directors of the Spartan Boosters, and served for seven years as Chair of the La Cañada Unified School District's Bond Oversight Committee.

### Christopher Thornberg, Director, UC Riverside Center for Economic Forecasting and Development

Christopher Thornberg is Founding Partner of Beacon Economics, LLC and widely considered to be one of the nation's leading economists. He is also the Director of the Center for Economic Forecasting and Development at the UC Riverside School of Business Administration. An expert in economic forecasting, regional economics, labor markets, economic policy, and industry and real estate analysis, he was one of the earliest and most adamant predictors of the sub-prime mortgage market collapse and of the global economic recession that followed. In 2015, Dr. Thornberg was named to California State Treasurer John Chiang's Council of Economic Advisors. He also serves on the advisory boards of Paulson & Co. Inc., one of Wall Street's leading hedge funds, and of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, Southern California's largest not-for-profit business federation. Between 2008 and 2012 he served as a chief economic advisor to the California State Controller's Office and was Chair of the State Controller John Chiang's Council of Economic Advisors. Dr. Thornberg holds a Ph.D. in Business Economics from The Anderson School at UCLA, and a B.S. degree in Business Administration from the State University of New York at Buffalo.