

SPEAKER BIOS

Michael Lanahan, Founder and CEO, Government Executive

Coach-Michael Lanahan is the Founder and CEO of Government Executive Coach, a trusted partner for government leaders navigating the high-stakes world of public service. Michael is the author of The State Government Leader Playbook, a roadmap for state agency leaders built from the wisdom of over 30 of the country's best.

Doug Thomas, Vice President, Strategic Government Resources-

Doug has over 35 years of senior local government executive management experience. He joined Strategic Government Resources (SGR) in September 2015 as their first Regional Director to serve both Florida and the southeast, and subsequently as Executive Vice President of Executive Recruitment & Leadership Development serving clients nationwide. He primarily focuses on executive recruitment, leadership development, strategic planning, servant leadership, priority-based budgeting, performance reviews for the Chief Executive, and other training for local governments. His local government work includes service as City Manager for the City of Lakeland, Florida for 12 years and as City Manager for the City of Alma, Michigan for close to 15 years. Other local government posts included service as Assistant City Manager and as Administrative Assistant to the City Manager for the City of Grand Haven, Michigan, and work with the City of Rockville, Maryland and the Town of Landover Hills, Maryland. Doug holds a Master of Public Administration from the American University, Washington, D.C. and

a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History from Bowling Green State University, Ohio

Mike Kisling, Managing Counsel for Collections for General Counsel's Office, Department of Revenue-The Managing Counsel for Collections for the General Counsel's Office of the Department of Revenue charged with the collection of delinquent taxes. Prior, Mr. Kisling was a senior assistant attorney general with the Office of Attorney General, Financial Services Division. He was also the managing attorney with the Division of Legal Services, Department of Social Services. Mr. Kisling came to state government from private practice where he emphasized domestic relations, real estate and probate. Mr. Kisling was also an adjunct professor for William Woods University teaching courses on Elder Law, Probate, Estate Planning and Contracts. He is a 1989 graduate of the University of Missouri—Columbia Law School and served as a research attorney for the Honorable Albert L. Rendlen and the Honorable William Ray Price, Jr. of the Missouri Supreme Court.

-Alissa Downey-Customer Service Supervisor for the Local Tax Unit and Business Tax Correspondence Unit, Missouri Department of Revenue

Ray Krouse, Principal, Sikich CPA LLC-Ray Krouse is a principal at Sikich CPA LLC and has been with the firm for 27 years. Ray has led and performed Single Audits of local governments, not-for-profits and higher education institutions for over 25 years. Ray has been a frequent speaker at the Illinois Not for Profit CPA Society's annual conference.

Stephen Arbo, Former City Manager, Lee Summit Missouri-

Stephen Arbo, has been engaged in local government service for over 40 years, beginning with his undergraduate internship in Liberty, MO in 1982. He has served as a City Administrator / City Manager in five communities for almost 35 years in total. All his professional experience has been in Missouri, except for one year he spent in Leavenworth...as an intern...not an inmate! 😊 In September 2022, he retired after 22 years of work with the City of Lee's Summit. Since retirement, he has focused on consulting local government and nonprofit organizations regarding strategic planning, board / staff development, and project management. Stephen currently resides in Lakewood with his wife and their two Cavalier King Charles dogs, Onyx and Jasper."

Nick Kenny, Institutional Sales Manager and Relationship Manager, PFM Asset Management-

Nick Kenny is a senior managing consultant located in Columbia and is responsible for managing client relationships throughout western Missouri. He assists municipal governments, school districts, colleges and universities, and other political subdivisions with their cash flow analysis and overall investment needs.

Michele Curry- AV Treasury Management, Commerce Bank-

Michele Curry is an AVP Treasury Management Officer at Commerce Bank, where she's worked for over a decade. Michele specializes in strategic banking automation and fraud prevention. Commerce Bank believes in the power of education as the first line of defense and most effective way to prevent fraud.

Anna Milbach, Senior Vice President, Public Sector Banking U.S

Bank- Anna Milbach is a Government Banking Relationship Manager and Senior Vice-President at U.S. Bank. Anna serves exclusively Government and Higher Education clients throughout a few states in the Midwest. Anna views client relationships as Partnerships and truly enjoys working with them. Anna has been in the financial services industry for 19 years, and with U.S. Bank for 11 years. She serves as the primary contact exclusively for government and higher education clients. Prior to joining U.S. Bank, Anna was in business banking at a large bank for 7 years. Anna has a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting, Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration, MBA, and Master of Management all from the University of Mary in Bismark, North Dakota. Anna is currently attending Stonier Banking School held at Wharton Business School.

Julie Reynoso, Vice President, Treasury Management U.S. Bank-

Julie is a treasury management consultant in the Government Banking and Higher Education team. Joining U.S. Bank in 2025, Julie brings more than 2 decades of treasury management expertise to her public sector clients in the central United States. Julie is passionate about ensuring her clients receive the highest standard of treasury advice and support. Based in St. Louis, Julie had previous senior treasury roles at JP Morgan Chase, Bank of America, and HSBC. She earned a Political Science degree at St. Xavier College in Chicago and her MBA in International Business from DePaul University. She holds a Certified Treasury Professional Designation (CTP).

Deepayan Debnath, Supervisory Economist, City of Columbia-

He has a PH. D in Agricultural Economics, serves as a Supervisory

Economist for the City of Columbia, Missouri. He has more than ten years' experience in the public and private sectors. Prior to that he worked with several organizations, including the University of Missouri-Columbia, Iowa State University, and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. He has been preparing the statistical sections of the ACFR and PAFR. He has also forecasted the use tax and marijuana tax, which helped the city to produce a precise Budget. Beyond working with the City, he enjoys hiking, traveling and reading financial articles.

James McDonald, City of Columbia-He has been with the city for 10 years, and in my current role since 2019. He has a bachelor's degree from Columbia College, a Master of Accounting Art from Western Governors University and a CPA.

Meghan McKernan, Gilmore and Bell- Meghan K. McKernan is president and chief executive officer of the firm and a shareholder tax attorney of the firm in the Kansas City office. Ms. McKernan was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 2007. She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Finance and Banking) from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 2003 and her J.D. (magna cum laude) in Taxation from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2007. She completed her LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in December of 2007. Ms. McKernan is a member of the Missouri Bar Association

Erick Creach, Gilmore and Bell- Erick S. Creach is a shareholder of the firm in the St. Louis office. Mr. Creach received his B.S. degree in Economics (summa cum laude) from Missouri State University in 2002 and his J.D. (cum laude) from the University of Missouri –

Columbia in 2005, where he was an Associate Managing Editor of the Missouri Law Review and a member of the Order of the Coif. After completing law school, Mr. Creach served a one-year term as a law clerk to the Honorable Stephen N. Limbaugh, Jr., on the Supreme Court of Missouri. He completed his Executive LL.M. in Taxation from New York University School of Law in 2013. He is licensed in Missouri, Illinois and Utah.

Mary O'Connor, Principal Sikich CPA LLC-Ms. O'Connor is Principal, Forensic and Valuation Services of Sikich LLC specializing in forensic consulting in litigation and fraud matters for corporations, municipalities, and schools. Having testified in jurisdictions across the United States, she routinely works with companies and organizations to solve issues related to employee dishonesty and to provide independent support for insurance claims, civil litigation, and restitution matters. Ms. O'Connor served as the elected Commissioner of Finance, City Treasurer, in her hometown for two terms, which gives her unique perspective into the pressures and constraints facing local governments when dealing with fraud incidents and internal control matters. Becoming a Principal of Sikich LLC in 2010, she was formerly employed by the international forensic accounting firm of RGL, Inc., and Deloitte. She holds a B.A. from the University of Illinois, Urbana, and an M.B.A. with a concentration in finance from Georgia State University, Atlanta. She also holds a certificate in government internal controls from the University of Georgia, Athens as well as a Certificate in Fraud Examination from St. Xavier University, Chicago.