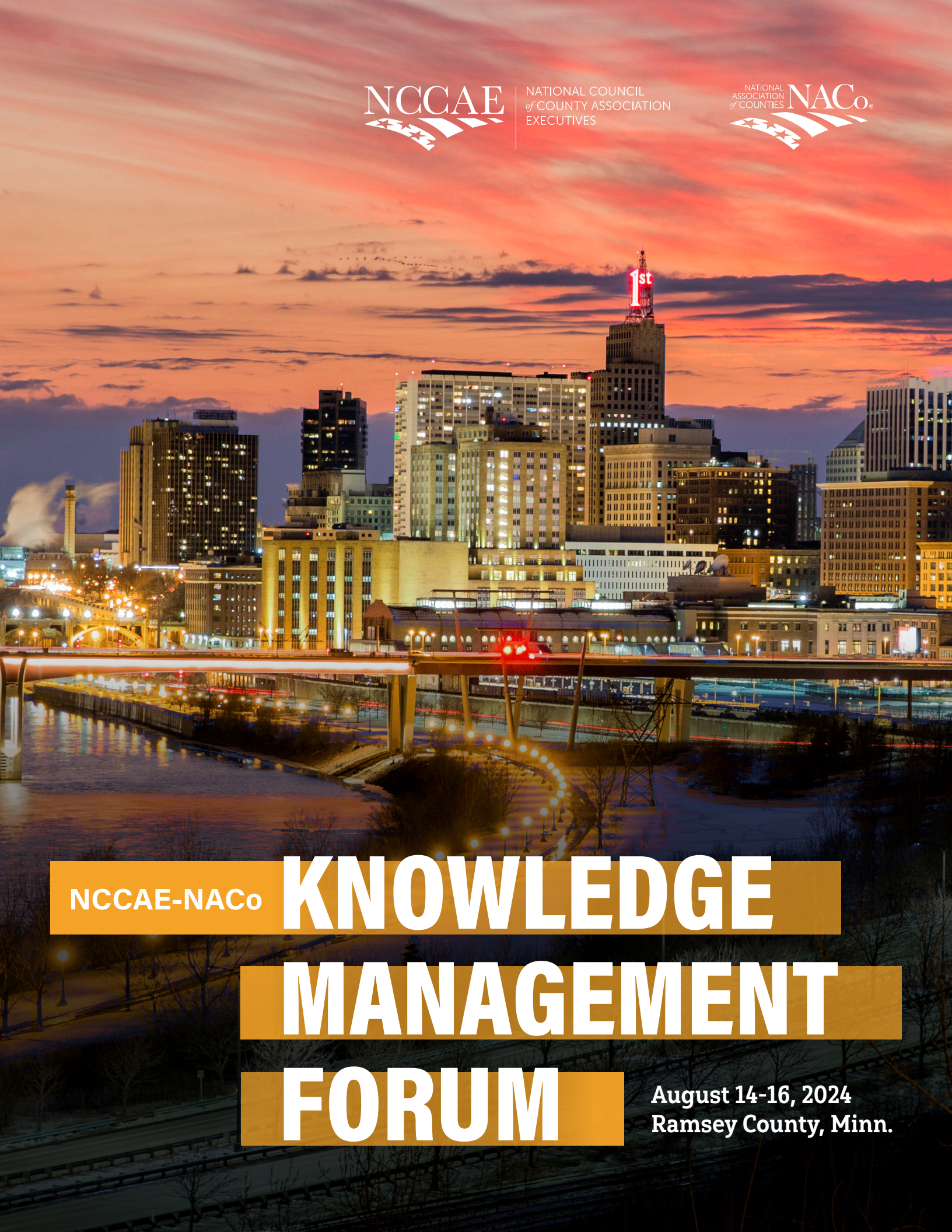




NATIONAL COUNCIL
of COUNTY ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVES



NCCAE-NACo

KNOWLEDGE

MANAGEMENT

FORUM

August 14-16, 2024
Ramsey County, Minn.

Wednesday August 14

Association of Minnesota Counties Headquarters | 125 Charles Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103

3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. Optional Discussion on Opioid Settlement Funding

- Stephan Currie, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Counties (moderator)
- Amy Dolinky, Technical Advisor – Opioid Settlement Funds, Michigan Association of Counties

Key Takeaway: *Coordination on how to maximize impact of funding from opioid settlements.*

4:45 P.M. – 6:00 P.M. Tour of Minnesota State Capitol Building

Note: Meet at Association of Minnesota Counties at **4:45 P.M.**
125 Charles Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103

6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. Opening Dinner at Association of Minnesota Counties Headquarters 125 Charles Ave., St. Paul, MN 55103

Wednesday Speaker Bios



Stephan Currie became the Michigan Association of Counties' seventh executive director on Jan. 1, 2017. Currie began his service at MAC as deputy director in 2011. As deputy director, Currie led MAC's daily operations, plus spurred new initiatives such as CoPro+, a collaborative purchasing program for public entities. In September 2017, Currie was named the strategic association leader for 2017 by the Michigan Society of Association Executives. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Hope College and an MBA from Michigan State University.

Amy Dolinky joined the Vital Strategies as an embedded staff with the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) in 2022 as the Technical Advisor, Opioid Settlement Funds Planning and Capacity Building. Prior to joining MAC, she served as Senior Program Manager, Overdose Data to Action with the CDC Foundation and as the Senior Advisor of Michigan's Opioid Strategy with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Previously, Dolinky served as the Substance Misuse Response Coordinator, leading strategic planning around substance use with Knox County government in Tennessee and as a regional director with the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network. She holds a master's degree in public policy and administration with a focus on global health from Northwestern University and a bachelor's degree in social sciences from Loyola University New Orleans.



Thursday August 15

Ramsey County Courthouse | 15 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102

9:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. *Networking Breakfast*

THE COUNTY ROLE IN MANAGING LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

- Graham Knaus, CEO, California State Association of Counties (moderator)
- Julie Ring, Executive Director, Association of Minnesota Counties (moderator)

9:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. **Part 1: The State of County Economies**

- Ricardo Aguilar, Associate Director – Data Analytics, NACo
- Jonathan Harris, Associate Director – Research, NACo
- Stacy Nakintu, Senior Research Analyst, NACo

Key Takeaway: *Foundational information to frame the day's discussion.*

10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. **Part 2: The County Role in Economic Development**

- Dr. Dell Gines, Chief Innovation Officer, International Economic Development Council
- Nick Leonard, Deputy County Administrator, Otter Tail County, Minn.

Key Takeaway: *Clear definition of the ideal role counties should play in local economic development, community planning and business attraction/support, plus strategies to encourage county leadership in regional/intergovernmental partnerships.*

11:00 A.M. – 11:15 A.M. *Coffee Break*

11:15 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. Part 3: Managing Growth – Public Sector Workforce Challenges

- Carlos Greene, National Program Director – Employee Benefits, NACo EDGE
- David Hough, County Administrator, Hennepin County, Minn.

Key Takeaway: *Ideas for local and state-level policy and programmatic solutions to help county governments attract and retain an adequate public sector workforce that corresponds to regional growth trends.*

12:30 P.M. – 1:30 P.M. Networking Lunch

1:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M. Part 4: The County Role in Economic Mobility

- Jennifer Kuiper, Associate Program Director, Resilient Economies & Communities, NACo

Key Takeaway: *Clear definition of the distinct role counties (vs. states and cities) play in fostering economic mobility for residents, plus strategies to encourage county leadership while navigating the political terrain of our intergovernmental system.*

2:30 P.M. – 2:45 P.M. Coffee Break

2:45 P.M. – 4:15 P.M. Part 5: Managing Growth – Housing Challenges

- Seva Rodnyansky, Manager – Housing Policy Initiative, The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Tony Schertler, Executive Director, Dakota County Community Development Agency, Minn.
- Louie Sheridan, Jr., Housing Specialist – Native American Communities, Housing Assistance Council

Key Takeaway: *Ideas for local and state-level policy and programmatic solutions to help counties anticipate and meet housing development needs based on current and future growth trends.*

4:15 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Part 6: The Politics of Homelessness – A Moderated Group Discussion

***Key Takeaway:** Advocacy and messaging strategies for promoting county leadership in politically sensitive areas when the county role is ambiguous and varied, using the issue of homelessness as a case study.*

6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Networking Dinner at Can Can Wonderland

755 Prior Ave. N. Suite #004, St. Paul, MN 55104

Thursday Speaker Bios



Graham Knaus serves as the CEO for the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing California's 58 counties and their 296 elected Supervisors. Prior to his current role, Graham was the Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Member Services for CSAC. In this role, he was responsible for internal operations, communications, member services and strategic planning. During this time, Graham also served as CEO of the California Counties Foundation, where he had previously been a faculty member for several years. The California Counties Foundation oversees the CSAC Institute and the Results First Initiative for evidence-based criminal justice.

Julie Ring has dedicated her career to public service, with nearly 30 years of experience in program management, public policy, advocacy and executive leadership. Appointed Executive Director of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) in 2013, Julie previously served as Legislative Coordinator, Health & Human Services Policy Analyst, and the Local Public Health Association director at AMC. Prior to joining AMC, she worked for 10 years at the Minnesota Department of Health in a variety of positions focused on grant and contract management, legislative policy and local public health system development. Ms. Ring began her career as a grant writer in an economic development district in rural South Dakota. She has a Bachelor of Arts in economics and political science from the University of Minnesota-Morris. Julie enjoys reading, gardening and exploring the state of Minnesota with her husband and her dog.



Dr. Dell Gines is a nonprofit executive and certified economic developer with over 15 years of experience in organizational transformation and economic development. He currently serves as the Chief Innovation Officer for the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). In this role, Dr. Gines oversees key initiatives, including the \$30 million Economic Recovery Corps program, aimed at promoting equitable growth nationwide. With a rich background at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and a portfolio of influential publications, Dr. Gines is a recognized thought leader in fostering economic resilience and inclusivity in distressed urban and rural communities.



Nick Leonard is the Deputy Administrator at Otter Tail County. He leads the county's Economic Growth and Community Investment team, comprised of transportation, solid waste, land and resource management, parks and trails, and community and economic development. He also oversees the county's legislative initiatives and intergovernmental relations. Raised in Northeast Iowa, Nick fell in love with Minnesota and "lakes country" through childhood vacations in Otter Tail County. He received his B.A. degree from St. John's University in Collegeville, MN and Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. Prior to joining Otter Tail County, Nick was a healthcare provider and a researcher and professor at the University of Minnesota – Morris. Nick is also a licensed realtor and

co-owner of a hospitality and property management company. Nick serves on many economic development boards and councils, including the Governor's Tourism Council and the newly formed Explore Minnesota for Business Council.

Carlos L. Greene is the National Program Director for Employee Benefits for NACo EDGE. Previously, he served as a Managing Director with Nationwide Retirement Solutions responsible for managing existing client relationships in the South and Southeast Regions. He was also responsible for building new Public Sector 457B Deferred Compensation and 401A Defined Benefit relationships, partnering with consultants and strengthening collaborative partnerships. Carlos has been in the Retirement Services industry for more than 20 years working with companies such as Fidelity Investments and BT Services of Tennessee, a subsidiary of Bankers Trust. Carlos received his BBA with a concentration in Marketing and his master's with a concentration in Organizational Management. Carlos is married with two adult sons and enjoys tennis, reading, theatre and traveling.



David J. Hough is the County Administrator (Chief Executive Officer) of Hennepin County, the largest county in Minnesota. In this role, he provides countywide strategic leadership and direction to seven lines of business, including 45 departments and nearly 9,000 employees. Mr. Hough oversees the annual operating and capital budgets of over \$2.5 billion, makes policy recommendations to the seven-member County Board of Commissioners and carries out the vision and policy directives of the County Board. Mr. Hough has been with Hennepin County for nearly 40 years including 25 years in the Hennepin County Attorney's Office serving in several roles, including Managing Attorney of the Civil Division, Attorney to the County Board and

as the County Attorney's Civil Deputy. Over the past ten years, Mr. Hough has driven a set of core values and established the organization's vision and focus on Disparity Reduction.



Jennifer Kuiper is the associate program director for resilient economies and communities. She is responsible for leading the Resilient Economies and Communities portfolio which provides thought leadership to counties on issues related to economic mobility, economic development and recovery, disaster resiliency and infrastructure. Before joining NACo, Jennifer worked as senior director of policy and evaluation with District Bridges. Prior to that, she served as the executive director of Woodley Park Main Street. Jennifer holds a bachelor's degree in American Studies and a Master of Public Policy.

Seva Rodnyansky is a manager with Pew's housing policy initiative, researching land use regulations and housing finance and then mapping these analyses onto policies to increase the supply of housing and broaden access to safe financing for lower-cost homes. Before joining Pew, Rodnyansky was on the faculty of Occidental College's Urban and Environmental Policy department, where he taught courses including urban data analysis, urban policy and politics and environment and society. He has authored numerous publications in academic journals on urban planning, geography and transportation, and more than a dozen agency and foundation reports on housing policy, travel behavior, and migration. Prior to academia, Rodnyansky was a management consultant with Booz & Company, PwC, and LEK, advising transportation, industrial, automotive and aerospace companies on growth strategy, cost reduction, and mergers and acquisitions. Rodnyansky holds a bachelor's degree in mathematical methods in the social sciences, economics and urban studies from Northwestern University and a doctorate in urban planning and development from the University of Southern California.



Tony Schertler is the Executive Director of the Dakota County Community Development Agency (CDA). The CDA administers over 30 programs that create and preserve affordable housing and strengthen the economic vitality of communities in the third largest county in Minnesota. Prior to joining the CDA, Tony was a Senior Vice President-Director of Housing and Economic Development Services at Springsted Incorporated (now Baker Tilly). He also spent 10 years at the City of Saint Paul in the Department of Planning & Economic Development. Tony has a Bachelor's degree in History from St. John's University and a Juris Doctor from William Mitchell College of Law.



Louie Sheridan, Jr. is a devoted, award-winning professional with an inherent passion for serving Native American communities by providing affordable housing opportunities. A proud enrolled member of the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa, he has over 27 years of experience in Indian Country, taking him from the furthest reaches of the Alaskan Arctic Circle and extensively throughout the lower 48. Louie has developed more than \$60 million of affordable housing and crucial services for clients with varying budgets. Louie's determination to help rural communities and Tribal Nations achieve their highest potential and thrive for the next seven generations is at the core of his teachings and professional mission.

Friday August 16

Ramsey County Courthouse | 15 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102

9:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. *Networking Breakfast*

9:30 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. **GFOA Update on Rethinking Financial Reporting**

- Shayne Kavanaugh, Senior Manager of Research, Government Finance Officers Association

PROPERTY TAX REFORM AND COUNTY REVENUE MODERNIZATION

- Eric Byson, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (moderator)

10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. **Part 1: State Policy Trends Challenging Major County Revenue Sources**

- Riley Judd, Associate – Fiscal 50, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Key Takeaway: *Coordination of advocacy solutions and messaging for addressing state-level challenges to county fiscal autonomy.*

11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. **Part 2: Rethinking Property Taxes and County Revenue**

- Shayne Kavanaugh, Senior Manager of Research, Government Finance Officers Association

Key Takeaway: *Policy solutions for responding to political challenges to property taxes and ideas for alternate county revenue sources to explore in your particular state.*

12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M. Lunch Discussion: Social Media and Other Litigations and Their Importance for County Governments

- David Connor, Executive Director, Tennessee County Services Association (moderator)
- Shayna Sacks, Partner, Napoli Shkolnik PLLC

***Key Takeaway:** Awareness of trends and conversations related to social media and other litigations which are happening at the local government level across different states, plus any potential opportunities for new county revenue sources.*

1:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M. Closing Discussion, Other Top Issues and Next Steps

- Eric Bryson, Executive Director, Montana Association of Counties (moderator)

***Key Takeaway:** Next steps for taking the information discussed back to our home states, plus ideas for future Knowledge Management Forums.*

2:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. Informal Networking Event at City House
258 Mill St., St Paul, MN 55102

Friday Speaker Bios



Eric Bryson serves as Executive Director for the Montana Association of Counties. Mr. Bryson’s public service career began while serving as a youth probation officer, when he became upset at the local school board and ran for office as a school board trustee. Having no stake in the educational system as a childless husband, he found himself in a crowded five-way race receiving the second most votes. Unluckily for the District, there were two seats open and he served his term without distinction. Then he became frustrated with city politics and ran for the City Commission. He won, and continued his public service without distinction. Eventually, Mr. Bryson left Bozeman and Gallatin County to return to his roots in the state capital of Helena. Serving without distinction as the Lewis and Clark County Administrator led him to a transitional role in the Montana Association of Counties. After several unsuccessful recruitments, he ended up being the only applicant for the Executive Director position and has served without distinction since 2018. Mr. Bryson holds an undergraduate degree in Political Science and a master's in Public Administration from Montana State University. *(Biography provided by Eric Bryson).*

Shayne Kavanagh is the Senior Manager of Research for the Government Financial Officers Association (GFOA) and has been a leader in developing the practice and technique of long-term financial planning and policies for local government. He started GFOA’s long-term financial planning and policy consulting offering in 2002 and has been working with governments on financial planning and policies ever since. He has worked with many governments of different sizes and types on financial planning and policies across the United States and Canada. Prior to joining GFOA, Mr. Kavanagh was the Assistant Village Manager for the Village of Palos Park, Illinois, where he managed financial management operations. He received a masters degree in public administration degree from Northern Illinois University.





Riley Judd is an associate with Pew’s Fiscal 50 interactive platform. She conducts research and analysis to help policymakers understand fiscal, economic, and demographic trends affecting their states by tracking tax revenue, reserves, employment rates, Medicaid spending, and other issues important to long-term fiscal health. Previously, Judd worked for the Colorado General Assembly and interned for the National Conference of State Legislatures. She holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and public policy from the University of Denver.

David Connor is the executive director of the Tennessee County Services Association (TCSA), an umbrella association representing county mayors and executives, the elected legislative bodies of Tennessee’s 95 county and metropolitan governments and county highway officials. The association promotes more efficient county government and represents the interests of counties before the General Assembly and the various departments and agencies of state government. Previously, he served as executive director of one of its affiliates, the Tennessee County Commissioners Association. He received his bachelor’s degree from Rhodes College in Memphis in Political Science and a law degree from Vanderbilt University.



Shayna E. Sacks is a partner who focuses her nationwide practice on obtaining the best results for clients in the areas of governmental affairs and mass tort litigation. Along with other firm attorneys, Ms. Sacks leads efforts on behalf of cities and counties across the country in *In re National Prescription Opiate Litigation* which has resulted in billions in settlements with opioid manufacturers, distributors and retail pharmacies to directly pay state and local governments. She was also part of the team that represented Nassau County in the first jury opioid trial in the country. Ms. Sacks also advises clients on multiple issues, including water districts, municipalities and other entities whose water is negatively impacted by the use of PFAS; self-insured governmental entities and private companies to seek relief due

to massive price hikes implemented by pharmaceutical companies on a multitude of generic drugs; school boards against major social media corporations for their defective and addictive platforms; and cities and communities who face ever growing gun violence due to “ghost gun” companies and gun manufacturers. For her legal accomplishments, Ms. Sacks is consistently recognized by Super Lawyers®, Best Lawyers®, and The National Trial Lawyers Top 100 among others.



660 North Capitol Street, N.W.
Suite 400 • Washington, D.C. 20001
202.393.6226 • www.NACo.org

[FB.COM/NACoDC](https://www.facebook.com/NACoDC) 

[TWITTER.COM/NACoTWEETS](https://twitter.com/NACoTWEETS) 

[YOUTUBE.COM/NACoVIDEO](https://www.youtube.com/NACoVIDEO) 

[WWW.NACo.ORG/LINKEDIN](https://www.linkedin.com/company/naco) 