

11th Annual Legacy Project Conference 2022



Speaker Bios

Joana Ardelean

Joana Ardelean is a solutions-focused Human Resources leader with diversified leadership experience in Local Government, Big Four and Fortune 500 companies, complemented by a well-rounded business background. She has over 16 years of experience with almost a decade in the leadership ranks at industry giants such as PricewaterhouseCoopers, KPMG and RR Donnelley prior to joining the government sector.

She has been a featured speaker at HR annual conferences and facilitates various HR management seminars throughout the year. She has been published in the IPMA-HR Magazine and is currently working on her first book: “Burnout 911! The Ultimate Guide to Work-Life Balance without Sacrificing Your Successful Career.”

Joana obtained both her Master Degree in Human Resource Management and her Bachelor in Business Administration from Roosevelt University. Joana holds a PHR certification through HRCI, a SHRM-CP certification through SHRM.

Brigitte Berger-Raish, P.E.

Brigitte Berger-Raish, P.E. is the Director of Engineering and Public Works for the Village of Wilmette, where she has served in that role for 21 years. Brigitte is responsible for managing the operation and maintenance of a full-service Public Works and Engineering Department consisting of 47 full-time employees in Streets, Water/Sewer, Fleet, Forestry, Facilities Management and Engineering Divisions; implementing annual department (2022, \$24M) and capital improvement budgets (2022, \$34M); and planning, design, and project management for all infrastructure improvements related to water, sewer, drainage, stormwater management, streets, traffic engineering and related projects. Brigitte is a Registered Professional Engineer in State of Illinois and honored as an American Public Works Association Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year (2021). She is Past President, American Public Works Association, Chicago Metro Chapter and a member of the American Public Works Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Institute of Transportation Engineers. Brigitte holds a B.S., Civil Engineering degree from Marquette University.

Senator Melinda Bush

State Senator Melinda Bush has served in the Illinois Senate since 2013. She is a lifelong resident of Lake County and previously served as a trustee for the village of Grayslake. Bush’s passion for ethics and good government, gender equality, discrimination and harassment

prevention, solving the opioid epidemic and environmental protection shines through in her work at the Capitol. Most recently, Bush passed a law to establish timelines and requirements for the removal and replacement of all lead service lines in Illinois, and was a top negotiator in the years leading up to the passage of the state's comprehensive energy package.

Laura Faver Dias

Laura Faver Dias currently serves as a Village Trustee in Grayslake, Illinois. She is passionate about improving sustainability practices, transparency in government, and advocating for greater community engagement. Laura holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Studies Education from Indiana University and a Master's degree in Bicultural Education from Wayne State University. Prior to moving to Lake County, Laura spent nearly a decade teaching in Chicago Public Schools. After giving birth to twin boys, her family relocated to Lake County where she started working on women's campaigns as they ran for office county and state office. Laura is currently a candidate for State Representative in Illinois House District 62.

Harmony Harrington

Harmony Harrington has more than 25+ years of experience in public affairs, including leadership roles in Illinois state government and with national healthcare corporations. As Vice President of Government and Community Relations for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, she leads the company's external advocacy efforts for accessible, affordable and quality health care for BCBSIL members and its work to improve community health and health equity across the state through BCBSIL's community engagement work - including its Blue Door Neighborhood Centers, volunteerism, health education and outreach, mobile Care Van programs, and community investments. She also leads the development and execution of strategies for internal and external communications across corporate reputation, crisis communication, health policy, public and media relations.

Harmony has extensive experience managing regional, state and local government, advocacy and corporate affairs efforts. She previously led corporate affairs efforts for Humana, Inc. in the Midwest region, setting and executing external advocacy efforts supporting all Humana lines of business. Prior to her work at Humana, she served as Director of State Government Relations for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois as well as Manager of State Government Relations for the northeast, mid-Atlantic and southern regions at Walgreen Co.

Prior to her corporate government affairs, community relations and communications experience, Harmony served in various roles in Illinois state government including staff attorney for the Illinois House of Representatives, and leadership roles within the Office of Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn and the Office Lieutenant Governor Corinne Wood.

Harmony earned her Juris Doctor from Loyola University Chicago College of Law. She and her husband live in Park Ridge, Illinois with their three children, where she serves on her local City Council as Alderman from the 4th Ward elected to a four-year term in 2021. She previously served as elected Park Ridge Park Commissioner from 2017-2021. She serves on the Board of Directors at Haymarket Center, the largest nonprofit addiction and behavioral health recovery center as well as WINGS, Inc., working to eradicate domestic violence and provide support and resources for survivors.

Brian Johanpeter

With over 20 years of service to local government, Brian seeks to serve the community by supporting the technology in use by those who serve others. He is the link between users of technology and its creators as he manages projects designed to help users leverage technology to perform their jobs better. Brian especially excels at integrating a solution into new or existing processes and communicating procedures to users through documentation and training. He earned his bachelor's degree in Communication from Truman State University and his master's degree in Speech Communication from Eastern Illinois University. Brian recently joined the IT team at the Village of Westmont after relocating from Central Illinois, where he supported the technology for the City of Mattoon.

Anne Kritzmire

Anne Kritzmire brings over 38 years of leadership experience to Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, as a business strategist, marketing leader and spokesperson. Anne spent over 21 years at Nuveen, one of the world's largest asset managers, where she served as Managing Director and Head of Solutions Marketing and Strategy. She was responsible for leading strategic marketing and support for Nuveen's Solutions business, harnessing Nuveen's broad public and private investment capabilities to address client investment outcomes. Previously, Anne led financial advisor and investor education and industry relations for Nuveen's entire family of closed-end funds and structured products. She led all aspects of integrated marketing, education, and support, including financial advisor & investor communications, web, advertising & sponsorship, PR, and research, and served as a key media spokesperson for the CEF product line. Anne, who describes herself as a curious and agile problem solver and strategist, has served as president of the Closed-End Fund Association, and has been quoted extensively in business media. Currently she is the Fund and Finance Commissioner for the Village of Long Grove, as well as serving as Lead Independent Director of the Thornburg Income Builder Opportunities Trust. Anne received her MBA from Northwestern University and her BS from Notre Dame University.

Brooke Lenneman

Brooke Lenneman is an attorney at Elrod Friedman LLP. Brooke received her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and her law degree from the DePaul University College of Law.

Brooke focuses her practice on local government law, land use, and zoning. She counsels local governments on all matters, large and small, including contracts, licensing, governance, and statutory compliance, including the Illinois Open Meetings Act and the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. Brooke serves as the City Attorney for the City of Warrenville. Brooke also represents private sector clients in a variety of zoning and land use matters including the resolution of licensing, permitting, and other regulatory issues. Prior to joining Elrod Friedman, Brooke worked for the City of Chicago's Department of Law.

Glen Liljeberg

Informed by a technical, executive, consulting, and public service background, he has been building bridges between technology and business for almost forty years, with an emphasis on continually improving the human condition. With extensive and diverse responsibilities across

government, public and private sectors, he is a performance-driven thought-leader who creates consensus easily. His capacity to manage large infrastructure networks and their components is exceptional. As an innovative leader, he focuses on optimizing processes and mentoring new talent.

Glen started his career as a video engineer with Continental Cablevision back in the 1980's and then moved to South Suburban College for 10 years running their Broadcast and Communications Department. Currently Glen has been employed at the Village of Westmont for the last 20+ years. He has been on the board of GMIS Illinois for the last 15+ years serving as President, Conference Chairperson and Treasurer.

Allison Matson

Allison Matson has been the Village Administrator for the Village of Wauconda since October 2020. Previously, she held roles with Flossmoor, Downers Grove and Naperville. She holds an MPA from Northern Illinois University, an MBA in finance from Keller Graduate School of Management and a BA in urban planning from the University of Illinois. She lives in Wauconda with her husband Tracy and a poorly behaved pandemic puppy named Walley.

Jessica McKean

Jessica McKean earned a Master of Arts in educational technology at San Diego State University and a Bachelor of Science in applied mathematics at National University. Jessica worked in higher education supporting and leading technology initiatives for the last 20 years in the San Diego California region, however in July 2021, she moved to Illinois to join the City of Peoria, Illinois as the Chief Information Officer providing leadership for the continued development of an innovative, robust, and secure information technology environment throughout the City of Peoria as well as managing and supporting the CAD/RMS system for multiple police and fire agencies within the county and including the County of Peoria.

Chief Michele Pankow

Chief Pankow was sworn in as the 11th Fire Chief of The Rockford Fire Department on September 8, 2021. She made history when she became the first woman in the existence of the Department to serve as the Fire Chief. Before serving as Fire Chief, she was the Division Chief of Operations, which included the Emergency Services Disaster Agency Coordinator for the City of Rockford. Additionally, since starting with the Department in 1992, Chief Pankow has served as a Firefighter/Paramedic, a Training Officer, an EMS Operations Chief, a Lieutenant, a Captain, and a District Chief. Chief Pankow has a Bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University and a Master's in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. She holds accreditation as an Illinois Professional Emergency Manager from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and designation as a Chief Fire Officer through the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

Chief Carla Redd

Chief Redd joined the Rockford Police Department in 1998. She was a patrol officer, field training officer, community services officer, detective and sergeant before becoming the first Black woman to achieve a command rank as a lieutenant in 2015. Chief Redd holds an

Associate degree in criminology from Rock Valley College and a Bachelor degree in sociology with an emphasis in criminal justice from Northern Illinois University, certification in criminal justice from the University of Virginia. Chief Redd is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Kimberly Richardson

Kimberly Richardson is the Assistant City Manager for the City of Peoria. In her role, she oversees the Department of Economic Development, Information Systems, and Emergency Communications Center along with working with the Equal Opportunity Office within the City Manager's Office.

Kimberly has spent nearly two decades working in municipal government, which includes the City of Evanston, Village of Flossmoor, and Village of Riverside. She holds both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Public Administration from Northern Illinois University. Kimberly is currently serving as the Board President for the League of Women in Government and has served as Past President for the Legacy Project.

Sharon Schallhorn

Sharon Schallhorn was appointed as Administrator for Bureau County in September 2016. In that role that she is responsible for all aspects of personnel management of employees, labor relations, training and development. Sharon oversees set policies, monitors all phases of the county budget and ensures approved directives of the full county board are carried out. Sharon is a graduate of Olivet Nazarene University with a degree in Business Management and the University of Maryland with a Master's in Public Administration. She is a graduate of the U of I Extension Program - Leadership Academy for Local Government Officials and the National Association of Counties (NACO) - Professional Development Academy. Sharon serves as Vice President of the IL Association of County Administrators and is a member of the International City/County Management Association, IL City/County Management Association, and the IL Valley Society of Human Resources Management.

Alice Setrini

Alice Setrini is the executive director of the Jaharis Health Law Institute at the DePaul University College of Law. She came to DePaul from a career in legal services, most recently as the manager of Legal Aid Chicago's Medical-Legal Partnerships (MLP) Project beginning in 2015. Setrini is a first-generation Latinx American who chose a career in the law in order to give back to her community, and live up to the sacrifices made on her behalf.

Setrini has worked closely with a wide range of medical partners through her experience with MLPs, and in 2019, Setrini served as an adjunct professor in Loyola's Weekend JD Program, teaching civil litigation skills in an experiential learning environment. Prior to her experience with MLPs, Setrini worked as a staff attorney at Legal Aid Chicago, where she was selected to take part in the Shriver Center on Poverty Law's Racial Justice Institute. There she learned to focus her legal advocacy through a racial justice lens, which became the touchstone of her career from that point forward. Setrini continues to collaborate with the Racial Justice Institute by serving as trainer and coach since 2017. She has also lectured at DePaul, Loyola, and Northwestern law schools on implicit bias and structural racism.

Setrini's years of experience collaborating in multidisciplinary settings to maximize both health system returns on investment and improvement in health outcomes for individuals through legal interventions informs her work at DePaul where she continues to advocate for health equity as a mechanism for alleviating poverty and dismantling the systems that create health disparities.

Setrini received her BA and her JD from Northwestern University.

Lisa Stricker

Lisa Stricker currently works with GovHR and is an innovative DEI consultant, strategist, and facilitator with 25+ years' experience. She is highly regarded for her impact around inclusive leadership, unconscious bias, and change management. Lisa brings a mixture of expertise, passion, authenticity and vision to create a different perspective on complex topics. She has partnered with organizations to create environments of inclusion built on compassion, empathy and understanding.

Marc Thorson

Marc oversees all aspects of NIU's broadband, Internet service, and technology service offerings to communities, school districts, and other government and nonprofits organizations.

Prior to joining NIU, Marc has worked in the local government Information Technology field for over 20 years. He is passionate about Information Security and data-driven decision making in environments with resource challenges.

Marc is also an adjunct instructor for the nationally ranked Northern Illinois University Master of Public Administration program. The course focus is educating future local government and nonprofit leadership on what Information Technology does, why it is a critical competency for public organizations, and how to utilize it to its greatest potential in an era of shrinking budgets.

Marc earned a Bachelor of Science in Management from National-Louis University, and a Master of Business Administration from Northern Illinois University with a focus on Management of Information Services and Marketing. He is the Marketing Director GMIS International, Committee Chairperson for GMIS Accreditation, and Past President of GMIS.

Lora Vitek

Mayor Lora Vitek is the Executive Director of Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation. She holds a Master of Business Administration and Master of Management from North Park University, as well as a Bachelor's of Science in Marketing from Millikin University. Since moving to St. Charles in 2012, Lora has served as Commissioner of the St. Charles Youth Commission and as an advocate for the Save Lincoln School campaign. She was elected to Alderperson of the fourth Ward in 2017 and then Mayor in 2021. Lora has two children, Grace and Quinn, and two dogs, Buxton and Milo.

Dr. Kathleen Yang-Clayton

Dr. Yang-Clayton joined the faculty in the Department of Public Administration, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois-Chicago in 2017 after extensive experience in legislative advocacy and voter education, engagement, and mobilization. Prior to joining UIC, she led voting rights and voter mobilization work for Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago where she helped to pass landmark legislation expanding voting rights and strengthening election systems in Illinois. She is a Research Fellow at the Great Cities Institute and a member of several national initiatives that integrate public administration and racial equity together from the Kettering Foundation, National League of Cities and the International City/County Management Association. Her current work focuses on the operationalization of racial equity practices inside of large public organizations that increase the public's trust in government and improves government performance, especially but not exclusively in historically marginalized communities. She was appointed associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion at her college in 2021.