



NEMA 2021 Meeting of the States
June 29 – July 1, 2021
Hyatt Regency Hotel - Lexington, KY

Speaker Bios

Vonda Batts, CPA, CFE, CFF, CICA, CGMA, Doctorate
Audit Director, Office of Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Vonda has over 30 years of professional education and significant experience in the accounting and auditing field from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) community, non-profit/profit, and public accounting entities. She has led complex operational, performance, financial and compliance audits, evaluations, inspections and fraud reviews, including Congressional requests.

Vonda joined the Department of Homeland Security OIG Office of Audits in November 2018 as Audit Director in the Disaster Management and Infrastructure Protection Division and works at Headquarters in Washington, D.C. She directs a team of auditors and analysts (from multiple diverse locations across the United States (including Puerto Rico) in the development and execution of multifaceted government programs under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, specific to the Federal Emergency Management Agency grants. She also leads a COVID-19 Tracking Team initiative related to pandemic spending from the Disaster Relief Fund.

Prior to joining DHS-OIG, Vonda served nearly 7 years with the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP) Office of Audit and Evaluation. While with SIGTARP, Vonda served as Audit Director and led teams in the development and execution of high-profile government programs and initiatives under the Dodd - Frank Act, totaling \$700 billion, specific to the Department of Treasury's housing programs for the Hardest Hit Fund and executive compensation at banking and financial institutions that received financial assistance to restructure under the Troubled Asset Relief Program. Collectively, Vonda has received over 20 awards in the OIG community. Before joining SIGTARP, Vonda worked as Senior Audit Manager with AARP for 15 years and served in other executive level positions throughout the industry.

Vonda has five active professional certifications: Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF), a Certified Internal Controls Auditor (CICA), and a Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA). In addition, Vonda has a doctorate, successfully completing extensive work on her dissertation relating to financial literacy. She resides in Maryland with her husband and enjoys singing, spending time with her family and exercising in the Jackie Sorenson's Aerobic Dance Program, where she serves as the assistant instructor.

The Honorable Deanne Criswell

Administrator

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Ms. Deanne Criswell was confirmed by the Senate on April 22, 2021 as the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



Prior to her appointment, Ms. Criswell served as the Commissioner of the New York City Emergency Management Department from 2019 to 2021. She was responsible for oversight of the City's efforts to plan and prepare for emergencies, educate the public about preparedness, coordinate emergency response and recovery, and disseminate emergency information. As NYC Emergency Management Commissioner, Ms. Criswell managed the City's response to emergencies including extreme summer heat, large fires, and power outages including blackouts on the west side of Manhattan and in southern Brooklyn in July 2019. She also led the coordination of the City's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, preventing the collapse of the healthcare system, making sure no

New Yorker went hungry, establishing a first of its kind non-congregate sheltering program, and supporting the country's largest mass fatality program. She has also coordinated the City's readiness for planned events including the 2019 Ticker Tape Parade honoring the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team and the 2019 New York City Marathon, the largest marathon in the world.

She previously served at FEMA as the leader of one of the Agency's National Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMAT) and as a Federal Coordinating Officer. In this role, Ms. Criswell was the primary Federal representative responsible for leading the agency's response to and recovery from emergencies and major disasters, from severe flooding in North Dakota to hurricanes in South Carolina to fires in Colorado. She also served as the head of the Office of Emergency Management for the city of Aurora, Colorado, where she led strategic change in the city's emergency and disaster planning.

As an executive in the homeland security sector of the Cadmus Group LLC, Ms. Criswell served as a principal for clients at the federal, state, and local levels, as well as the private sector, providing exceptional technical expertise and the experience necessary to advise her clients achieve their critical missions.

As a member of the Colorado Air National Guard, Ms. Criswell served 21 years as a firefighter and Deputy Fire Chief. In 2001, she deployed to Kuwait to serve as a fire officer in crash fire rescue efforts, and in 2010, she deployed to Qatar, Afghanistan, and Iraq to advise senior leadership on fire protection requirements for new and existing military bases.

Aaron Davis

*Staff Director, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives*

Aaron Davis serves as (Majority) Staff Director for House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's (Chaired by Rep. Peter DeFazio of Oregon) Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management (Chaired by Rep. Dina Titus of Nevada). Most recently, the Subcommittee has focused on establishing a resilience revolving loan program for states, tribes, and territories (Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Act, P.L. 116-284), oversight of FEMA's role in COVID response and relief, and the Agency's implementation of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (Div. D of P.L. 115-274). Previously, Aaron served as the Director of FEMA's Congressional Affairs Division from 2012-2017, leading the Agency's interactions with Congress for more than 250 Presidentially-declared emergencies or disasters. During that time, he worked closely with appropriators and authorizers on both sides of the Capitol on crafting the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (Div. B of P.L. 113-2), the Homeowner Flood Insurance Affordability Act (P.L. 113-89), and the re-authorization of the Defense Production Act (P.L. 113-172) and the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System (P.L. 114-326). Prior to his service at FEMA, Aaron was a legislative director in the personal offices of Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz (112th Congress) and Congressman Christopher Carney (110th-111th Congresses), and worked his way up from intern to legislative assistant for Congressman DeFazio (107th-109th Congresses).

Jason Dilg

*Executive Director
Be Mindful*

Jason is executive director of Be Mindful, and has taught in various communities, including teachers, students, parents, 911 dispatchers, police officers, emergency managers, nurses, pilots, and senior executives. He has been studying and practicing mindfulness for more than 15 years and has a certification in applied neuroscience.

Donna Joseph

*Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit
U.S. Department of the Treasury
Office of Inspector General*

Donna Joseph is the Deputy Assistance Inspector General for Audit at the Department of the Treasury Office of Inspector General and oversees audits in areas of cyber/information technology and financial assistance programs. She oversees teams dedicated to Treasury's pandemic programs established by the CARES Act, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, and the American Rescue Plan Act. Specific to the Coronavirus Relief Fund, she leads efforts over monitoring recipients' uses of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments as well as audits.

Tim Manning

COVID-19 Supply Coordinator

White House COVID Response Team



For more than two decades, Tim Manning has worked on both the frontlines and in the senior most levels of homeland security, crisis and emergency management, and resilience at the local, state, federal, and international levels. Tim is a former Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, governor’s homeland security advisor, firefighter-EMT, (serving in both urban and rural departments and the wildland interface), rescue mountaineer, and geologist. He is currently the COVID-19 Supply Coordinator with the White House COVID Response Team. Tim served through the entirety of the Barack Obama administration as the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for Protection and National Preparedness, having been confirmed by the U.S. Senate in the spring of 2009.

John C. Polledo, CPA, CFE, CGMA

Audit Manager, Office of Inspector General – Department of Homeland Security

New Orleans Field Office

John is a business and auditing professional with over 30 years of experience. Since joining DHS OIG in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, he has specialized in auditing and consulting on disaster related areas throughout the U.S. including public assistance grants, individual survivor assistance programs, mitigation activities, and disaster response and recovery policy. Prior to joining federal service, John’s professional activities included both domestic and international business and covered a broad spectrum including management, consulting, finance, and auditing.

Andrea Smith

Audit Director

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Office of Inspector General

Andrea Smith is an Audit Director at the Department of the Treasury Office of Inspector General. She leads the CARES Act Directorate that is responsible for monitoring and oversight of the receipt, disbursement, and uses of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments made to States, eligible units of local government, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and Tribal Governments. Andrea and her team oversee recipients’ quarterly reporting on uses of Coronavirus Relief Fund payments into the GrantSolutions portal.