

The Texas State Auditor's Office

2016 Audit Conference

About the Speakers



Randy Anderson

Randy Anderson is co-founder of E3 Professional Trainers. E3 provides customized training, key note presentations, and personal coaching designed to help people become more engaged in their work, be better equipped to do it, and to experience more fulfillment on their job and in their personal life.

Before starting E3 in 2005, Randy spent 20 years in sales and management. Most of that time was spent in media sales, which gave him the opportunity to work with virtually every type of business and in every industry. It is from that experience that he draws the ideas and strategies to help his clients improve their performance in the workplace and to achieve their maximum potential in life.

Randy received his Bachelors of Science in agricultural communications from Texas Tech University in 1990. Since that time, he has participated in and completed numerous training courses including; Your Leadership Legacy (Ken Blanchard Co.), Changing the Picture (Ziglar Corp.), Ethics 101 (Cox Enterprises, Inc.), LifeNet Time Management Training (Life Net Inc.), Basic Selling Skills (AVI International), Top Selling (Ziglar Corp.), Professional Selling Skills (Learning International), System 21 Selling (Executive Decision Systems), and Fast Track Media Sales (Cox Media, Inc.). His most valuable experience has come through 30 years of on-the-job, real world experience: 12 of which were spent managing others, and ten years running his own company.

Randy was awarded the designation of Certified Speaking Professional in 2012. This is the highest earned-designation given by the National Speakers Association, recognizing proven expertise in speaking eloquence, business enterprise, and professional ethics.

Dave Cotton

Dave Cotton is chairman of Cotton & Company LLP, Certified Public Accountants. Cotton & Company is headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia. The firm was founded in 1981 and has a practice concentration in assisting Federal and State government agencies, inspectors general, and government grantees and contractors with a variety of government program-related assurance and advisory services. Cotton & Company has performed grant and contract, indirect cost rate, financial statement, financial related, and performance audits for more than two dozen Federal inspectors general as well as numerous other Federal and State agencies and programs.

Cotton & Company's Federal agency audit clients have included the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Capitol Police, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Cotton & Company also assists numerous Federal agencies in preparing financial statements and improving financial management, accounting, and internal control systems.

Dave received a BS in mechanical engineering (1971) and an MBA in management science and labor relations (1972) from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. He also pursued graduate studies in accounting and auditing at the University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business (1977 to 1978). He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), and Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM).

James S. Fargason

James S. Fargason holds the Lee D. & Cynthia C. Bloch Distinguished Professorship at Louisiana State University. He has an advanced law degree in International and Comparative Law. Part of his studies

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included courses in Italy, where he focused on international and comparative law. Fargason has worked for a variety of reputable organizations including Deloitte, Brunswick, Dow, Chase, IBM, Nestle, and The Federal Reserve Bank.

Fargason has extensive university experience and has served on faculty at three nationally known research universities. He currently serves as a full-time faculty member at LSU. Over the years, he has taught a variety of subjects including Business Law for the MBA Program and International Law at the Law School. Fargason has won eleven teaching awards, and has published a variety of works in the area of business.

Fargason has conducted numerous seminars in Asia, Europe, North America, and South America.

John Gatto

John Gatto was with Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC) in Chicago, IL from December, 2005 until his retirement in January, 2015. He was the Divisional Vice President, Audit Services and was responsible for all aspects of IT Audit for the five Blue Cross Blue Shield Plans comprising HCSC (Illinois, Texas, Montana, New Mexico and Oklahoma) and encompasses NAIC / MAR compliance and testing, risk based audits, advisory engagements for new development projects, coordination of SOC-1 and SOC-2 reviews and E&Y Year-End Financial Audits. John was a member of a number of Steering Committees within the IT area of HCSC.

Prior to HCSC, John worked at Federal-Mogul in Michigan as the Sox coordination supervisor, Avery Dennison in California as a Project Manager, and spent 13 years with Horizon BlueCross BlueShield of New Jersey, where he was Director of Systems Audit, Customer Audit and Operations Audit.

John has over 45 years of audit experience, most of it in the IT Audit arena. He is a CISA and CRISC and has his MBA from Fairleigh-Dickinson University in New Jersey. John is a frequent speaker for the BCBSA, IIA and ISACA organizations. In 2010 he was named *Educator of the Year* by the Chicago Chapter of the IIA.

In 2015, John has spoken at the Southeastern and Southwest Intergovernmental Audit Forums, the ISACA CACS Conference and at the ISACA Chapters in South Carolina, Harrisburg, New Jersey and Central Florida.

Nicole Gilger

Nicole Gilger, CPA is an audit senior manager at DK Partners with over 12 years public accounting experience. She spent 8 years with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP prior to joining DK Partners in 2011. Nicole has worked with the Texas Lottery and on numerous Medicaid projects, including various risk assessments, performance audits, and examinations, as well as non-Medicaid Sarbanes-Oxley 404 and internal audits during her audit career. Nicole has been a frequent instructor of training courses throughout her career.

DK Partners is a public accounting firm engaged by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to perform audit and attest services over Medicaid primary vendors' (managed care organizations) financial reports, as well as operational compliance with the State and Federal contract requirements, and engaged by the Texas Lottery to validate drawing procedures and certify results.

John Hall

John Hall is the founder and President of Hall Consulting, Inc. and the author of The Anti-Fraud Toolkit and the award-winning book "Do What You Can! Simple Steps - Extraordinary Results"

John specializes in skills training programs and conference presentations for management groups, government and internal auditors, CPAs, and professional associations. He also coaches business and

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audit professionals in how increase their effectiveness, clarify and meet their business and personal goals, and move their career forward.

Mr. Hall has 38 years of experience as a consultant, speaker, auditor and business owner. He has worked in senior leadership positions in large corporations and international public accounting firms. He is a member of the National Speakers Association, the American Institute of CPAs, and the Institute of Internal Auditors. Meet John at www.JohnHallSpeaker.com.

Ashley M. Hunter

Ashley M. Hunter is the president of HM Risk Group, an international insurance, reinsurance and risk management brokerage with more than 15 years of experience. Prior to founding HM Risk Group, Ashley worked in various claims management positions for State Farm Insurance Companies, The Hartford Insurance Company and AIG Insurance Company. In her role as president, Ashley has assisted many corporations with unique risk transfer options and reinsurance placement domestically and internationally. Under Ashley's leadership HM Risk Group has become a leader in niche insurance products for the microinsurance and fertility industry, creating and developing policy forms for several multinational insurance companies globally. Ashley has a BM in Music Theory and Composition from Centenary College of Louisiana and a MBA in Finance from Texas A&M University. Ashley is also an accomplished concert violinist.

Adam Jones

As Weaver's senior consultant on organization assessment and state government, Adam Jones provides leadership and sharp managerial insights to entities of all sizes in the public and private sector. During a 20-year career in Texas state government, he oversaw every financial and operational function as the Deputy Commissioner for Finance and Administration/Chief Operating Officer of the Texas Education Agency. His time at TEA spanned some of the most challenging budgetary times in state government. He is also a veteran of the House Appropriations Committee, Legislative Budget Board and a past Director of the Senate Education Committee.

The managerial acumen Adam developed during his years of public service benefits clients across a spectrum of successful engagements, ranging from organizational assessments, information technology, coaching and mentoring. He has even been the engagement director of a large data-manipulation investigation. Adam speaks and writes on a variety of topics and is a trained facilitator with a broad and deep organization development and management background, particularly in larger government organizations. He is a graduate of the University of Texas, Austin, and of Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy.

Shannon Kelley

Shannon is currently Manager of Enterprise Contract Management at the Department of Information Resources, where she has worked since 2007. She oversees the contract managers for several major programs including Texas.gov, Data Center Services and TEX-AN, as well as the internal contracts for the agency.

Shannon has worked for the State of Texas for more than 20 years. She previously managed contracts at DIR and served as subject matter expert for cloud services. Prior to her work at DIR, Shannon worked variously as the Director of Surplus Property at the Texas Facilities Commission, as a contract manager with the Council on Competitive Government, and as a business planner at the Department of Insurance.

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Dr. Dan Kneer

Dr. Dan Kneer believes in "auditing smarter; not harder." He has been blessed to work with several open-minded, forward-looking auditors over the last 25+ years. From his national award-winning PhD thesis, on audit risk, to his recognition for a "Lifetime Contribution in the Innovative Usage of Technology in Auditing," Dan has exhibited a life-long commitment regarding audit efficiency and effectiveness. Dan's training goal is to provide you with PROVEN PRACTICAL TOOLS...immediate "take-aways".

As evidence that he resonates highly with practitioners, he was 1) an invited contributor to the revised COSO for Monitoring Controls (2009), 2) rated the # 1 speaker (out of 84) at the 2010 IIA International Conference and 3) nominated as the 2011 "Outstanding Fraud Auditor of the Year".

Dan has been rated the # 1 speaker at multiple IIA Internationals Dan has delivered keynote talks at such famous venues as 1) Caesars Palace, 2) the Washington D.C. National Press Club, 3) the Downtown New York Athletic Club (home of the Heisman trophy), 4) the grand ballroom at the Waldorf=Astoria Hotel, 5) Madison Square Garden, 6) the Palace de Concorde (Paris).

He is the former Director of research of the ISACA, and has twice been nominated for the IIA's prestigious Leon Radde Award. Dr. Dan has been voted "Americas # 1 trainer of auditors". Dr. Dan Kneer is recognized as a world-wide "thought leader" in the teaching of analytical review. He has taught these concepts to 1) all of the Big- 4, 2) 17 State Auditor Offices 3) hundreds of internal audit shops and 4) hundreds of Federal/State/Local agencies. He has taught this course for the IIA, the AGA and the ISACA. He was a "Deloitte", where he learned, 25 years ago, to apply concepts of analytical review to "audit smarter, not harder."

Kimberly Kneer

Kimberly Kneer has passed the CPA exam and is in the process of "doing the paperwork." She has specialized in end-user software support. She graduated from the School of Accountancy at the University of Missouri.

Kim started her career in the health care field as a liaison between computer users and hospital data processing and financial management. She was in charge of all the financial modules in the mainframe computer software conversion. Kim also assisted the Big-4 external auditors in the annual audit effort. Her specialty is laptop-based software tools that assist auditors, inspectors, and examiners in the review of compliance, performance, operations and financial data.

Scott Langlinais

Scott Langlinais delivers training seminars worldwide on properly addressing fraud, waste, and abuse. He has worked with leaders of Fortune 500 companies, top public accounting firms, and government entities to design and implement strategies for establishing an environment hostile towards fraud. On a tactical level, he teaches concepts such as data analysis techniques and a five-step approach to fraud detection that finance professionals, auditors, and investigators have used to successfully prevent, detect, and respond to wrongdoing.

Scott is affiliated with Courtenay Thompson & Associates for the purpose of developing and providing training on fraud-related topics. He is the developer and instructor of Using Data Analysis to Detect Fraud & Error and Fraud Risk Workshop. He speaks at conferences hosted by the Institute of Internal Auditors, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. The International Risk Management Institute has published several of his articles in relation to fraud prevention and response.

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Prior to starting his own practice in 2003, Mr. Langlinais held public accounting and internal audit leadership positions, most recently serving as Director of Internal Audit and Security for a NASDAQ 100 software company. His investigations of fraud and gross negligence have resulted in removal of perpetrators, successful litigation, and recovery of millions of dollars.

Mr. Langlinais has served as the Founder and Director of the Dallas Tax Assistance Program, a not-for-profit organization that assists low-income families with federal tax returns preparation. He received a BBA degree from the University of Notre Dame and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Alyssa Martin

A frequent, sought-after speaker for numerous events sponsored by the Institute of Internal Auditors, TSCPA and other professional organizations, Alyssa Martin is known throughout Texas for her knowledge of risk management. She has more than 25 years of experience in operational analysis, risk management, internal audit, quality assurance reviews, fraud prevention, IT audit, business management consulting, strategic planning and technology consulting for government entities and businesses. Much of her work involves collaborating with management teams, as well as working with audit committees involving governance.

As an active member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the National Association of Corporate Directors and the Institute of Internal Auditors, Alyssa remains on the forefront of industry regulations and changes. She serves on many community boards, civic committees and has been honored with a number of awards. She graduated with a bachelor's degree and a master's in business administration from the University of Texas at Dallas.

Liz Meyers

Liz Meyers, CPA, CFE, MBA, understands the importance of adding value in the business world. Throughout her career she has used her analytical abilities and knowledge of business processes to improve the effective and efficient use of company resources.

As CEO of Focus On Risk Enterprises, Liz works with teams on how to become more strategic and focused on exceeding expectations. Her clients represent numerous industries including financial services, government agencies, higher education, insurance, satellite TV and utilities.

The Association of Women in Computing has recognized Liz's achievements by awarding her with their Leadership in Technology Award in 2007. She is a professional member of the National Speakers Association.

Bobby Pounds

Bobby has 24 years of experience in state government, including previous work in compliance with the Texas Education Agency and subsequently as a Program Administrator in Operations and Contract Management with the Texas Workforce Commission. He came to the Comptroller of Public Accounts in 2008 as the Team Lead of the TPASS Contract Management Office and in April 2014 was promoted to Assistant Director of TPASS. As Assistant Director, he oversees all of statewide procurement and contract management, including oversight of the state's HUB program, the TxSmartbuy online purchasing portal, state mail services, the state's Training & Certification program, the State Travel and P-Card program, and the Cooperative Purchasing program, all housed within TPASS. He holds a Bachelors degree in Economics from the University of Texas at Austin. He also holds certifications as a Certified Texas Procurement Manager (CTPM) and Certified Texas Contract Manager (CTCM).

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Jacob Pugh

Jacob Pugh is the manager of the Legislative Budget Board's Contracts Oversight Team, tasked with identifying and mitigating risk in the contracting process in Texas. In this role, he oversees the contract oversight function of the LBB, including managing the contracts database and providing outreach and training to state agencies regarding contract reporting, and providing policy recommendations on contracting matters.

He has a bachelor's degree from Macalester College in Minnesota, a Law degree from the University of Minnesota and an MBA from the University of Texas. Prior to assuming his current duties, he spent 3 years at the Texas Military Department, and 12 years as an Active Duty Air Force Judge Advocate. He is currently an officer in the US Air Force Reserve, and holds certifications as a Certified Texas Contract Manager (CTCM) and Project Management Professional (PMP).

David A. Reisman

David A. Reisman began his service as Chief Ethics Officer on February 23, 2015. He came from the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute (CPRIT) where he worked to establish an ethics and compliance program in an agency established to grant \$3 billion in public funds for cancer prevention, research and product development to entities located throughout the state of Texas. His work both ensured agency oversight committee members and employees were in compliance with state and agency ethics laws and rules, and established an effective monitoring system for approximately \$1 billion in public funds already awarded to entities receiving grants from CPRIT.

Mr. Reisman was Executive Director of the Texas Ethics Commission from October 2004 to December 2013. In this role, Mr. Reisman worked to promote public confidence in government. He ran all operations of the Texas Ethics Commission and was responsible for the effective implementation of state campaign finance, lobby and ethics laws.

Mr. Reisman worked at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., prior to his role at the Texas Ethics Commission, where he served from May 2002 to October 2004 as Special Assistant to the General Counsel of the United States Army. In that position, Mr. Reisman was responsible for providing opinions and advising the General Counsel and Army Secretariat on fiscal and policy issues involving the financial management of the Army. He was also responsible for assisting in the management of the Army's Ethics Program. For his work he received "The Commander's Award for Public Service."

Prior to his position at the Pentagon, Mr. Reisman served from February 1998 to May 2002 as a fiscal advisor/special projects director in the Office of the Governor for the State of Texas. Prior to moving to Texas, he practiced law in Kentucky and served the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a policy and budget advisor in the Office of the Governor. Mr. Reisman has earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College, a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Kentucky and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Kentucky College of Law.

Betty Ressel

Ms. Betty Ressel is a Certified Public Accountant with extensive knowledge of performance and operational auditing and review techniques, school and governmental funding, and governmental budgeting, planning and financial management. She has more than 20 years of state-level experience with the Texas Comptroller's Office and the Texas Attorney General's Office and is currently the Managing Partner of Ressel and Associates, LLC. During her years with the state, she participated in and managed more than 140 efficiency, performance, and academic audits conducted by the Texas Comptroller's Office

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in school districts (100) and Higher Education Institutions (5), as well as reviews of state and local governmental agencies and more than 20 operational reviews of local Child Support Offices around the state.

Since leaving state government, Ms. Ressel has participated nationally in a number of studies, audits and reviews including, but not limited to the following: a Feasibility Study for the consolidation of school systems within the County of Halifax, North Carolina; a survey of Standard Billing Rates for Construction Management Firms for the Los Angeles Unified School District, CA; an evaluation of the Race to the Top Grant program for the Florida Department of Education; a Performance Audit for Lee County and a Financial Review for Lee County Public Schools, NC; a Performance Audit Davie and Duplin County Governments, and a Financial Review of Davie and Duplin County Public Schools, NC; a Performance Audit of the Health Department for Yadkin County, NC; an Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency Study for the Richland Two School District, SC; a Classification and Compensation Study for the Lone Star College System, TX; an Organizational, Efficiency, and Effectiveness Study for Manchester Public schools, CT; and a Performance Audit of District Operations for Toledo Public Schools, OH.

Hadassah Schloss

Hadassah Schloss, the Director of the Open Government Section at the Texas General Land Office (the "GLO"), started her career in Open Records in 1990, and has worked for the Office of the Attorney General, and the predecessor agencies of the Texas Facilities Commission. Mrs. Schloss holds a BBA in Accounting from the University of Texas at Austin. She is a recipient of the 1996 James Madison Award, presented by the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas; the 2006 Open Doors Award, presented by the Society of Professional Journalists - Fort Worth Chapter; and the 2012 Freedom Fighter Medal, presented by the Baylor University School of Journalism.

Dr. Lacey L. Schmidt

Dr. Lacey L. Schmidt is the Chief Operations Officer of Minerva Work Solutions and received her doctorate in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from the University of Houston. She is a member of the Society for Industrial Organizational Psychologists (SIOP) and the American Psychological Association (APA), as well as the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) and the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (IPMA-HR). Dr. Schmidt has a wealth of experience in leading employee selection and training projects for both public and private organizations to support a variety of interesting jobs and work teams, including: astronauts, firefighters, police detectives, nurses, chefs, financial advisers, engineers, pilots, and arctic expeditioners. She has received multiple awards for her training development and instruction in human resources management. For her complete resume and publications, please visit: <http://www.thewisdomthatworks.com/our-people/>

Ruth Soucy

Ruth Soucy is the Deputy General Counsel for Open Records, Texas State Comptroller. Ms. Soucy has worked in the area of open government and ethics for more than 20 years. From 1999 to present, Ms. Soucy has served as Deputy General Counsel for Open Records at the Texas State Comptroller's office. In this capacity, Ms. Soucy manages the Open Records Section, including legal staff, programming staff and tax information specialists. She previously also worked as an ethics attorney for the agency. Ms. Soucy was an Assistant Attorney General for six years in the Open Records Division of the Attorney General's Office, with part of that time working for the Opinion Committee. Ms. Soucy was Assistant General

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Counsel for the Texas Ethics Commission when the commission was created in 1992. Prior to attending law school, she was a reporter for the Waco Tribune-Herald.

Ms. Soucy has presented at a number of Open Government and Ethics seminars. Ms. Soucy received her JD from the Baylor University School of Law in November 1990, and her Bachelor of Arts with Honors from Baylor University in 1983. She was licensed in May 1991.

Courtney Thompson

Mr. Thompson is a recognized authority on training managers, auditors and investigators in fraud-related matters. He has designed and presented courses on fraud prevention, detection and investigation for business and government organizations worldwide. His courses are known for providing practical, proven approaches to real problems. These practical approaches have yielded dramatic results for class attendees.

In addition to fraud-related programs, Mr. Thompson provides training on improving personal and professional effectiveness, behavior and communication skills, leadership, and auditing contracts. For 13 years, Mr. Thompson was editor of "Fraud Findings" in The Internal Auditor magazine.

Mr. Thompson's experience prior to entering the consulting field includes public accounting, audit supervisor for consumer financial services for a large retailer, and director of auditing for a life insurance company. His career in public accounting and internal auditing provided exposure to a number of types of impropriety including embezzlement, insurance fraud, loan fraud, stock fraud, kickbacks and bribery, misappropriation of funds and mail fraud.

In addition to personally detecting and investigating suspected fraud cases, he established corporate policies for fraud and trained other auditors in fraud detection and investigation. Responsibilities included working with top management and reporting to the audit committee on the status of open cases. He has worked closely with legal counsel, law enforcement and prosecutors.

Courtenay Thompson received his BBA and MBA degrees from Southern Methodist University and is a Certified Public Accountant. He is a member of The Institute of Internal Auditors, Inc.

Rene Valadez

Rene Valadez has been the Internal Audit Director for the Office of the Governor since 2011. Prior to this responsibility, he served with Deloitte Service Lp, out of Nashville as a policy compliance analyst, as an auditor for the State Auditor's Office, and a legislative analysis for the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

Amy A. Williams

Amy A. Williams, CPA, CFE is an audit manager at DK Partners. She is a former HHSC and DFPS employee in the financial contract monitoring divisions of both agencies. Amy began her career as an auditor in public accounting with Deloitte & Touche, and has also worked as an internal auditor in the private sector prior to her work as an audit manager at DK Partners. Amy has developed and given training courses for the ACFE and TSCPA and developed and provided training to DFPS contract managers.

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