



# EASING THE UNEMPLOYMENT BLUES



## 2023 NATIONAL UI ISSUES CONFERENCE

June 28 - 30, 2023

Sheraton Memphis Downtown Hotel  
Memphis, TN

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## Wednesday, June 28, 2023

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<b>10:00 am – 11:30 pm</b>	UI 101 Basics
<b>1:00 pm – 1:15 pm</b>	Welcome
<b>1:15 pm – 2:15 pm</b>	National Unemployment Insurance Program Update
<b>2:15 pm – 3:15 pm</b>	National Unemployment Insurance Legislative Update
<b>3:15 pm – 3:40 pm</b>	Afternoon Beverage Break
<b>3:40 pm – 4:40 pm</b>	Improving UI Through Collaboration
<b>4:40 pm – 5:40 pm</b>	UI Trust Fund Solvency - Are you Prepared?
<b>6:00 pm – 8:00 pm</b>	Welcome Reception

## Thursday, June 29, 2023

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<b>7:30 am – 8:30 am</b>	Breakfast
<b>8:30 am – 9:30 am</b>	UI Modernization Initiative and Implementation
<b>9:30 am – 10:30 am</b>	Review of the Economy and Impact on Unemployment
<b>10:30 am – 10:45 am</b>	Morning Beverage Break
<b>10:45 am – 11:50 am</b>	Benefit Charge and Tax Audit Issues and Solutions
<b>10:45 am – 11:45 am</b>	Current Federal Conformity and Compliance Issues
<b>12:00 pm – 2:15 pm</b>	Awards Luncheon
<b>2:15 pm – 3:30 pm</b>	Roundtable Discussion on UI Law and Policy Issues
<b>3:30 pm – 3:45 pm</b>	Afternoon Break
<b>3:45 pm – 5:00 pm</b>	Roll Call of Recent State Law Changes, New UI Legislation, Lawsuits...
<b>3:45 pm – 5:00 pm</b>	Quarterly Wage Reports and Occupation Information
<b>5:30 pm – 8:00 pm</b>	Reception

## Friday, June 30, 2023

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<b>8:30 am – 9:00 am</b>	Breakfast
<b>9:00 am – 10:00 am</b>	UI Benefit Overpayment and Recovery
<b>9:00 am – 10:00 am</b>	UI Appeals and Mock Hearing
<b>10:00 am – 10:15 am</b>	Morning Beverage Break
<b>10:15 am – 11:45 am</b>	UI Tax Filing and Payments - Interface Challenges for 3rd Party Providers
<b>10:15 am – 11:45 am</b>	Integrity Best Practices
<b>11:45 am – 12:00 pm</b>	Closing Remarks

## Easing the Unemployment Blues in Memphis

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June 28, 2023

On behalf of the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation, permit me to extend a warm welcome to the Annual National UI Issues Conference.

Thanks to UWC members and conference participants in meeting the challenges of 2021 and 2022 and for their outstanding contributions in research, public policy advocacy, and promoting Integrity and restoring the health of the UI system, and specifically:

- For the significant time and effort of the many experts with us here today, who put forth their analyses and recommendations on the key issues facing UI stakeholders.
- For the UI Topics Task Force, which developed an agenda reflecting both longstanding and new challenges.
- For the active participation from state and federal public officials.

As the only national association specifically representing the interests of the business community on unemployment insurance (UI) issues, UWC serves a foundational role in protecting and enhancing the UI program. This conference has become a critical annual event in the ongoing evolution of the UI system, by promoting productive dialogue between the stakeholders and highlighting administrative best practices, integrity, reemployment, and long-term solvency of the program.

The Foundation is proud to serve as host and is committed to continuing both the annual conference and our efforts to provide research and forums for dialogue in support of the UI program.

Again, welcome, and thank you for your interest and participation. Enjoy your time in Memphis!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Thomas P. Crowley'.

Thomas P. Crowley  
Chairman, Board of Trustees



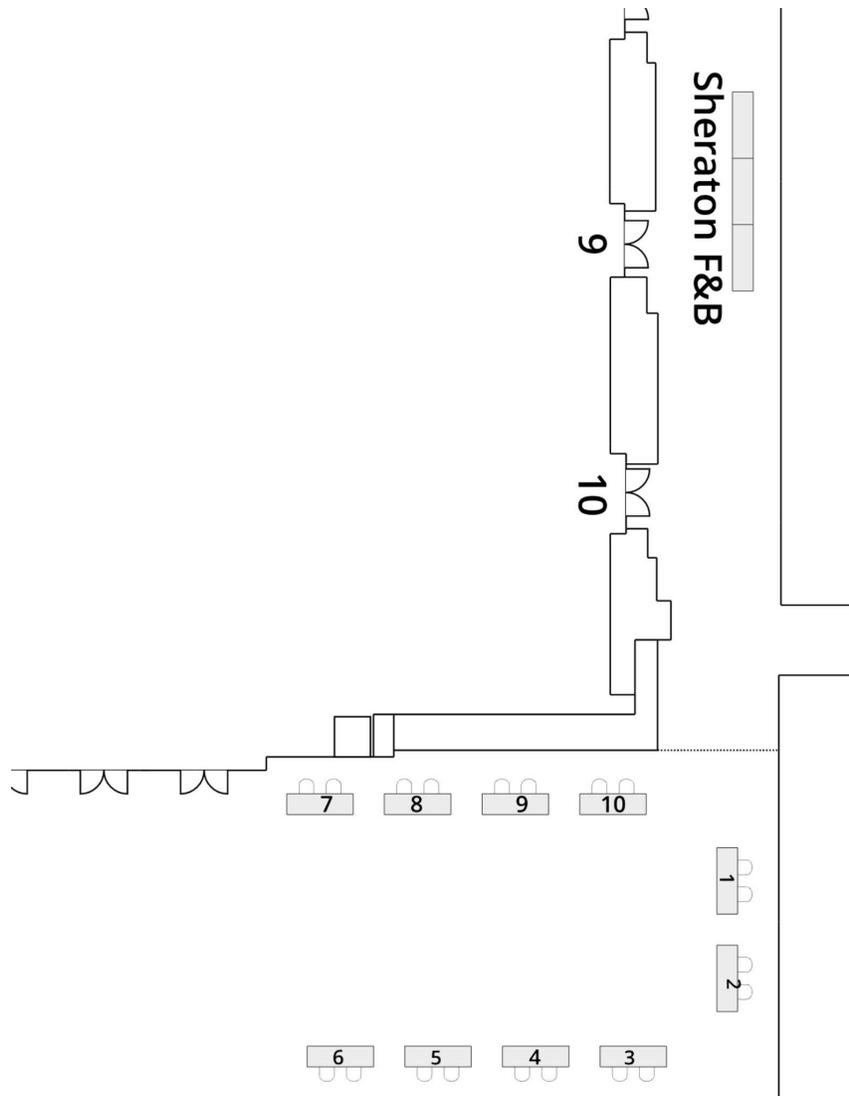


# Conference Hotel & Convention Center Details

## Sheraton Memphis Downtown Hotel

250 North Main Street  
Memphis, TN 38103  
phone (901) 527-7300

## Renasant Convention Center



# Sponsor Acknowledgements

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# Exhibitors Map

Booth #1



Booth #2



Booth #3



Booth #4



Booth #5



Booth #6



Booth #7



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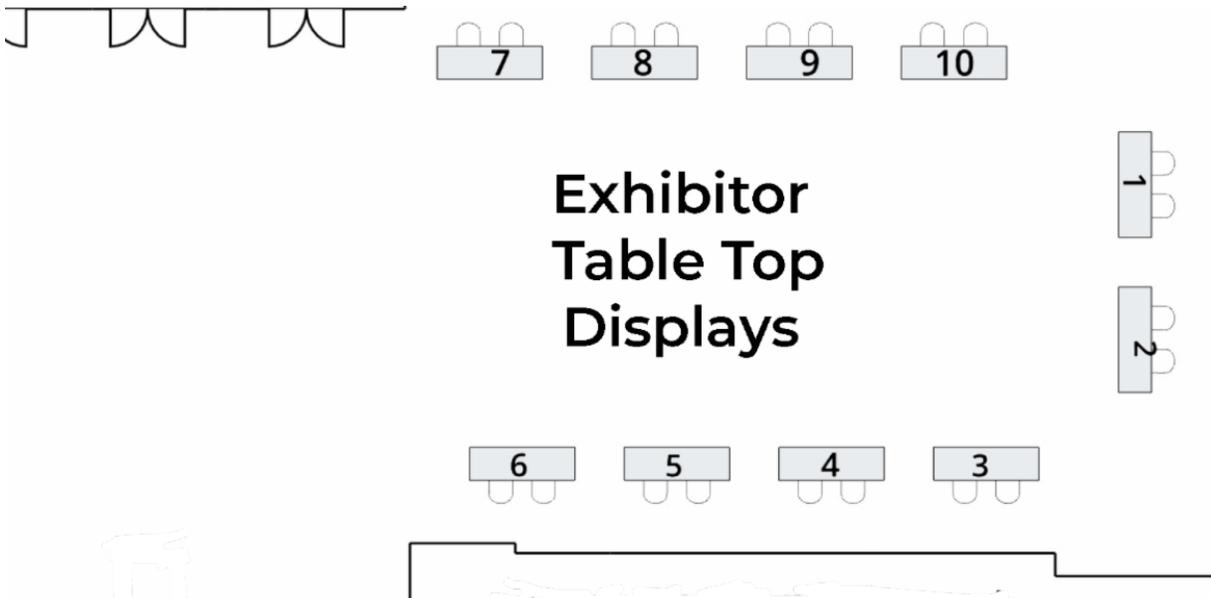
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Booth #9



Booth #10



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Contact Tobi Cates, UI Subject Matter Expert  
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Website [www.geographicsolutions.com](http://www.geographicsolutions.com)  
Contact Paul Toomey, President  
[PToomey@geosolinc.com](mailto:PToomey@geosolinc.com), (727) 786-7955  
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IEM helps clients prevent fraud, improve detection outcomes, and identify, investigate, and recover funds. We leverage big data and innovation tools, such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, to identify trends in potentially fraudulent applications and claims. IEM's proprietary tool, FraudSocial.IQ™, quickly pinpoints suspected fraud social networks within the client's claimants. Early identification of potential schemes allows for timely investigation and pursuit. Our team of former/retired law enforcement personnel, Certified Public Accountants, Certified Fraud Examiners and Internal Auditors, have experience developing law-enforcement-centric fraud packages to allow prosecutorial agencies to take faster action against UI fraud and recover funds from criminals. The IEM fraud packages are ready for prosecutorial agencies at the federal, state, and local level to carry forward with additional law enforcement actions (e.g., subpoenas, testimony) and bring perpetrators to justice. Our investigators put together a law enforcement ready package that includes: elements of the crime, including supporting evidence of UI fraud; recommendations of type(s) of criminal charge(s); core data required by the DOL OIG; and boilerplate language on UI program to be included in the indictment.

At IEM, we help our clients across the entire Anti-Fraud cycle to build resilience and mitigate future fraud risks. We seek to inform anti-fraud strategy and policy, provide process recommendations that address the most significant fraud risks and enhance fraud prevention, detection, response and remediation, promote equitable access, ensure timely benefit payments and reduce investigation backlog. Through improvement practices, we help to ensure unemployed workers expeditiously receive much-needed benefits while safeguarding tax dollars and save taxpayers' dollars in recovering funds.

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Contact Dora Pleasant, Fraud Investigations Practice Leader  
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422 County Road D East, Saint Paul, MN 55117



# Conference Agenda

*Wednesday, June 28, 2023*

## Registration

9:00 am – 5:00 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level Lobby

## Exhibits

1:00 pm - 5:40 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level Lobby

## UI 101 Basics

10:00 am - 11:30 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 5

[Julie Squire, Vice President of Policy and General Counsel, National Association of State Workforce Agencies \(NASWA\)](#)

*Dale Ziegler, Director, Government Relations, On Point Technology*

This session is designed to review the basics with respect to how Unemployment Insurance is funded through federal and state taxes and the fundamentals of administration. It is intended to provide information for individuals who are new to responsibilities related to unemployment insurance and provide a refresher for UI professionals.

## Welcome

1:00 pm - 1:15 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 8 - 10

*The Honorable Kevin Vaughan, Chair, Commerce Committee, Tennessee House of Representatives*

## National Unemployment Insurance Program Update

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 8 - 10

[Michelle Beebe, Deputy Administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor](#)

In this session, Deputy Administrator Beebe will provide an update on the primary performance metrics for Unemployment Insurance and the budget proposal and administrative plans for the US Department of Labor concerning unemployment insurance.

## National Unemployment Insurance Legislative Update

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm, Renaissance Convention Center - Lower Level 8 - 10

[Doug Holmes, President, UWC - Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation](#)

[Cheryl Vincent, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Work and Welfare, Committee on Ways and Means, US House of Representatives](#)

Stephanie Ferguson, *Director, Global Employment Policy & Special Initiatives, US Chamber of Commerce*

Amy Simon, *Principal, Simon Advisory*

This panel will review current federal legislation that is pending in the US House and Senate and the prospects for enactment of legislation related to Unemployment Insurance in 2023 and 2024.

## Afternoon Beverage Break

3:15 pm – 3:40 pm, Renaissance Convention Center - Lower Level Lobby

*Sponsored by Bronze Sponsor:*



## Improving UI Through Collaboration

3:40 pm – 4:40 pm, Renaissance Convention Center - Lower Level 8 - 10

Moderator: Doug Holmes, *President, UWC - Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation*

Panel:

Billy Dycus, *President, Tennessee State AFL-CIO*

Jim Brown, *Tennessee State Director, NFIB*

Rusty Felts, *Assistant Commissioner for Unemployment Insurance, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development*

Representatives of business, organized labor and the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development will discuss the challenges related to administration and policy with respect to unemployment insurance and how collaboration of the primary stakeholders can be effective in providing solutions.

## UI Trust Fund Solvency – Are you Prepared?

4:40 pm – 5:40 pm, Renaissance Convention Center - Lower Level 8 - 10

[Kevin Stapleton, Division Chief, Fiscal and Actuarial Services, Office of Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor](#)

[Ryan Gedney, Principal Economist, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment](#)

Kevin Stapleton will review the status of federal and state unemployment insurance trust funds after the pandemic, assess the health of state UI trust funds and provide guidance in preparing for the next recession. Stapleton will be joined by Ryan Gedney to describe how Colorado improved the solvency of the Colorado UI trust fund and how the state plans to address UI solvency in the coming year.

## Welcome Reception

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Lower Level 1

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*Thursday, June 29, 2023*

## Registration/Information Desk

7:00 am – 5:00 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level Lobby

## Breakfast

7:30 am – 8:30 am, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 1 - 3

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## Exhibits

8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level Lobby

## UI Modernization Initiative and Implementation

8:30 am – 9:30 am, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 8 - 10

[Andrew Stettner, Deputy Director for Policy, Office of UI Modernization, US Department of Labor](#)

Mr. Stettner will review the most recent policy directives and the availability of grants through US DOL to implement technology modernization projects that will make UI programs more resilient and able to adapt to changing UI programs and fraud threats. He will review initiatives and grants focused on operational improvements that prevent fraud and promote accuracy of benefits.

## Review of the Economy and Impact on Unemployment

9:30 am – 10:30 am, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 8 - 10

*Douglas Scarboro, Senior Vice President and Regional Executive, Memphis Branch, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis*

Douglas Scarboro will provide an economy outlook reviewing current and future macroeconomic conditions and how Fed actions potentially affect unemployment.

## Morning Beverage Break

10:30 am – 10:45 am, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level Lobby

*Sponsored by Bronze Sponsor:*



## Benefit Charge and Tax Audit Issues and Solutions

10:45 am – 11:50 am, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 8 - 10

[Christina Corbett, SIDES Operations Manager, National Association of State Workforce Agencies \(NASWA\)](#)

*Rusty Felts, Assistant Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development*

*Rich Siegel, President, Association of Unemployment Tax Organizations (AUTO)*

As states and employers return to normal benefit charging and auditing procedures there remain system issues to be resolved to assure proper administration and to prepare for the next recession. The panel will discuss the expanded use of SIDES and coordination between states and business representatives.

## Current Federal Conformity and Compliance Issues

10:45 am – 11:45 am, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 6 - 7

[Daniel Hays, Division Chief, Legislation, Office of Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor](#)

State legislation is required to meet certain benefit payment provisions, including due process, and experience rating requirements as a condition of federal grant funding and certification for FUTA offset credits. Daniel Hays will review federal requirements and recent issues that have been addressed with state UI legislative proposals and enactments.

## Awards Luncheon

12:00 pm – 2:15 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 1 - 3

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## Roundtable Discussion on UI Law and Policy Issues

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 8 - 10

Moderator: Doug Holmes, *President, UWC - Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation*

Panel:

Tony Fiore, *Of Counsel, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter*

Julie Squire, *Vice President of Policy and General Counsel, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)*

State law and administrative practices vary in defining “fraud” and determining how best to assure that individuals receive due process while also avoiding identity theft. These issues will be examined in round table sessions with UI state administrators, employer representatives, federal officials, and worker representatives. The panel will facilitate the roundtable discussions of options to address these issues and solutions for consideration.

## Afternoon Break

3:30 pm – 3:45 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level Lobby

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## Roll Call of Recent State Law Changes, New UI Legislation, Lawsuits and Rethinking Return to Work

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 8 - 10

Michelle Beebe, *Deputy Administrator, Office of Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor*

Julie Squire, *Vice President of Policy and General Counsel, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)*

Stephanie Ferguson, *Director, Global Employment Policy & Special Initiatives, US Chamber of Commerce*

Please join our discussion on recent and potential legislation impacting unemployment insurance. Topics will include the President's proposed FY24 budget, policy issues identified by NASWA and the US Chamber of Commerce, and an opportunity for you to share information about new UI legislation.

## Quarterly Wage Reports and Occupation Information

3:45 pm – 5:00 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 6 - 7

[Tom Crowley, Director, Government Affairs UI, ADP](#)

John Albin, *Commissioner, Nebraska Department of Labor*

[Jason Tyszko, Senior Vice President, US Chamber of Commerce Foundation](#)

Marnie Byford, *Chief Operating Officer, Supreme Staffing*

Legislation has been proposed at the federal and state level to add occupation information and other data elements to be reported by employers. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has also developed a voluntary, public-private, standards-based approach for how employers share information about jobs and employment in ways that can reduce reporting burden while improving workforce data. The panel will review legislation and the various proposals and discuss the impact on employers and state workforce agencies of administrative burden and the value of information in connecting education with jobs in the labor market.

## Reception

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm, Renasant Convention Center – Lower Level: 1 -3/Lobby

Entertainment provided by The Kennard Farmer Collective (KFC)

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*Friday, June 30, 2023*

## Registration/Information Desk

7:00 am - 12:00 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level Lobby

## Breakfast

8:00 am – 9:00 am, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 1 - 3

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## Exhibits

8:00 am – 12:00 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level Lobby

## UI Benefit Overpayment and Recovery

9:00 am – 10:00 am, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 8 - 10

Tom Kusnirik, *Director of Business Development and Delivery, On Point Technology*

Brooks Abramson, *Senior Special Agent on UI Fraud, Office of Inspector General, US Department of Labor*

Amy Simon, *Principal, Simon Advisory*

Matt Weidinger, *Senior Fellow and Rowe Scholar, American Enterprise Institute*

In light of the dramatic increase in fraud and UI benefit overpayments, recovery of overpayments has become a priority for legislation and UI administration. The panel will discuss reports reviewing the scale of fraud and overpayments and methods that have been developed for states and federal agencies to avoid fraud, increase benefit overpayment recovery, and prosecute fraud.

## UI Appeals and Mock Hearing

9:00 am – 10:00 am, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 6 - 7

Magnus Hines, *Unemployment Insurance Development Executive, Geographic Solutions, Inc.*

Kevin Britt, *Senior Manager, Claims Services, Equifax Workforce Solutions*

Julie Rezes, *Client Relationship Manager, Equifax Workforce Solutions*

[Lori Roberts, Senior Manager, UI Program Relationship, Equifax Workforce Solutions](#)

Tiffany Strauss, *Senior Director, Employer Tax Services, Equifax Workforce Solutions*

Unemployment benefit appeals include close examination of the terms and conditions of employment and the development of facts with respect to the justification for employment termination and/or whether an individual may have had good cause to quit work. The panel will conduct a mock hearing and review the key points to address in these administrative hearings.

## Morning Beverage Break

10:00 am – 10:15 am, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level Lobby

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## UI Tax Filing and Payments – Interface Challenges for 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Providers

10:15 am – 11:45 am, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 8 - 10

[Tom Crowley, Director, Government Affairs - UI, ADP](#)

Proper administration of Unemployment Insurance requires close coordination between state workforce agencies and employer 3rd party representatives that provide UI quarterly reports and respond to requests with respect to the reason for unemployment and unemployment tax audits. Mr. Crowley will review the interfaces between states and 3rd party providers and suggest areas for improvement.

## Integrity Best Practices

10:15 am – 11:45 am, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 6- 7

[Jim Van Erden, Senior Policy Advisor, National Association of State Workforce Agencies \(NASWA\)](#)

[Jeff Ficke, CEO, Russell Allen Partners](#)

[John Jasek, Special Agent, Criminal Investigative Division, US Secret Service](#)

The Integrity of the Unemployment Insurance system has been called into question in light of the significant increase in fraud and overpayments in the state based system. Congress has acted to increase administrative funding available to states to assist in updating old systems that may be vulnerable to fraudsters and to address system capacity and verification of the identity of applicants for unemployment insurance. The panel will provide an update on the NASWA Integrity Center, efforts to reduce fraud in the system, and the status of criminal prosecutions.

## Closing Remarks

11:45 am – 12:00 pm, Renasant Convention Center - Lower Level 8 - 10

# 2023 Award Recipients

Each year UWC accepts nominations for awards to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in research, public policy, UI system integrity and contributions to UWC. A Recognition Awards committee reviews nominations and selects individuals for recognition at the annual National UI Issues Conference.

We are pleased to announce recognition awards for 2023 at this conference

**The J. Eldred Hill, Jr. Awards:** This award is named for J. Eldred Hill, Jr., former president of UWC (then UBA), and is given to an individual for excellence in the public policy arena in service to the employer community.

**The UI Integrity Award:** This award is given to recognize demonstrated commitment to preserving the integrity of the unemployment system.

**The Father Becker Award:** This award is given in recognition of excellence in UI Research that enables sound policy.

For 2023 UWC and the NFUCWC recognize four individuals to receive the J. Eldred Hill, Jr. award, one to receive the UI Integrity Award, and one to receive the Father Becker Award.

Please join us in congratulating these individuals in recognizing their outstanding contributions to the Unemployment Insurance system.

Sincerely,



Douglas J. Holmes  
President

## **J. Eldred Hill, Jr. Award Recipient**

### **Governor Kim Reynolds**

Governor Kim Reynolds is the 43<sup>rd</sup> Governor of Iowa and has the distinction of being the first woman elected to the state's highest office. She first became governor in May 2017. During her time in office, she has championed reforms that have transformed the unemployment insurance system in Iowa into one that now focuses on reemployment for Iowans.

Governor Reynolds led the country in recognizing the need to restore the balance in the state UI trust fund that had been depleted due to the COVID-19 shutdowns. Governor Reynolds deposited \$490 million of CARES Act funds and \$237 million of ARPA funds into the Iowa unemployment insurance trust fund.



The first action allowed employers to remain in Tax Table 7 for 2021, saving employers over \$400 million in unemployment insurance taxes. In 2022, Governor Reynolds spearheaded the passage of House File 2355, which will reduce pay outs from the unemployment insurance trust fund by \$75 million dollars annually.

Employers moved from Tax Table 7 to Tax Table 8 for 2023; the lowest tax table permitted by state law. This is the first-time employers have been in Tax Table 8 since 1999. Employers will see over \$100 million in unemployment insurance tax relief in 2023 due to being in Tax Table 8. Employers will see, on average, a 25% reduction in their unemployment insurance taxes in 2023 compared to 2022.

Governor Reynolds ended Iowa's participation in federal pandemic-related unemployment benefit programs on June 12, 2021.

In the face of the tremendous challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on the state UI trust fund, Governor Reynolds provided leadership by acting in a timely and decisive way to restore solvency to the UI trust fund, provide relief to employers, and address the long term solvency of the state UI trust fund for unemployed workers and businesses in Iowa.

We are honored to recognize Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds with the J. Eldred Hill Jr. award for her leadership in Unemployment Insurance.

## **J. Eldred Hill, Jr. Award Recipient**

### **Mario Poretto**

Mario Poretto is the President and CEO of First Nonprofit (FNP), a division of The Amynta Group, a leading company in managing unemployment cost control and alternative funding programs for nonprofit, governmental and tribal employers.

Mr. Poretto spent more than 35 years serving in executive positions in the insurance and risk management industry with an emphasis on unemployment and workers compensation programs. He is a prominent member of the Association of Unemployment Tax Organization (AUTO) and works closely with UWC and the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation.



Unemployment caused by the pandemic of 2020 and 2021 resulted in charges to reimbursing employer accounts that could not have been anticipated and in many cases would have exhausted reimbursing trust fund reserves. In the face of this historic challenge for non-profit and reimbursing employers, Mr. Poretto led the formation of the Nonprofit UI Relief Coalition to educate congress, governors, and state legislatures about the impact of the pandemic on non-profit employers and the need for relief from charges to employer accounts.

The coalition developed and implemented a plan that was successful in securing a 50% federal credit for reimbursing employer accounts in the CARES Act, a subsequent 75% credit pursuant to the Protecting Nonprofits from Catastrophic Cash Flow Strain Act, executive orders issued by governors, and state legislation to provide relief.

Without Mario's leadership in this critical period, a majority of the nation's reimbursing entities would have incurred crippling charges to their accounts. Mr. Poretto continues his dedication to ensuring that the Nation's UI system protects employers, particularly those in the often overlooked non-profit sector. We are honored to recognize Mario Poretto for his leadership in Unemployment Insurance.

## **J. Eldred Hill, Jr. Award Recipients**



Senator Bob D. Hackett



Representative Mark D. Fraizer

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Ohio's unemployment system was unprecedented. Ohio's unemployment rate increased from 4.7% in February 2020 to a peak of 17.4% in April 2020. And, unlike the great recession, the resulting unemployment claims rose overnight. The number of initial applications jumped from approximately 7,000 filed the week ending March 14, 2020, to 196,000 claims filed the week ending March 21, 2020, with another 275,00 initial claims the week after that.

Antiquated systems, historically low staffing levels, and the federal government's implementation of four entirely new unemployment programs presented challenges. Despite these challenges, Ohio distributed approximately \$24 billion in unemployment benefits to 2.4 million claimants in the first 18 months of the pandemic.

The Ohio General Assembly created a bipartisan council that examined Ohio's unemployment system, from the technological infrastructure used by claimants and employers to the processes and people that ultimately ensure Ohioans receive benefits.

In early 2021, the Unemployment Modernization and Improvement Council began meeting under the leadership of Senator Hackett and then Representative Fraizer. The Council established a framework that drove efforts to address emerging issues and lasting change.

Weekly council meetings helped maintain a regular cadence, allowing ODJFS to share updates on claims processing progress and customer service improvements. The Council brought together business owners, associations, customer service and security experts, and constituents to offer perspectives and recommendations for improvements, many of which were implemented. It was an invaluable partnership that provided a direct connection to constituent concerns and became an incubator for ideas and answers.

## ***Easing the Unemployment Blues in Memphis***

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Sen. Hackett and Rep. Fraizer led the development of Senate Bill 302, which was passed by the Ohio Legislature on Dec. 14, 2022, and signed by Governor DeWine on Jan. 2, 2023. It codified several of the council's recommendations and lessons learned into law, including:

- Establishing data-sharing agreements between ODJFS and several other state agencies for better identity verification and fraud prevention.
- Having an income eligibility and verification effort in place prior to launching any future federally mandated programs.
- Maintaining an online eligibility reporting portal for employers.
- Making changes to improve the appeals process.

It is our honor to recognize Senator Hackett and Representative Fraizer for their leadership in developing legislation and policy to improve the UI system.



## **UI Integrity Award 2023**

### **Jerry Pectol**

Jerry Pectol has worked in the Unemployment Insurance field since being hired as a temporary employee in the Bartlesville Local Office at the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) in 1986.

During his 25-year career with OESC, Jerry worked as a Claims Manager, Office Manager, Area Manager, and Call Center Chief.

From 2004 until his retirement from state service in 2011 Jerry was the Director of Unemployment Insurance for the State of Oklahoma. During that time, he managed many successful UI technology projects including a new Call Center system in 2004.



In July 2011 Jerry Pectol joined the National SIDES Team as a part-time liaison for the states and employers working to implement SIDES. In April 2013 Mr. Pectol joined NASWA as the Operations Director of SIDES and in September 2014 he became the SIDES Director. The SIDES Director is responsible for supporting a national Unemployment Insurance (UI) system to allow state UI agencies to communicate electronically with employers and their representatives referred to as Third Party Administrators (TPAs). Fifty of the fifty three state UI agencies and thirty of the largest Employer/TPAs, representing almost 50% of the national UI activity have committed to SIDES. Mr. Pectol is responsible for the SIDES system, directing and participating in the development and implementation of SIDES states. Jerry Pectol also facilitates and leads discussion at all SIDES training programs with states, employers, and third party administrators.

As SIDES Director, Jerry has diligently and continuously worked to improve and expand the use of all aspects of SIDES nationally. Jerry fostered the development of improvements to many of the SIDES Exchanges and has promoted the view of SIDES as a valuable integrity tool to protect state UI Trust Funds. Under Jerry's leadership, the SIDES Operations Committee in coordination with the SIDES Leadership Team developed a Fraud Indicator in the Separation Information Exchange to assist state agencies and Third Party Administrators (TPAs) and Employers (Integrated Partners) in addressing the rampant and insidious criminal fraudulent activity in the system. Jerry's efforts to improve relations between TPAs and State Agencies has also set the foundation for better trust and cooperation resulting in more effective Fraud and Improper Payment prevention.

For his years of service in fostering positive relations between states, employers and TPAS and his attention to development of tools in SIDES to address fraud and improve integrity, we are pleased to recognize Jerry Pectol with the UI Integrity Award.

## **Father Becker Award 2023**

### **Phillip Hayes**

Phillip Hayes has been THE Kansas UI expert since 2010, helping with significant restructuring of the UI tax structure, modernization efforts, and integrity solutions adopted by the Kansas Legislature since early 2000. As a business owner frustrated with significant SUTA fluctuations, Hayes began researching and educating himself on the various statutes governing Employment Security Law in Kansas and other states. Leading up to the Great Recession, it became clear all Kansas employers and employees would benefit from an updated and modernized unemployment system focused on predictability, certainty, and stability to meet the changing demands of the evolving employment landscape.



In 2010, Hayes established the KS Unemployment Insurance Reform Committee through KS SHRM and the KS Chamber of Commerce – and helped build the coalition needed to advocate for changes. Hayes’ expertise was extremely impactful and influenced initial reforms adopted in the early 2010’s. Further fueled by the state’s trust fund insolvency challenges and lingering SUTA tax impacts resulting from the Great Recession, his research and analysis continued, leading to the development of software models that simulate a variety of variables and scenarios regarding changes to the SUTA financing model.

Through his hours of research, Mr. Hayes was able to achieve the shared goals of taxation fairness, security in the trust fund, and a more predictable and consistent taxing system. Ironically, in 2015 when the financing reforms were pursued, state regulators felt Mr. Hayes’ changes carried potential risk to fund solvency. However, a year later, a majority of employers had lower taxes and the trust fund grew more quickly than expected, exceeding original projections.

Kansas was one of the worst hit states for UI fraud and abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 300,000 Kansans had their identities stolen and close to \$600M in fraudulent payments were disbursed due to the antiquated UI system. Mr. Hayes led efforts to modernize the antiquated system, establish a fair bidding process, and helped in the vendor selection through his position on the UI Modernization Council, which was charged with ensuring completion of the modernization effort. Today, even after weathering the challenges and fraud occurring during the pandemic, the Kansas trust fund balance has grown to more than \$1.3B, allowing most employers to enjoy a tax reduction that more fairly reflects their utilization of the system.

Overall, Mr. Hayes’ efforts have led to a more stable, sustainable, predictable and equitable unemployment insurance system for all KS employers. The UI reforms led by Mr. Hayes have and will continue to ensure UI program integrity, increased labor participation and re-employability. As much of the nation continues to debate UI reform, Kansas serves as a model state regarding what can be accomplished by having a champion lead while balancing practical policy with political reality. We are honored to recognize Phillip M. Hayes with the Father Becker Award for his major contributions to UI research and transformative impact in the state of Kansas.

## Speaker Biographies



### Brooks Abramson

*Senior Special Agent, U.S. Department of Labor-OIG (HQ)*

Senior Special Agent (SSA) Brooks Abramson works for DOL-OIG's Office of Investigations. He is assigned to headquarters where he serves as the Agency's National Unemployment Insurance Fraud Coordinator. Prior to joining OIG HQ, SSA Abramson was an OIG field agent assigned to the OIG's Chicago, Illinois Field Office. In that capacity, SSA Abramson investigated numerous high-impact UI fraud matters, and consulted with special agents in the Midwest Region of the United States on matters related to complex UI fraud investigations.



### John Albin

*Commissioner of Labor, Nebraska Department of Labor*

John H. Albin was appointed as Commissioner of Labor by Governor Pete Ricketts in January 2015 and retained by current Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen. Prior to becoming Commissioner, Albin served as the Acting Commissioner and General Counsel to the Nebraska Department of Labor. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Nebraska, College of Law and was admitted to practice in 1979. Immediately after graduation, Albin worked for the Nebraska Legislature as a legislative aide, committee counsel and bill drafter before entering private practice in 1982. Albin joined the Department of Labor as an administrative law judge in 1990, moved to the Legal Division in 1993 and became General Counsel in 2000. In October 2014, he received the Legal Award of Merit from the National

Association of State Workforce Agencies, Legal Issue Forum, for contributions to the unemployment insurance program. The Department's reemployment program earned the 2016 Full Employment Best Practices Award. Albin currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research Advisory Board, the United Way of the Midlands' Jobs for America's Graduates advisory board, and is a member of the Nebraska State Bar Association and its Government Practice Section.

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### Michelle Beebe

*Deputy Administrator, Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor*

Michelle Beebe serves as the deputy administrator of the Office of Unemployment Insurance in the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. She joined the federal government in December 2019 as director of the Division of Legislation and assumed her current role in July 2022. Prior to her federal service, Michelle oversaw the Unemployment Insurance programs in Utah and then in Michigan – two states of very different sizes and methods of administration. In that role, she chaired the NASWA UI Committee 2017-2018. Michelle also served with the national UI Integrity Center, first as a member of the steering committee and then as a senior subject matter expert in coordinating

state intensive services. Michelle earned a Bachelor of Science in philosophy and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Utah.



### Kevin Britt

*Senior Manager, Claims Services, Equifax Workforce Solutions*

Kevin leads a team of consultants who work directly with employer clients advising on individual claims and hearings as well as providing expert consultation to help the clients develop an effective unemployment cost management program. Kevin works closely with the UI Program Relationship team to foster strong relationships with our state and federal UI agency partners and help the Equifax operations team stay up to date with developments and changes in the UI program. Over his 26 year career with Equifax and its predecessors, Kevin has represented employers in hundreds of unemployment hearings and presented numerous training sessions to employers. Kevin is a graduate of Creighton University School of Law.



### Jim Brown

*State Director, Tennessee, National Federation of Independent Business*

Jim Brown is the Tennessee State Director for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), Tennessee's and the nation's leading small-business advocacy association. Brown's responsibilities include lobbying on behalf of NFIB Tennessee's members, as well as overseeing the organization's grassroots activity across Tennessee and serving as NFIB Tennessee's media spokesperson.

Before joining NFIB, Jim was the corporate communications director at Gaylord Entertainment and the business editor of The City Paper in Nashville. Jim served in the U.S. Navy as a Supply Officer on a nuclear cruiser out of Norfolk, Virginia, overseeing four separate divisions. He graduated from Vanderbilt University with a bachelor's degree in

communication in 1987. He's also the author of a book titled "Ending Our Uncivil War: A Path to Political Recovery & Spiritual Renewal."

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**Marnie Byford**

*Chief Operating Officer, Supreme Staffing*

Marnie Byford excels at developing and implementing strong operational teams in the staffing industry by combining strong educational and leadership skills with insights about the staffing industry. I believe that a strong operational team can inspire people within the community to step out of their comfort zones and drive an industry they care about and ultimately allow that to make a bigger impact on the labor market.

Marnie graduated from Mississippi State University with a BS in Educational Psychology and a master's degree in MHA/ED.

She has been in the staffing industry since 2005. Marnie started in the Department of Corrections in Mississippi and worked her way into Light Industrial/Logistics/Executive Industry to the present date. She is a huge advocate for education and learning and takes pride in serving my community and helping with local charities.



**Christina Corbett**

*SIDES Operations Manager, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)*

Christina Corbett is the Operations Manager for the NASWA State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES). Christina started her unemployment career with the Kansas Department of Labor in April 2007 as a customer service representative, processing claims. She also held roles as an adjudicator, quality assurance specialist, intake supervisor, and technical lead. In 2014, she added the SIDES Coordinator position. She obtained her state project management certification in 2019 while working as a business analyst and holds an associate degree from Allen Community College in Business Management. Christina joined the NASWA team in 2020 as the

SIDES Program Specialist before becoming the Program Manager in October 2022 and was promoted to Operations Manager in May 2023.



**Thomas Crowley**

*Director, Government Affairs - UI, ADP, Inc.*

Tom has been Director – Government Affairs - UI for ADP, LLC since January 2015 where he is responsible for relationship management for ADP with state unemployment insurance (UI) tax agencies. He is also the current Chairman, Board of Trustees of the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation. For the nearly 9 years prior to joining ADP he served as the UI Tax Chief for the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington DC where he provided national leadership for the Office of Unemployment Insurance to fulfill Federal oversight responsibilities for the state UI tax programs. Prior to Federal service he served for 30 years in various leadership positions for the State of Maryland in the area of UI tax

administration. He is a graduate of Loyola College in Baltimore, MD with a degree in accounting and currently resides in Apollo Beach, Florida.

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### Billy Dycus

*President, Tennessee AFL-CIO Labor Council*

Billy Dycus, a proud United Steelworkers member for over 20 years, is a 1974 alumnus of Shelbyville Central High School. After graduating from Training and Technology at the Y-12 complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, he spent 16 years working as a contractor in the field of non-destructive testing in the nuclear, fossil, and paper industries. Billy is a member of USW Local 7509 (Eaton Corporation) and USW Local 1155L (Bridgestone/Firestone.) He served two terms as vice president of USW Local 1155L before being re-elected as president in April 2015. Since October of 2015, he has served as president of the Tennessee AFL-CIO Labor Council in Nashville.



### Rusty Felts

*Assistant Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce*

Rusty Felts, Assistant Commissioner of Unemployment Insurance, has worked for the state of Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development for 24 ½ years. He started out as a part-time Interviewer and worked his way up through Training, Supervision, Management, Director of Claims Operations then to Assistant Commissioner in 2016. He has served as Assistant Commissioner for the Employment Security Division since 2016. He is a recent graduate of LEAD TN, a Tennessee Department of Human Resources-sponsored statewide leadership program.



### Stephanie Ferguson

*Director, Global Employment Policy & Special Initiatives, US Chamber of Commerce*

Ferguson's portfolio is comprised of Unemployment Insurance, International Labor, Non-Compete Agreements, and Workers' Compensation policy. Ferguson also oversees the U.S. Chamber's Data Center Initiative. Ferguson has been a prominent advocate for Unemployment Insurance Modernization and recently represented U.S. employers at the International Labor Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. She earned her B.A. in Political Science and Spanish Language & Literature as well as her Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Nevada.



**Jeff Ficke**

*Managing Partner & Founder, Russell Allen Partners*

Jeff Ficke has over 35 years of experience driving transformation in customer experience and integration of technology-driven solutions in financial services, government and FinTech. Jeff's most recent role is leading the State of Ohio's Public-Private Partnership in response to the pandemic's impact on unemployment. Jeff's experience includes roles at Fifth Third Bank leading Commercial Treasury Management and launching the Enterprise Payments Division and leading Central Operations. Jeff was a founding partner at GovConneJect (sold to First Data Corporation) where he led the company from a startup to a successful business that supported over 25 states with process reengineering and technology deployment in government agencies.



**Tony Fiore**

*Of Counsel, Kegler Brown Hill + Ritter*

Tony Fiore is a demonstrated advocate with exceptional knowledge of local, state and federal laws and of national and international legal and business regulations. He is a recognized leader among businesses and state and national trade associations. His career is marked by his leadership in bringing about significant reforms to Ohio and other states' unemployment programs, as well as Ohio's civil justice system. He developed and coordinated the Ohio Chamber's advocacy for the most comprehensive reforms to Ohio's Fair Employment Practices Act since its creation. In addition, Fiore counsels companies on best practices within the workplace, risk management strategies for state-funded and self-insured entities, as well as legislative and administrative changes that impact a company's bottom line. Tony works closely with human resource management professionals across Ohio and in Washington, D.C., through his service as the government affairs director on the Ohio State Council of SHRM. He also serves as editor of the Highlights of State Unemployment Compensation Laws publication of the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation.



**Ryan Gedney**

*Principal Economist, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment*

Ryan Gedney is the principal economist for the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. Ryan evaluates data and generates forecasts related to Colorado's UI trust fund and oversees monitoring and recommendations tied to improving the fund's solvency. He also analyzes Colorado and U.S. labor market trends and is responsible for handling media and customer data requests, inquiries, and interviews. Ryan holds a bachelor's degree in communications from Colorado State University and a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Colorado at Denver.

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### Daniel Hays

*Division Chief, Legislation, Office of Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor*

Born and raised in north central Missouri, after graduating from Marceline High School Daniel went on to graduate from Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri with a B.A. in Political Science. After graduating from Westminster College Daniel worked in the Missouri House of Representatives as a chief of staff with specialties of education and labor law. From there Daniel went on to work for Missouri's Secretary of State in the Office of Elections and in the Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations working in multiple capacities related to the state's unemployment compensation program. In 2006 Daniel accepted a position with the United States Department of Labor as an Unemployment Insurance Program Specialist, eventually serving in his current capacity as Director of the Division of Legislation within the Office of Unemployment Insurance. Among his many professional activities Daniel is a past international president of the International Association of Workforce Professionals. Outside of work, Daniel is active in a number of nonprofit organizations focused on serving the LGBTQ+ community.



### Magnus Hines

*UI Development Executive, Geographic Solutions, Inc.*

Magnus Hines has nearly 20 years of experience in unemployment insurance. Prior to joining Geographic Solutions in 2020, Magnus served as the UI Director for the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). During his time with DEO, he presided over 10,000 unemployment insurance benefit and tax hearings and went on to manage all unemployment insurance appeals for the state of Florida. In his current role, Magnus uses his knowledge of the challenges and constraints placed upon state labor agencies to help clients find the ideal solution using the GUS system.



### Doug Holmes

*President, UWC Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation (UWC)*

Doug Holmes began as President of UWC- Strategic Services on Unemployment & Workers' Compensation in November 2006, after more than 22 years in positions in the public sector in which he developed policy and administered state workforce and employment and training programs as well as the federal/state UI system. He also serves as President of the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation and edits the Highlights of State Unemployment Compensation Laws report each year tracking changes in state and federal unemployment insurance law and comparing the primary features of state UI laws.

In his career prior to being selected as President of UWC, Doug served as Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Deputy Administrator of the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Director of the Unemployment Compensation Division of the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services, Ohio UI Tax Director, Chief Legal Counsel for Unemployment Insurance, and Secretary of the Ohio Unemployment Compensation Advisory Council. He regularly serves as a subject matter expert on UI for congressional committees with jurisdiction over Unemployment Insurance. Doug has testified on Unemployment Insurance policy and legislation before the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Ways and Means. Doug is an Attorney, and graduate of the Ohio State University and the University of Toledo College of Law.





**John Jasek**

*US Secret Service (USSS) Special Agent, Criminal Investigative Division, Global Investigative Operations Center*

John Jasek is a United States Secret Service (USSS) Special Agent assigned to the Criminal Investigative Division, Global Investigative Operations Center. SA Jasek has been a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service for approximately five years and was previously assigned to the United States Secret Service Manchester, New Hampshire Resident Office. SA Jasek's duties include the investigation of federal offenses, including those involving financial fraud and its related activities. SA Jasek has received additional training regarding computers that includes Basic Network Intrusion Responder Training, Incident Response Analysis, and Cryptocurrency training. Currently, SA Jasek is a Staff Coordinator at the National Unemployment Insurance Fraud Task Force (NUIFTF). The NUIFTF was created by the Department of Justice in response to a rapidly emerging trend of unemployment insurance fraud. The NUIFTF works closely with the International Organized Crime Intelligence and Operations Center (IOC-2) and five other federal law enforcement agencies.



**Tom Kusnirik**

*Director of Business Development & Delivery, On Point Technology: A Catalis Company*

Tom Kusnirik has worked in the IT field for over 25 years, with 23 years spent directly working with Unemployment Insurance technology. Tom joined On Point Technology in April 2020 as the Director of Software Services and Delivery. During Tom's time at On Point, he has assisted in the adoption of the Optimum Integrity Cloud while helping advance the existing customer base fraud prevention and recovery efforts. Prior to On Point, Tom worked at ITSC as Director of Software Services and Delivery from May 2010 to April 2020. During his time with ITSC, Tom has acted as a technical advisor on multiple consortia and single state UI modernization projects. Tom has also led the UI/ES connectivity project for ITSC, working with multiple states on both business and IT process automation and streamlining the connection between the organizations.

During his time at New Jersey Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD), Tom was part of a team responsible for the design, development, and implementation of the NJ Reemployment Call Center (RCC) system and application used for the filing of Unemployment Insurance Claims. Tom was later promoted to lead multiple other Information Technology projects for NJLWD during his time with the agency. Tom was the technical lead for the development of the NJ modernization project, UI SIDES, Initial Claims processing applications. Tom was the PM and technical lead in the Developer Mentoring project, which was a state initiative to foster career development for legacy system developers to a newer fourth-generation programming language.

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### Julie Rezes

*Client Relationship Manager, Equifax Workforce Solutions*

As a Client Relationship Manager with the UC Trust Success team at Equifax Workforce Solutions, Julie Rezes supports Reimbursing 501(c)(3) organizations. In this role she is responsible for developing strategic working relationships with the Trustees, Executive Directors, the member agencies, as well as the vendors that work to support and grow the Trust program while helping them to achieve their strategic goals. Julie has over 30 years of experience in the Unemployment Industry, working with both large and small organizations in various industries to help reduce risk, streamline processes and enhance the overall effectiveness of their UC programs.



### Lori Roberts

*Senior Manager UI Program Relationship, Equifax Workforce Solutions*

In this role, Lori Roberts and the UIPR team fosters lines of communication with key state and federal UI Program leaders to enhance the integrity of the program through engagement and collaboration. Currently serving as the Board of Directors Vice Chair for UWC, Inc., Lori is a past recipient of the J. Eldred Hill Jr. Award, a national leadership award for excellence in the public policy matters in service to the employer community. During her tenure of 30+ years in the UI sector, Lori has been a frequent presenter for a variety of UI Program webinars and conferences, and has been a contributing writer for industry publications such as the Journal of State Taxation. Lori is a summa cum laude graduate of The Ohio State University.



### Tiffany Strauss

*Senior Director, Employer Tax Services, Equifax Workforce Solutions*

Tiffany Strauss is a 22 year veteran in the UI industry. In this role, Tiffany leads several teams that service approximately 8,000 employer clients and collaborate with state agencies on UI Tax matters. Tiffany also stays abreast of changes that may impact the teams and employer clients. Tiffany has a Bachelor's Degree in Management and Leadership and is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio.



**Douglas Scarboro**

*SVP/Regional Executive, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis - Memphis Branch*

Douglas Scarboro is senior vice president and regional executive of the Memphis Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Douglas became head of the Memphis Branch in June 2015. The Branch serves western Tennessee, northern Mississippi and eastern Arkansas. Douglas is a member of the Management Committee, the central policymaking body of the Bank that is responsible for setting the direction of the organization. Previously, Douglas served in dual roles with the city of Memphis: executive director of the Office of Talent and Human Capital and chief learning officer.

Douglas is active in the Memphis community and serves on the boards of several organizations, including the Better Business Bureau, Barret School of Banking, Church Health, Methodist Le Bonheur Hospital National Leadership Council, Start Co and The State of Tennessee Health Services & Development Agency. He has completed the Leadership Development Intensive and Fellows programs at the New Memphis Institute, as well as the Executive program at Leadership Memphis. He has been named as a Top 40 Under 40 recipient and a Power Player for Banking Administration by the Memphis Business Journal and as one of the Power 100 in the Memphis Business Journal since the list's inception.

Douglas has a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Morehouse College in Atlanta, an M.B.A. from Campbell University in Buies Creek, N.C., a masters in healthcare administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an Ed.D. in higher and adult education from the University of Memphis. Additionally, he completed the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and the Value Measurement for Healthcare program at Harvard Business School.



**Richard Siegel**

*President, Unemployment Tax Management Corp/Association of Unemployment Tax Organizations*

Rich Siegel is the President of Unemployment Tax Management Corp. Siegel has over 34 years of experience representing employers before states' Employment Security Divisions. Siegel continues to serve current clients as well as sitting on numerous business advocacy committees that relate to unemployment compensation. Siegel also currently serves as President of the national association of Third Party Administrators-The Association of Unemployment Tax Organizations ("AUTO"). AUTO was founded in 1979 to promote, protect and improve the integrity, administration and operation of the nation's unemployment compensation system for all parties participating in

the system- claimants, employers and state agencies. In this position, Richard Siegel chairs numerous committee boards, such as Legislative, Standards and State Information Data Exchange Systems (SIDES). Currently, he is a voting member of the SIDES Operations' Committee. In October 2020, Rich was appointed by then Governor Charles Baker to serve on the Advisory Council to lend counsel to the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance and Secretary of Finance and Administration in their modernization efforts of the Massachusetts On-Line Unemployment System.

In 2022, Siegel received the J Eldred Hill, Jr. Award from the National Foundation for Unemployment Compensation and Workers' Compensation. The J. Eldred Hill, Jr. Award is considered the highest award to be given to a leader in the industry in recognition of outstanding service to the UI System.



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**Amy Simon**  
*Principal, Simon Advisory*

Amy Simon is founder and owner of boutique consulting firm Simon Advisory. She supports a diverse client set across the unemployment insurance lifecycle and has routinely written on unemployment insurance reform and workforce policy. She previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Employment and Training Administration (ETA) at the U.S. Department of Labor. Her portfolio, with over \$7 billion in annual budget responsibility, included unemployment insurance, workforce investment, trade adjustment assistance, and ETA's regional offices in Philadelphia, Atlanta, Dallas, and Chicago. She also served as Chief of Staff where she led strategy, operations, staffing, external affairs, and communications across ETA.

Prior to DOL, Amy worked in management and technology consulting and supported federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the National Archives and Records Administration. She holds a bachelor's degree in history from Grove City College and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Maryland, College Park.



**Julie Squire**  
*Vice President of Policy and General Counsel, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)*

Julie Ellen Squire is Vice-President of Policy and General Counsel with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), an association dedicated to driving the national workforce agenda and providing high value member services. Julie has served as the staff lead for NASWA's Unemployment Insurance Committee since 2015, working closely with state UI Directors to facilitate the sharing of promising practices to improve program operations.

Previously serving as Assistant Secretary for two Divisions with the State of Maryland's Department of Labor, Julie is passionate about unemployment insurance and workforce development. Julie led the

Maryland Unemployment Insurance Division through the great recession, avoiding long-term borrowing and instituting policies and programs focusing on program improvement and the long-term health of the trust fund. Julie started working closely with workforce issues as an Assistant Attorney General in Maryland where she advised both the unemployment insurance and workforce programs for nine years. A native Buckeye, Julie attended law school at The Ohio State University.



**Kevin Stapleton**  
*Director - Division of Fiscal and Actuarial Services, Office of Unemployment Insurance, Employment and Training Administration, US Department of Labor*

Kevin Stapleton has worked in the Office of Unemployment Insurance (OUI) since 2005. Prior to becoming the Director of the Division of Fiscal and Actuarial Services, Kevin served as a contract economic analyst, an economist, and the lead actuary for OUI's actuarial team and the lead for OUI's reporting team.



### Andrew Stettner

*Deputy Director for Policy, Office of Unemployment Insurance Modernization, US Department of Labor*

Andrew Stettner is Deputy Director for Policy at the Office of Unemployment Insurance Modernization at the U.S. Department of Labor, which he joined in 2022. At USDOL, Andrew is leading efforts to develop claimant-centered policies that improve access to benefits while protecting the program from fraudulent actors. He has spent the last 25 years modernizing workforce protections and social insurance programs through policy research, advocacy, organizing and technology. At the National Employment Law Project, he spearheaded a decade-long effort to realign the unemployment insurance safety net with the needs of the modern workforce, winning

reforms enacted in the Recovery Act in 2009, and at the Century Foundation, his research tracked and shaped the development of pandemic unemployment benefits. He has published dozens of policy reports and been frequently cited in media outlets across the country. He is a graduate of Columbia and Georgetown Universities.



### Jason A. Tyszko

*Senior Vice President, US Chamber of Commerce Foundation*

Jason A. Tyszko is Senior Vice President, Center for Education and Workforce, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Through events, publications, and policy initiatives, the Center for Education and Workforce—in partnership with Chamber members and business leadership—seeks to cultivate and develop innovative thinking that spurs action to preserve America’s competitiveness and enhance the career readiness of youth and adult learners.

Tyszko’s prior experience focused on coordinating interagency education, workforce, and economic development initiatives. In 2009, he served as a policy adviser to Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn’s administration and as a member of the Executive Committee that directed more than

\$10 billion in investments to aid in the state’s recovery. While in the Office of the Governor, Tyszko chaired the interagency Job Training Working Group and developed Illinois Pathways, the signature public private STEM education strategy included in the state’s Race to the Top proposal.

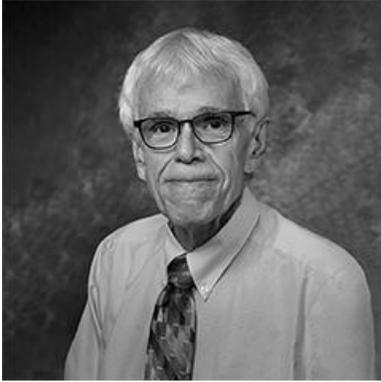
In addition, Tyszko was deputy chief of staff and senior policy adviser to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. There he oversaw the design and launch of the STEM Learning Exchanges, an innovative network of statewide public-private partnerships tasked with coordinating planning and investing to support regional STEM education and workforce programs. He further provided lead staff and policy support to the Illinois Workforce Investment Board.

Tyszko also managed innovative technology projects. This included the build-out of integrated education and workforce statewide longitudinal data systems and the implementation of the Illinois Shared Learning Environment, a transformative learning management system that enables personalized learning through integrated data in a cloud environment.

Tyszko received his Master of Arts from the University of Chicago and his Bachelor of Arts from DePaul University. He is a certified teacher in the state of Illinois. Tyszko resides in Washington, D.C.

## Easing the Unemployment Blues in Memphis

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**Jim Van Erden**

*Senior Advisor, National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA)*

Dr. Jim Van Erden is an economist and national expert on workforce and economic issues with a diverse background in both the public and private sector arenas. He has broad based management and organizational leadership skills in the Government, NGO, association, and for profit consulting environment. He served for a number of years as the Chief Actuary for the Office of Unemployment Insurance at the U.S. Department of Labor and Administrator in the Office of Work-based Learning. Jim joined NASWA in 2011 as a Senior Policy Advisor. He provides policy and programmatic analysis and advice on the Unemployment Insurance program and on a variety of Workforce

System issues. Today he spends most of his time working with, and helping guide, the activities of the UI Integrity Center. He also directs research and development projects on a wide range of other Unemployment Insurance and workforce programs.



**Kevin Vaughan**

*Chairman, House Commerce Committee, Tennessee House of Representatives*

Kevin Vaughan serves as the State Representative for the 95th District in the State of Tennessee General Assembly. Initially elected in 2017, Kevin serves as the Chairman of the House Commerce Committee, its Banking and Consumer Affairs Sub-Committee and Business and Utilities Subcommittee. He is also a member of the House Health Committee. Known as a straight shooter that can be counted on to carry substantial legislative packages, Vaughan is also known for his sense of humor and as someone that doesn't take themselves too seriously.

Kevin has been honored for his work by being named the "Legislator of the Year" by both the Memphis Area Government Association, and the Association of Builders and Contractors. He was awarded the first ever "Defender of Housing Award" by the West TN Homebuilders and "Hospital Hero" from the TN Hospital Association. He has also received the "Outstanding Alumni" by the Herff College of Engineering at the University of Memphis. NFIB has also recognized Kevin with their "Guardian of Small Business Award".

While not serving in the General Assembly, Kevin runs a real estate development and consulting firm, Township Development Services in Collierville, Tennessee. He is both a licensed professional engineer, as well as a licensed real estate broker. He graduated from Memphis State University in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He and his wife Johnna (34 years) are the parents of two adult children.



**Cheryl Vincent**

*Staff Director, Subcommittee on Work and Welfare for the Committee on Ways and Means, US House of Representatives*

The subcommittee oversees several federal programs including unemployment insurance, child welfare, child support, supplemental security income, and child care. She also leads the Committee's work on welfare reform. Cheryl Vincent was previously a policy advisor on child care and paid family leave at the White House Office of Economic Initiatives, and Senior Advisor for Legislative Affairs at the Administration for Children and Families in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Prior to that, she worked as Professional Staff on the Ways and Means Committee leading efforts to reform the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. She also has state experience, having worked in her home state of Ohio as

Deputy Director in the Office of Human Services Innovation under former Governor John Kasich. Vincent began her career at HHS working for more than a decade on programs to support working families, focused on early care and education programs. Cheryl received her Bachelor's from Michigan State University and a Master's degree from the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago.



**Matt Weidinger**

*Senior Fellow and Rowe Scholar, American Enterprise Institute*

At AEI, Matt Weidinger's work is focused on safety-net policies, including cash welfare, child welfare, disability benefits, and unemployment insurance. Before joining AEI, Weidinger served as the deputy staff director of the House Committee on Ways and Means and as the longtime staff director of its Subcommittee on Human Resources, with jurisdiction over safety-net programs. He began his career on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant for Rep. Clay Shaw (R-FL). He also served on the staff of the 2012 Republican Platform Subcommittee on Economy, Jobs, and Debt. In addition, Weidinger has been the principal editor of several editions of the House Committee on Ways and Means "Green Book," a multi-chapter

volume providing background materials and data on tax, health insurance, Social Security, welfare, trade policies, and statistics. He was also a primary staff author of the landmark 1996 welfare reform law (The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act). Weidinger has an M.A. in political science from the University of Chicago and a B.S. in foreign service from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University.



**Dale Ziegler**

*Director, Government Relations, On Point Technology: A Catalis Company*

Dale Ziegler has 27 years of experience in UI program management on both the state and federal level. His responsibilities included both policy establishment and oversight, and program operations. Prior to his retirement in 2012, he served with the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) as Deputy Administrator, functioning as the Chief Operating Officer, the Assistant Commissioner for Unemployment Insurance at State of Washington's Employment Security Department, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary at Maryland Department of Economic & Employment Development.





# Notes





# Notes





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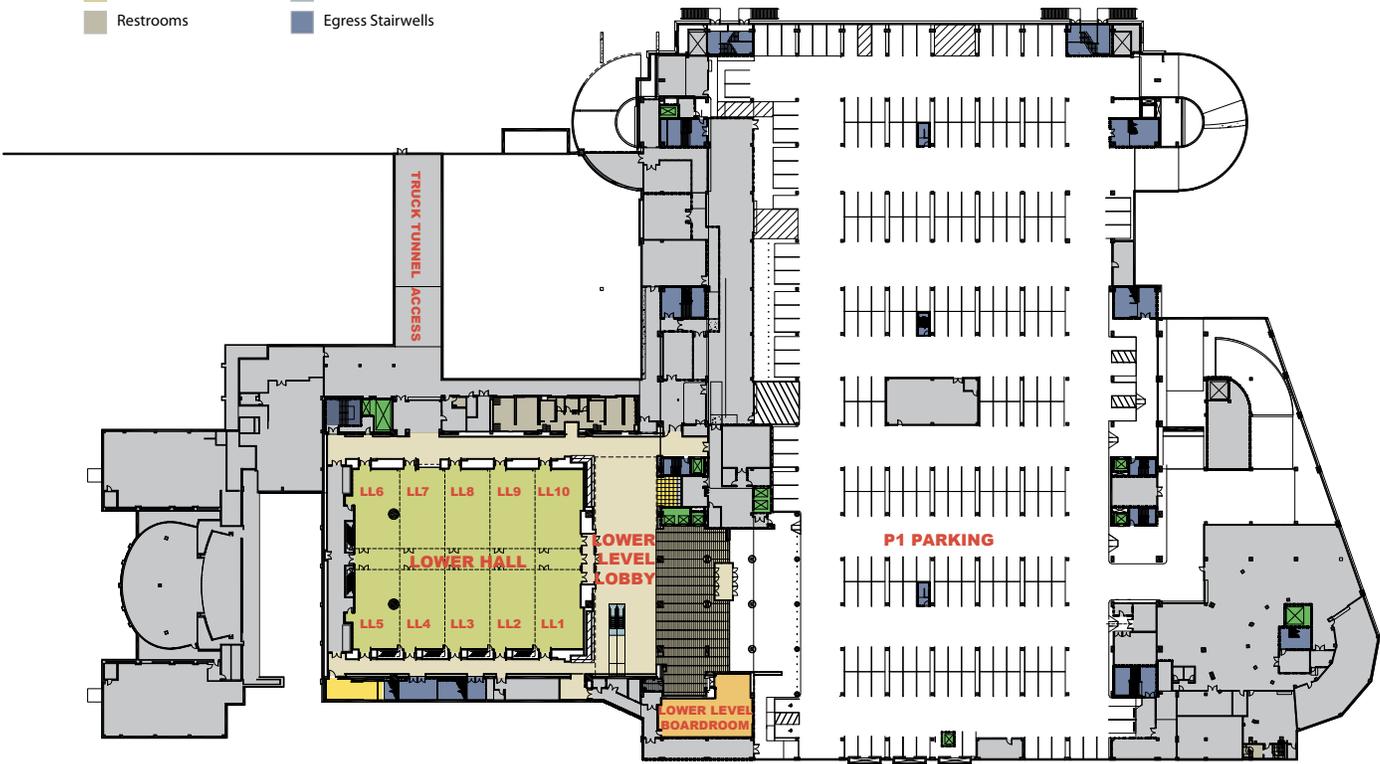


# Conference Room Meeting Map

## at the Renasant Convention Center

LEGEND

- Lobby/Prefunction
- Meeting Rooms
- Ballroom/Exhibit
- Food & Beverage
- Restrooms
- Outdoor Terrace
- Back of House
- Elevators
- Monumental Stairs/Escalators
- Egress Stairwells



2023 NATIONAL UI ISSUES CONFERENCE

# EASING THE UNEMPLOYMENT BLUES

