



Speaker Bios

Jean-Pierre Aubry, Director of State and Local Research, Center for Retirement Research at Boston College

Jean-Pierre Aubry is the Associate Director of State and Local Research at the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College (CRR). He oversees and conducts research and data collection, develops new analytic techniques for evaluating retirement benefits, and secures funding support. Aubry, who is recognized as a leading expert on public pensions, has co-authored numerous studies that have received broad attention. He has also presented to professional and academic groups such as the Municipal Analysts Group of New York, Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and the National Bureau of Economic Research.

In 2015, Mr. Aubry created the CRR public pension consulting team to support states and localities considering pension reform. To date, the team has performed large-scale pension analyses for the State of Connecticut and the City of Houston (through the Kinder Institute). In both cases, the analysis played a central role in reform process. Smaller projects by the team include analyzing the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) for the city of Philadelphia and its pension system, as well as building a simplified pension cash flow model for the Town of Queen Creek, Arizona.

Aubry is a member of the Boston Economic Club, the American Economic Association, and the National Economic Association. He received his B.A. in economics and psychology from the University of Pennsylvania and is currently pursuing his Masters in Finance at Boston College.

Scott Barber, HR Director, Town of Florence Local Boards

Scott Barber has served as the HR Director for the Town of Florence for the past 5 years, but has a total of more than 39 years of Arizona public-sector experience, including employment with the City of Holbrook, Navajo County, the City of Casa Grande..

Scott earned a Bachelor's Degree from New Mexico State University, and an MPA from Northern Arizona University. He holds HR certifications from the HR Certification Institute, the Society for Human Resource Management and IPMA-HR. Scott also served for many years on the Arizona Municipal Risk Pool Board of Trustees and is a past Board President. He was a League of Cities and Towns appointed member of the League Pension Task Force.

Scott McCarty, Finance Director, Town of Queen Creek

Scott McCarty is a CPA and has spent his entire 25-year career working for local governments in public service. Currently, he is the finance director and chief financial officer for the Town of Queen Creek. Prior to that, he served as the finance director for the town of Paradise Valley, Arizona. Scott is very policy oriented and strategic in his approach. He has an extensive background in financial policies and long-term planning, creating and implementing strategic plans and employee benefits administration. He is fortunate to have a profession that he truly loves and enjoys giving back to the profession through public speaking. At home, his wife and three children are his greatest joy.

Kelly Pfof, Management and Budget Director, Town of Gilbert

Kelly Pfof is the Director of Management and Budget in Gilbert, Arizona, where she coordinates the development of a \$850 million annual budget and spearheads efforts to be cost effective and fiscally sustainable. Some of these efforts include refunding debt to provide a \$15 million present value savings in 2016 and helping the Town achieve a AAA bond rating from Fitch in October 2016. Kelly loves numbers and has over 10 years of experience with long-term financial modeling in the public and private sectors. Prior to joining Gilbert, Kelly worked at a municipal consulting firm in Salt Lake City, Utah, where she provided expertise in economic development and long-term financial planning to cities and counties. Prior to that, she worked in finance, economic development, administrative services, and recreation management at South Jordan City, Utah. Kelly holds a bachelor's degree in organizational communications with a minor in physics from BYU-Idaho and an MPA from BYU's Romney Institute of Public Management.

Nick Ponder, Pension Policy Analyst, League of Arizona Cities and Towns

Nick Ponder is the Pension Policy Analyst for the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. In this role, he assists the cities and towns with all pension matters, advises the PSPRS Advisory Committee, and represents the League position on pension issues at the legislature. Prior to joining the League in June 2017 Nick worked for the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) for eight years with the last four in the role of the agency lobbyist. While at the ASRS Nick successfully passed twenty-one legislative initiatives focusing on IRS compliance, plan governance, and actuarial methodology and defeated fifteen bills with a cumulative fiscal impact on the ASRS fund of more than \$250M. Additionally, Nick worked for the Fire Department of New York Pension System for four years as a Contract and Benefits Analyst. Nick holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from The Ohio State University.

Mike Townsend, Deputy County Manager, Coconino County

Mike Townsend currently serves as Deputy County Manager in Coconino County. He oversees the County's Finance, Community Services, Community Development, Public Defender, Legal Defender and Facilities departments. Mike also serves as Trustee to the Northern Arizona Public Employee Benefits Trust and as the Manager's Office liaison to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council working with the multiple County Departments and regional jurisdictions involved in the Criminal Justice System. Mike served as Interim County Manager from November 2011 to August 2013 and has worked more than 15 years with the County. Mike served as the County's Chief Fiscal Officer from 2000 to 2007.

Mike was awarded the Catherine Connolly Award in February 2014 as the outstanding Assistant City/County Manager in Arizona, presented by the Arizona City/County Management Association.

Appointments

In addition, Mike served on the Arizona State Retirement System's Board of Trustees from 2004 to 2011. He served as that board's vice-chair in fiscal year 2007 and as board chair in fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

Previous Experience

Prior to joining the County, Mike worked with the City of Flagstaff Finance Department, in the public accounting field and worked in the private sector in the manufacturing and automotive industries.

Education

Mike earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accountancy from Northern Arizona University in 1987. Mike is also a Certified Public Accountant licensed in Arizona since 1992.

Mike was awarded a certificate of completion for the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program, July 2015, Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Executive Education.

Mike Woodfill, Finance Director, City of Prescott