

CONTRIBUTORS

Michael T. Allen is an Extension Instructor and Governmental Training Specialist with the Center for Governmental Training and Technology (CGT) in the Mississippi State University Extension Service. At the CGT, Mr. Allen plans and delivers educational programs for local government officials – county tax assessors, appraisers, tax collectors, county board attorneys, and municipal election officials; writes and publishes materials appropriate for local government education; coordinates computer applications and services for the CGT; and provides technical assistance in computer applications and services to local governments and associations of local government officials. Mr. Allen is also a Ph.D. candidate in public policy and administration at Mississippi State University. He received a B.S. degree in political science, with highest honors, from the University of Southern Mississippi and the Master of Public Policy and Administration degree from Mississippi State University. Prior to his current position, Mr. Allen worked in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University and in the Extension Service with the 4-H Youth Development Department and the Community Development Department. He is a member of *Phi Theta Kappa*, *Phi Kappa Phi*, *Pi Alpha Alpha* national honor societies, and *Omicron Delta Epsilon* international honor society in economics and currently serves as president of the Mississippi State University chapter of *Pi Alpha Alpha*.

R. Thomas Ball, longtime Mississippi journalist, is an associate with the Center for Governmental Training & Technology in the Mississippi State University Extension Service. He has served in editorial positions with newspapers in Starkville, Aberdeen, Amory and Hattiesburg. While editor of the *Starkville Daily News*, the newspaper won national recognition from the Associated Press Managing Editors Association for a series on county government. He also received awards for his photography, reporting, and editorials. Mr. Ball has been a director of the Mississippi Press Association, Mississippi Press Services, Golden Triangle Chapter of the Society for Professional Journalists – *Sigma Delta Chi*, Starkville Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way of North Central Mississippi, Starkville Rotary Club, Starkville Baseball Association, Oktibbeha County-Starkville Public Library System, Starkville Jaycees, and an advisory board member for Oktibbeha County 4-H. A graduate of Mississippi State University, he served as editor of the student newspaper *The Reflector* while attending the university. Mr. Ball was also active in the expansion and lighting of MSU's Scott Field and the development of the Mississippi Research and Technology Park.

Robert L. Barber, Sr. is currently the city planner for the City of Hernando, Mississippi. A member of the American Planning Association (APA) and its professional institute, the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), Barber speaks and consults in the area of small town and rural planning. Barber has given presentations at several national conferences of the APA on topics including planning practice, management, and the politics of small town planning.

Dana B. Brammer is Director Emeritus of the Public Policy Research Center and Assistant Professor Emeritus of political science at the University of Mississippi, having worked at Ole Miss from 1960 until his retirement in 1997. Brammer received a B.A. degree from Marshall University, an M.A. degree in political science from the University of Alabama, and a Certificate from the Southern Regional Training Program in Public Administration. Author or co-author of numerous

papers and manuscripts, Brammer served as editor of the *Public Administration Survey* and *A Manual of Mississippi Municipal Government* and authored a *Handbook for Mississippi Legislators* and *A Handbook for Mississippi County Supervisors*. Brammer has served as a consultant to a number of state and local agencies in Mississippi.

Phil Carter retired in 2000 after over thirty (30) years of service in state and local government and is currently serving on a part-time basis as a Special Assistant Attorney General. A native of Vardaman, Mississippi, Carter received a B.S. from Delta State University, an M.B.A. from Mississippi College, and a J.D. from Mississippi College School of Law. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a Mason, Carter previously served as Mississippi's Assistant Secretary of State for Elections and Assistant Attorney General for the State of Mississippi.

Sumner D. Davis III is a Governmental Training Officer with the Center for Governmental Training & Technology (CGT) in the Mississippi State University Extension Service. As a Governmental Training Officer with the CGT, Mr. Davis plans and delivers educational programs for county and municipal officials, writes and publishes specialized publications and material for local government officials, and provides technical assistance. Mr. Davis received a B.A. degree in history and the Master of Public Policy and Administration degree from Mississippi State University (MSU) where he is also a Ph.D. student in public administration. He served as president of the Graduate Student Association at MSU in 1998, was inducted into *Pi Alpha Alpha*, and recognized as the Outstanding Graduate Student for the Public Policy and Administration Program in 1999. Mr. Davis currently serves as the Advisory Board Chairman for the Mississippi Beta chapter of *Phi Delta Theta* and a Bulldog Mentor.

William D. Eshee, Jr. has served as Municipal Judge for the City of Starkville, Mississippi, since 1976. Eshee received his undergraduate degree from Mississippi State University (MSU). A graduate of the School of Law at the University of Mississippi, Eshee also received the M.B.A. degree from Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Alabama. Eshee is a graduate of the Judge Advocate General's School at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, and the Military Judge Course from the same university. Eshee has been admitted to the Mississippi Bar, the Alabama Bar, the Federal Bar and is licensed to practice before the United States Court of Military Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. At MSU, Eshee is Professor of Business Law, where he teaches business law, commercial transactions, entrepreneur law and alternative dispute resolution. A retired Brigadier General from the Judge Advocate General's Corps, Mississippi Army National Guard, Eshee is an Elder at Grace Presbyterian Church.

Gary E. Friedman is a partner in the law firm of Phelps Dunbar, L.L.P. A graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology in industrial engineering, Friedman received his law degree, with distinction, from the School of Law at the University of Mississippi. Friedman serves as general counsel to the Mississippi Municipal Liability Plan and the Mississippi Municipal Workers' Compensation Group. He has assisted numerous public employers in matters involving labor and employment problems and defends public employers throughout the state in lawsuits involving employment and constitutional rights claims.

J. Gil Israel serves as President of Mississippi Municipal Service Company. In this position Israel oversees the operations of both the Municipal Liability Plan and the Municipal Workers Compensation Group. Israel has been with the Service Company since its formation in 1991; prior to that, he was Director of Risk Management for Mississippi's Institutions of Higher Learning, where he was responsible for creation of self-insurance programs for the University system. From 1986-1989, Israel held the position of Insurance Director for the State Fiscal Management Board. A native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, Israel holds a Bachelor of Science in Business from the University of Southern Mississippi and an Associate of Risk Management designation from the Insurance Institute of America. Israel serves on the Advisory Council for Mississippi's Worker's Compensation Commission and the Board of Directors of the Mississippi's Self-Insured Guaranty.

Kristine D. Kaatz is the Assistant Director of the Center for Social Sciences and Public Policy Research at Southwest Missouri State University. She is also the former Manager of the Local Government Program in the John C. Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University. Kaatz's experience with local government and non-profit agencies has focuses on managerial and operational issues, emphasizing municipal operations, personnel management, financial operations, performance management, and computerization. While at Mississippi State University, Katz was the only trainer teaching the results-oriented government curriculum. Kaatz has worked as an administrative intern for a city manager, as the village treasurer for a Chicago suburb, and as the staff accountant for a large Chicago-area Girl Scout Council. In each of these positions Kaatz's duties included both finance and personnel functions. In addition, Kaatz has trained employees on many common computer software applications and has served as a facilitator for organizational development issues. Kaatz earned her B.S. in human resource management and M.P.A. in government finance from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois.

James B. Kaatz is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Southwest Missouri State University and a former Assistant Professor of Political Science at Mississippi State University (MSU). He specializes in public personnel management, local government management and politics, and casino gambling's impacts on local government operations. Kaatz has worked in local government, first as an administrative intern for a city manager, then as the first village administrator for a Chicago suburb. In addition, Kaatz provided consulting services to local governments in the Chicago metropolitan area for seven years before moving to Mississippi. While at Mississippi State University, Kaatz provided technical assistance to local governments throughout Mississippi primarily in the areas of personnel management, strategic planning, performance review, and organizational development. Kaatz earned a B.A. in political science, an M.P.A. in local government management, and a Ph.D. in political science from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois.

Samuel W. (Sam) Keyes, Jr. is a member of the Public Finance group at the law firm of Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada, PLLC. He concentrates his practice in the areas of municipal bonds, public finance, and government law. Mr. Keyes served as Assistant Attorney General, State of Mississippi, from 1985 to 1993 and as Deputy Attorney General from 1993 to 1994. In this role, he represented State agencies, served as chairman of the Opinions Committee and served as Revisor of Statutes. Mr. Keyes is a frequent educational program speaker on state and local government issues and has contributed to publications for city and county officials. Keyes has served as

Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Board member of the Government Law Section of The Mississippi Bar and is a member of the State and Local Government Section of the American Bar Association. He is also a member of the Hinds County Bar Association, the National Association of Bond Lawyers, the International Municipal Lawyers Association, and the Mississippi Association of County Board Attorneys. Keyes received his B.S. in Community and Regional Planning, with honors, from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1976. He received his J.D. from the University of Mississippi in 1981.

Michael Lanford is Deputy Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General specializing in state and local government. He holds an undergraduate degree from Millsaps College and a law degree from the School of Law at the University of Mississippi. Mr. Lanford worked in private practice before joining the Office of the Attorney General. He serves as an instructor for the Mississippi Judicial College; counsel for various state agencies, boards, and commissions; and has served as Revisor of Statutes since 1996.

P. C. (Mac) McLaurin, Jr. is Leader and Extension Professor of Local Government in the Center for Governmental Training and Technology at the Mississippi State University Extension Service. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in political science from the University of Mississippi and has completed most of the requirements for the Ph.D. in political science at Ole Miss. Mr. McLaurin has almost forty (40) years of academic and practical experience in government, having taught political science at Mississippi State University from 1965-75, including visiting instructorships at the University of Mississippi and Millsaps College in the summer of 1967, and having worked as a public administrator with the City of Starkville from 1975-1989, serving as Chief Administrative Officer of the city from 1978-89. He speaks and consults extensively in areas related to local government management and was an editor and contributing author of *County Government in Mississippi, 2nd Edition, Revised and Expanded* (2000), *Municipal Government in Mississippi, 2nd Edition, Revised and Expanded* (2001). Mr. McLaurin is active in university and professional affairs, having served two, three-year terms on the Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University and a term on both the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee and the Education Committee of the National Association of Counties. He serves his community as a member of the Starkville Board of Aldermen, chairing the budget and organization/performance committees; a member of the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Starkville Area Chamber of Commerce; and a member and incoming president of the Starkville Rotary Club. McLaurin has served as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Golden Triangle Regional Solid Waste Management Authority and a member of the Starkville Park Commission. Active in youth sports programs, Mr. McLaurin has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Starkville Baseball Association, serving as association president for five years; as the baseball program liaison to the Starkville High School Athletics Booster Club; and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Starkville Post 13 American Legion Baseball Program, including serving as general manager of both Starkville's junior and senior division teams. McLaurin presently serves as a member of the National Board of Directors of Dizzy Dean, Inc.

Jerry L. Mills is a partner in the law firm of Pyle, Dreher, Mills & Dye, P.A., and serves as City Attorney for the City of Ridgeland. He received a B.S. from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1970 and a J.D. from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1973. Mills was admitted

to the Bar in 1973 and is qualified to practice in all state courts and U.S. District Courts in Mississippi and in the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit. Mills has held numerous posts around the state, serving as the Law Clerk for the Mississippi Supreme Court (1973-1974), Municipal Court Judge Pro-Tempore for the City of Clinton (1975-1981), and City Attorney for the City of Clinton (1981-1988). Mills, an adjunct professor at the University of Southern Mississippi, is also a member of the Mississippi, Hinds County, and the American Bar Associations, the Municipal Attorneys Section of the Mississippi Municipal Association (Vice President, 1984-1985; President 1985-1986), and the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers (Chairman, Annexation Committee, 1988).

Scott Rankin is the Executive Director of the Mississippi Ethics Commission. Prior to being appointed Executive Director on November 1, 2001, Rankin served seven years as the Assistant Director of the Mississippi Ethics Commission. Rankin received a B.A. from Mississippi State University and a J.D. from Jackson School of Law at Mississippi College. Rankin has worked in several state agencies – the Equalization Division of the Mississippi State Tax Commission, the Technical Assistance Division and the Investigative Division of the Mississippi State Auditor’s Office, and the Public Integrity Division of the Mississippi Attorney General’s Office. Rankin has also served as the City Clerk of Mendenhall and the Chief Deputy Assessor for the Simpson County Tax Collector’s Office.

Hollidae M. Robinson is the president of Words Worth, Inc., a writing and editing company. She has been employed by the Mississippi Municipal League (MML) to publish their magazine, *Mississippi Municipalities* and to handle other MML publications and their public relations. Robinson graduated *cum laude* from Millsaps College, receiving a B.A. in English and completed her thesis with honors. Robinson has worked as the director of communications for the Mississippi Municipal League, a writing instructor for the Millsaps College Writer’s Institute, and a Fellow of the Ford Foundation Teaching Institute. Robinson serves her community as a member the Junior League of Jackson and as a member of the board of directors for Wiser Women, Inc. of the Winfred L. Wiser Hospital for Women and Infants at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Ronald D. Robinson has worked in the Mississippi State Auditor’s Office since April, 1977, serving as an auditor, a division director, an assistant department director, a special examiner for the governor, and currently as a technical advisor to Mississippi municipalities and other units of state government. Robinson received a B. S. degree in accounting from the University of Southern Mississippi and was awarded his Certified Public Accountant certification in September, 1979.

Randall B. Wall is a partner in the law firm of Watkins Ludlam & Stennis, P.A., where he has practiced law since 1970. Born in Calhoun City, Mississippi, Wall completed his preparatory education at the University of Mississippi and the University of Wisconsin, where he received the B.A. degree in 1965. Wall received the J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1968. Admitted to the Mississippi Bar in 1968, Wall serves as Chairman of the Education and Governmental Law Practice Group. Wall is a member of the Hinds County, Mississippi, and American Bar Associations and the National Association of Bond Lawyers. Active in the community, Wall is a member of the Mississippi Economic Council, where he serves on several committees; the Harvard Club of Mississippi, where he is a member of the Board of Directors and has served as President; the Jackson Zoological Park, Inc., which he currently serves as President and a member of the Board

of Directors; and the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, where he serves on several committees. Wall has served as co-chairman of the Mississippi Literary Competition and has appeared as a speaker at numerous seminars on local government over the past several years.