

CONTRIBUTORS

Michael T. Allen is a Governmental Training Specialist with the Center for Governmental Training & Technology in the Mississippi State University Extension Service. At the Center, Mr. Allen plans and delivers educational programs for local government officials – primarily county tax assessors, appraisers, tax collectors, and county board attorneys; writes materials appropriate for local government education; coordinates computer applications and services for the Center; and provides technical assistance in computer applications and services to local governments and associations of local government officials. In the area of information technology, Mr. Allen is founder and president of Shopping-Bargains.com, LLC, an Internet shopping mall featuring over 500 online stores. 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 as a Graduate Assistant in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University; and as a Graduate Program Assistant in the Extension Service with 4-H Youth Development, Community Development, and the Center for Governmental Technology; and as a Program Assistant with the Center for Governmental Technology. He is a member of *Phi Theta Kappa*, *Phi Kappa Phi*, and *Pi Alpha Alpha* national honor societies, and the *Omicron Delta Epsilon* international honor society in economics.

Joanne Anderson, public information officer for Jackson County, Mississippi, has been handling public relations duties for the county since 1985 when she first began working part-time for the board of supervisors. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi with a major in English and minor in journalism, she is the only woman to have served as editor of the *Ingalls News* at Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation in Pascagoula, Mississippi. She is a graduate of the Copley Editorial Career Training Program in Los Angeles, California, and has worked as a reporter and news editor for *The Mississippi Press* in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and reporter for the *Sun-Herald* in Biloxi, Mississippi. Mrs. Anderson has won numerous Mississippi Press Women and National Federation of Press Women awards for speech writing, newsletters, and feature photography and has conducted public relations workshops for the Mississippi Association of Supervisors under the direction of the Center for Governmental Technology in the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Tom Ball is a Governmental Training Officer with the Center for Governmental Training and Technology in the Mississippi State University Extension Service. His primary areas of responsibility include planning and delivering educational programs for local government officials. Since September 11, 2001, Mr. Ball has devoted much time to helping local governments develop or improve emergency preparedness plans and has worked to present a series of tabletop exercises dealing with bioterrorism for local government officials across the state. A graduate of Mississippi State University, where he was editor of the student newspaper, *The Reflector*, Mr. Ball also works closely with state agencies such as the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi Office of the Attorney General, Mississippi State Auditor's Office, and the Mississippi State Tax Commission. He has also worked with municipal and deputy clerks in the area of professional education and certification. Mr. Ball also works with the professional associations of local governmental officials in developing and delivering educational programs. Mr. Ball has been called upon by civic and professional organizations to speak on issues regarding open meetings and open records because of his previous service in a variety of journalistic endeavors. He 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. He 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-Oktibbeha County Library System, Starkville Baseball Association and an advisory board member for Oktibbeha County 4-H. A graduate of Mississippi State University, while attending the university he served as editor of *The Reflector*, the student newspaper. He was also active in the expansion and lighting of MSU's Scott Field and development of the Mississippi Research and Technology Park.

Phil Carter is currently serving as Mississippi's Assistant Secretary of State for Elections. A native of Vardaman, Mississippi, Carter graduated from Delta State University, received the M.B.A. degree from Mississippi College, and earned the J.D. degree from the Mississippi College School of Law. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a Mason, Carter has served as Assistant Attorney General for the State of Mississippi.

Sumner D. Davis III is a Governmental Training Specialist with the Center for Governmental Training & Technology (CGT) in the Mississippi State University Extension Service. As a Governmental Training Specialist with the CGT, Mr. Davis plans and delivers educational programs for county and municipal officials, writes 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 (MPPA) 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 is active in university and local affairs, serving as a member of the Starkville Board of Aldermen, as the Advisory Board Chairman for the Mississippi Beta Chapter of *Phi Delta Theta*, and as a member of the Alumni Advisory Board for the MSU MPPA program

Rhuel P. Dickinson, Jr. is the director of the Technical Assistance Division of the Office of the State Auditor, having worked with the Office of the State Auditor for over eleven (11) years and for the Hinds County Chancery Clerk for seven (7) years. He holds a Bachelor of Accountancy degree and a Master of Accountancy degree from the University of Mississippi. He has earned the Certified Public Accountant designation, the Certified Internal Auditor designation and was awarded the Certified Government Financial Manager designation. Mr. Dickinson is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Mississippi Society of Accountants, the Association of Government Accountants and the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Joseph N. Fratesi is a Governmental Training Specialist with the Center for Governmental Training and Technology (CGT) in the Mississippi State University Extension Service. At the Center for Governmental Training and Technology, Mr. Fratesi plans and delivers educational programs for local government officials - county tax assessors, appraisers, tax collectors, county board attorneys, and municipal election officials; writes materials appropriate for local government education; coordinates computer applications and services for the Center for Governmental Technology; and provides technical assistance in computer applications and services to local governments and associations of local government officials. Mr. Fratesi 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 Educational Technology. Prior to his current position, Mr. Fratesi worked as a Planner for the City of

Germantown, TN and as a Graduate Assistant with the John C. Stennis Institute of Government. Mr. Fratesi currently serves on the alumni board of the Oktibbeha County Chapter of the MSU Alumni and the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity

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, he received his law degree, with distinction, from the School of Law at the University of Mississippi. Mr. 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. Mr. Friedman defends public employers throughout the state in lawsuits involving employment and constitutional rights claims.

Jack Gregory, Jr. is Executive Director of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS). He attended the University of Chattanooga and Delta State University where he won a number of honors playing football. Mr. Gregory had an outstanding career in pro football, playing for the Cleveland Browns and the New York Giants. As Executive Director of the MAS, Mr. Gregory is a member of several boards and associations. These include the Board on Law Enforcement Officer Training and Standards, National Council of County Association Executives, and National Association of Counties, where he currently serves on the Public Lands Steering Committee and previously served on the Employment Steering Committee. He is also a member of the Mississippi Water Resources Association, Mississippi Economic Development Council, Conference of Southern County Associations, and the Mississippi Society of Association Executives. Mr. Gregory has previously served on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame into which he was inducted in 2000.

Phil Hardwick is Coordinator of Capacity Development at the John C. Stennis Institute of Government, Mississippi State University. His areas of interests include strategic planning, local capacity development and leadership development. Prior to joining the Stennis Institute in August of 2003 he was Vice President of Community and Economic Development at Mississippi Valley Gas Company. He is the current President of the Mississippi Main Street Association and a Past-President of the Mississippi Economic Development Council and the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. He currently serves on the boards of Hope Community Credit Union and Partners in Education. He received his undergraduate degree from Belhaven College and his MBA from Millsaps College. He is currently working on his doctorate in Urban and Regional Planning at Jackson State University. In his spare time he is a prolific writer. His award-winning column on real estate and economic development appears bi-weekly in the Mississippi Business Journal, and he is the author of ten books, including the Mississippi Mysteries Series, a collection of novellas set in Mississippi towns

H. Lee Hill II is a Graduate Program Assistant with the Center for Governmental Training and Technology in the Mississippi State University Extension Service. At the Center for Governmental Training and Technology, Mr. Hill assists with the planning and delivering of educational programs for county and municipal officials, writes specialized publications and material for local government officials, and helps provides technical assistance. Mr. Hill received a B.A. degree in political science from Mississippi State University where he is also pursuing a masters degree in Public Policy and Administration (MPPA). Mr. Hill served Kappa Sigma Fraternity as President in 2001-2002 and is currently serving as the Assistant Alumni Advisor.

Mark Houston, having worked with the State Department of Audit for over 20 years, is currently a member of the Technical Assistance Division of the Office of the State Auditor. He

holds a B.B.A. degree in accounting from Delta State University and has earned the Certified Public Accountant designation and the Certified Internal Auditor designation. Mr. Houston is a member of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Samuel W. (Sam) Keyes, Jr. is a member of the law firm of Butler, Snow, O'Mara, Stevens & Cannada, P.L.L.C., where he concentrates in the areas of municipal bonds and government law. He is a native of Jackson, Mississippi, and a graduate of Murrah High School. He received his undergraduate education at Mississippi State University and the University of Southern Mississippi, where he received a B.S. degree in community and regional planning. After graduation from college, he worked as a city planner with the Gulf Regional Planning Commission and served as director of the Jackson County Community Development Program. In 1981, he received his law degree from the School of Law at the University of Mississippi. He was in the private practice of law until he joined the staff of the Attorney General's Office in 1985, rising to the position of Deputy Attorney General in charge of the Local Government and Opinions Sections. He returned to private practice in 1994 and represents counties, cities and other public entities on public finance, government and regulatory law matters. Mr. Keyes also serves as general counsel for the Mississippi Association of Supervisors.

Michael Keys retired as Director of the Division of Technical Assistance in the Office of the State Auditor in 2001 and now works part time as a manager in that division. A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Mr. Keys has earned the Certified Public Accountant designation. Mr. Keys also served as the Copiah County Administrator for ten (10) years.

Michael Lanford is a 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.

Frank McCain is Director of the Office of Property Tax in the Mississippi State Tax Commission (STC). Mr. McCain is a relative newcomer to the world of appraising having become Director on January 1, 2002. He does have ample tax administration experience, however. He has over 32 years of experience with the Tax Commission including time served as an auditor, Director of the Contract Tax Section of the Sales and Use Tax Bureau, Director of the Purchasing Division, Director of Assessments and Collections, Secretary to the Board of Review, and Assistant Director and Director of the Office of Revenue. He served as Director of the Revenue Office of the Mississippi Tax Commission for 17 years. In that position, he was responsible for the administration of virtually all of the state's taxes except property tax as well as the administration of motor vehicle titles and licenses plates. He has been a member of the Tax Commission's Board of Review for 25 years. Since becoming Director of Property Tax, he has been certified by the Tax Commission, attending the certification school in 2002.

P. C. (Mac) McLaurin, Jr. is Leader and Extension Professor of Local Government in the Center for Governmental Training & Technology in 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 for *County Government in Mississippi* (2000) and *Municipal Government in Mississippi* (2001). Mr. McLaurin is active in university and professional affairs, having served some twelve (12) years on the Robert B. Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University and terms on the Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs and Human Services and Education Steering Committees of the National Association of Counties. He serves his community as a member of the Starkville Board of Aldermen, a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Golden Triangle Regional Solid Waste Management Authority, a member of the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, and a member and Immediate Past President of the Starkville Rotary Club. Active in youth sports programs, Mr. McLaurin has served as a member (and past President) of the Board of Directors of the Starkville Baseball Association; a member of the National Board of Directors of Dizzy Dean Baseball, Inc.; 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; and as the baseball program liaison to the Starkville High School Athletics Booster Club.

J. Brooks Miller, P.E., was appointed state aid engineer by Governor Ronnie Musgrove on May 2, 2002, to complete the term of Floyd Kirk. Prior to his appointment as state aid engineer, Miller was employed as a district engineer with the Office of State Aid Road Construction. Miller has worked at State Aid since November, 1980, serving as district engineer in both north and south Mississippi and, for a short time in 1988, as the bridge engineer. Miller, also a registered land surveyor, was appointed county engineer for Copiah County by the board of supervisors in January, 1976. From mid-1973 to 1976, Miller was employed by McMullen & Associates, consulting engineers, located in Brookhaven, Mississippi, where he worked on county projects, including design and construction of State Aid projects. From mid-1972 through mid-1973, Miller worked with F. Speights, county engineer for Copiah, Lincoln, Lawrence, and Claiborne counties, on the design and construction of State Aid projects. Miller graduated from Hazlehurst High School, attended Copiah-Lincoln Community College, and received a B.S. degree in civil engineering from Mississippi State in the spring of 1971. Miller and his wife Marsha live in Hazlehurst. The parents of three sons, the Millers welcomed their first grandchild on January 28, 2003.

Jerry L. Mills is a partner in the law firm of Pyle, 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 is a member of the Mississippi 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). Mr. Mills has served as an adjunct professor in urban planning at the University of Southern Mississippi. He has served as counsel to cities, counties, and individuals in approximately one hundred (100) annexation, incorporation, and deannexation cases.

Ken Murphree is a Tunica native, with degrees in political science and urban and regional planning from The University of Mississippi. After spending more than 30 years as planning director and eventually county administrator for DeSoto County, Mississippi, Murphree announced his retirement from public service. That is, until Tunica County, which was fast becoming one of the country's leading gaming destinations, asked him to come home and help set the county's course into the future. He took the position of County Administrator in 1994 and, with the County Board of Supervisors, has helped turn what was once the poorest county in the nation into one of Mississippi's economic powerhouses. He and his wife Connie have been married since 1971 and have one adult son, Andrew.

Scott Rankin has served as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Ethics Commission since November 2001. Rankin served for seven years as Assistant Director before being appointed Executive Director. 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 other state agencies B 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.

James L. Roberts, Jr. is a seventh generation Mississippian and former member of the Mississippi Supreme Court from 1992 to 1999. Serving as a Special Chancellor in various Chancery Courts throughout the state, Judge Roberts is presently in the private practice of law, specializing in alternative dispute resolution, and serves part-time as a professor of criminal justice at the University of Southern Mississippi. Judge Roberts received his B.A. degree from Millsaps College in 1967, his M.B.A. from Mississippi State University in 1968, and his J.D. from the University of Mississippi in 1971. Prior to receiving his J.D., he was named National Outstanding Student Member of *Delta Theta Phi* for 1970. He is a 1988 graduate of the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada. Prior to serving on the Mississippi Supreme Court, Judge Roberts practiced law in Pontotoc from 1971 until 1984 while simultaneously serving as County Prosecuting Attorney and Youth Court Prosecutor from 1972-1984. As Mississippi Commissioner of Public Safety from 1984-1988 – serving a four-year term as a member and one year as Chairman of the Mississippi Board of Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training – Judge Roberts supervised an agency that included the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, Mississippi Crime Laboratory, Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy, Medical Examiner's Office, and the Bureau of Narcotics. He served as a member of Governor Allain's Commission on Constitutional Revision in 1985-1986. He also served as Chairman in 1986-87 of task force hearings for the Governor's Alliance Against Drugs. In January, 1986, he received the Herman C. Glazier Award from the Mississippi Chapter of the American Society For Public Administration as the outstanding appointed administrator on the state level for 1985. In 1987, Judge Roberts was recognized as one of three national recipients for an EEO/AA award from the American Society For Public Administration for his personnel efforts at the Department of Public Safety. In 1988, Judge Roberts was appointed Chancellor in the first Chancery Court District where he was subsequently elected and reelected for consecutive terms. Following a successful election to the Mississippi Supreme Court in 1992 for a term to begin in 1993, Judge Roberts was appointed by Governor Fordice to complete the unexpired term of retiring Justice James Lawton Robertson before beginning the term to which he had been elected. Judge Roberts is a member of *Kappa Sigma*, *Alpha Kappa Psi*, *Omicron Delta Kappa*, and an honorary member of *Pi Alpha Alpha*. He is also a member of the Pontotoc County Historical Society, the Mississippi Historical Society, the Mississippi Methodist Historical Society, and the Board of Trustees of Wood College in Mathiston, Mississippi. In December, 1997, Judge Roberts became

a charter member of the David Murphree Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. Judge Roberts is a Rotarian, Mason, and Shriner.

Harmon A. (Robbie) Robinson is Chancery Clerk of Clay County and has served in that elected position since 1984. He is a past President of the Mississippi Chancery Clerks Association. Mr. Robinson is a member of the West Point Rotary Club, and the Clay County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, and serves as a board member of the Clay County Medical Center.

Randall B. 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. Following 2 years of military service, Wall began law practice in 1970 with his current firm, Watkins Ludlam Winter & Stennis, P.A. Wall is a member of the Hinds County, Mississippi, and American Bar Associations and the National Association of Bond Lawyers. Wall is a member of the Mississippi Economic Council; the Harvard Club of Mississippi (member of the Board of Director, past president); the Jackson Zoological Park, Inc. (member of the Board of Directors, past president); and the Jackson Chamber of Commerce. Wall has written numerous articles and papers on government law and government finance, and has appeared as a speaker at many seminars on local government over the past several years.

Eddie F. Washington is President of MPE Workers' Compensation Services, Inc. (MPEWCS), which is a third party administrator for the Mississippi Public Entity Workers' Compensation Trust, servicing local government officials and employees. He received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in education from Mississippi State University. He has worked as a vocational counselor, Director of the Mississippi Appalachian Manpower Consortium at the Golden Triangle Vo-Tech Center, a Regional Representative of the Mississippi Division of Appalachian Development, and a Senior Industrial Developer with the Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development. Mr. Washington served as Executive Director of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors prior to taking his present position. He serves or has served on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Special Olympics, the Rivers and Harbors Association of Mississippi, the Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Training, the PRO-MISS Leadership Development Program, and advisory council of the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation

William M. (Marty) Wiseman is the Director of the John C. Stennis Institute of Government and Professor of Political Science at Mississippi State University. He received the B.A. degree in political science, an M.S.S. degree in social science, an M.P.P.A degree in public policy and administration, and a Ph.D. degree in rural sociology and development from Mississippi State University. Dr. Wiseman consults extensively with counties and municipalities in the areas of organizational development, personnel administration, intergovernmental relations, and adoption of management innovations by governments in rural areas. He has served as a consultant to the Office of the Governor, the Mississippi Legislature, and various state agencies. Dr. Wiseman's research interests include county and municipal administration, intergovernmental relations, and issues related to change in rural environments. His research has appeared in journals of political science and public administration, and he has authored numerous research reports pertaining to local government issues.

Joel Yelverton is Assistant Executive Director of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors. He holds a B.S. degree in management and a M.B.A. degree in business administration from Mississippi State University. Mr. Yelverton has worked as a Senior Analyst for the Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review (PEER Committee)

and a Senior Fiscal Investigator for the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration. In line with his work at the Mississippi Association of Supervisors, Mr. Yelverton is actively involved in several organizations, including the following: State Workforce Investment Board; Mississippi Workforce Development Association; Mississippi Society of Association Executives, President, 1998-99; Keep Mississippi Beautiful, Board of Directors; National Association of County Intergovernmental Relations Officials; Governor's Task Force on Water and Wastewater; Mississippi Fuel Tax Compliance Task Force; Southeastern Employment & Training Association; Public Advisory Committee, Department of Environmental Quality; Mississippi Council on Rural Development; Mississippi Rural Health Association; Mississippi Public Lands Council; Local Governments and Rural Water Systems Improvements Board, Vice Chairman; Environmental, Energy & Land Use Steering Committee, National Association of Counties; Rails Safety Task Force, Mississippi Department of Transportation; Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, Attorney General's Office; Metropolitan Planning Organization, Mississippi Department of Transportation; Government Relations Specialist, Mississippi Assessors and Collectors Association; and the Mississippi State University Alumni Association National Board of Directors.

Joe B. Young is the Tax Assessor-Collector of Pike County, having been elected to that position in 1983 and re-elected five (5) times since. He holds a B.S. degree in mathematics from Mississippi College where he served as co-captain of the football team and was selected by the faculty to receive the Farr Scholarship. Mr. Young has made numerous educational and professional accomplishments within the assessing field. He has served as President of the Mississippi Assessors and Collectors Association (MACA) and President of the Mississippi Chapter of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO). He has achieved Mississippi Assessment Evaluator (MAE) certification within the Mississippi Education and Certification Program for assessors and appraisers and also holds a Certified General Real Estate Appraiser license. Mr. Young frequently testifies before the Mississippi Legislature on subjects related to tax assessing and collecting.