



**EDUCATION  
CONFERENCE**

## LIST OF SPEAKERS

<b>Tracy Kennedy</b>	Treasurer-Tax Collector	Madera County
<b>Karen Lange</b>	Partner	Shaw, Yoder, Antwih, Schmelzer, & Lange
<b>Dan Mierzwa</b>	Treasurer-Tax Collector	Yuba County
<b>Gayle Miller</b>	Chief Deputy of Policy	Department of Finance
<b>Jordan Kaufman</b>	Treasurer-Tax Collector	Kern County
<b>Sandie Arnott</b>	Treasurer-Tax Collector	San Mateo County
<b>Chris Thornberg</b>	Founder	Beacon Economics
<b>Don Collins</b>	Capital Markets	Wedbush Securities
<b>Lindsey Ross .</b>	Manager	State Controller's Office
<b>Elvis M. Chan</b>	Supervisory Special Agent	Federal Bureau of Investigation
<b>Chris Cruz</b>	Director	San Joaquin County
<b>Jacquelyn H. Choi</b>	Partner	Rimon Law



Tracy Kennedy currently serves as the Madera County Treasurer-Tax Collector. She was first elected in 1991 and prior to that, she served as the Assistant Treasurer-Tax Collector beginning in 1987. Ms. Kennedy has been re-elected 7 times, with no opposition, and in her 8th term as the Madera County Treasurer-Tax Collector, she continues to be a valuable asset to CACTTC.



Karen began her career in public policy as a Congressional intern in 1998. In 2006, she began working as an advocate with Peterson Consulting, Inc. Peterson Consulting was later purchase by Joshua Shaw and Paul Yoder in 2009. After 10 years, Ms. Lang became a named partner (2016) Ms. Lange holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley.



Dan Mierzwa currently serves as the Yuba County Treasurer-Tax Collector. He was first elected in 2009 and is in his 3rd term as the Yuba County Treasurer-Tax Collector. Mr. Mierzwa is also a past President of CACTTC and is currently serving as the Legislative Committee Chair and Debt Management Committee Chair. Mr. Mierzwa continues to be an active member of CACTTC.



Gayle Miller, was appointed Chief Deputy of Policy at the California Department of Finance in 2019. Ms. Miller has been Senior Policy Advisor for the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration since 2018.

She was Deputy Controller, Director of Policy in the Office of the State Controller from 2017 to 2018. She served as a principal consultant in the Office of the California State Senate President pro Tempore from 2016 to 2018. She held several positions in the California State Senate, including consultant in the Office of Research from 2014 to 2016, Staff Director for the Governance and Finance Committee from 2006 to 2014 and principal consultant at the Revenue and Taxation Committee from 2001 to 2005.



Jordan Kaufman currently serves as the Kern County Treasurer-Tax Collector. He was first elected in 2015 and prior to that, he served as the Assistant Treasurer-Tax Collector beginning in 2006. Mr. Kaufman is in his 2nd term as the Kern County Treasurer-Tax Collector and is the current President-Elect of CACTTC. He also serves as a Commissioner on the California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA), Treasurer of the Boy Scouts of America Southern Sierra Council, and member of the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Kaufman is also an Adjunct Professor at CSUB where he teaches a graduate level Public Budgeting and Finance course for the Department of Public Policy and Administration.



Sandie Amott currently serves as the San Mateo County Treasurer-Tax Collector. Ms. Amott was first elected in 2010 and was the first woman elected to the position of Treasurer-Tax Collector of San Mateo County. She is also a past President of CACTTC and was selected by State Treasurer, Betty Yee to serve on a special Property Tax Procedures Manual Committee and was selected by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) to serve on the California Debt Investment Advisory Committee (CDIAC) Steering Committee.



Dr. Christopher Thornberg founded Beacon Economics LLC in 2006. Under his leadership, the firm has become one of the most respected research organizations in California serving public and private sector clients across the United States.

Beacon Economics is a leading independent research and consulting firm dedicated to delivering accurate, insightful, and objectively-based economic analysis. Leveraging unique proprietary models, vast databases, and sophisticated data processing.

Dr. Thornberg has testified before the U.S. Congress House Committee on Financial Services on municipal debt issues, before the California State Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation regarding rule changes related to Proposition 13, and before the Los Angeles City Council about proposed changes to local minimum wage laws. He is a well-known media commentator, and has appeared on CNN and NPR and is regularly quoted in major national dailies including the Wall Street Journal and New York Times.

Originally from upstate New York, Dr. Thornberg holds a Ph.D in Business Economics from The Anderson School at UCLA, and a B.S. degree in Business Administration from the State University of New York at Buffalo.



Don Collins is a Taxable Fixed-Income Trader and Salesperson with Wedbush Securities with over 33 years' experience as an institutional bond trader. Mr. Collins exclusively services institutional clients who trade in U.S. Treasuries and Agencies, mortgage-backed securities, municipals and investment-grade corporate debt.

In addition to trading, Mr. Collin has been intimately involved with CACTTC, CMTA and CSMFO, organizing and teaching classes to promote, educate, and train treasurers and their staff in the intricacies of Institutional Public Fixed income funds management.

Don Collins graduated from the University of Southern California (USC), with a Degree in Finance and holds Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) licenses as an Option Principal (Series 4), a General Securities Registered Representative (Series 7), and a Uniform Securities Agent State Law Exam (Series 63).



Lindsey Ross operates the Property Tax Postponement (PTP) Program at the State Controller's Office, and has been managing the program since its reinstatement in 2016. Prior to that, she held multiple positions at the Controller's Office over the last decade, including supervising the Property Tax Standards Unit, serving as a Legislative Analyst for the Division of Accounting and Reporting, and a Policy Analyst in Controller, John Chiang's Executive Office.



Elvis Chan is a Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) assigned to FBI San Francisco. SSA Chan manages a squad responsible for investigating national security cyber matters. With over 15 years in the Bureau, he is a decorated agent who is recognized within the Intelligence Community as a cyberterrorism expert. SSA Chan was the lead agent on significant cyber investigations and managed joint counterterrorism operations with domestic and foreign law enforcement agencies. Prior to joining the Bureau, SSA Chan was a process development engineer in the semiconductor industry for 12 years. He holds two U.S. patents, presents at many technical and law enforcement symposiums, and published multiple articles in technical journals. SSA Chan graduated from the University of Washington with degrees in chemical engineering and chemistry.



Christopher Cruz is the Director and Chief Information Officer for San Joaquin County. Mr. Cruz also provides executive direction for IT strategic initiatives and operations to the CIO of San Joaquin County General Hospital. His Division currently supports a portfolio of 279 enterprise systems to enable the business functions of these 31 departments.

Prior to his work at San Joaquin County, Mr. Cruz was the Chief Deputy Director and Deputy State Chief Information Officer at the California Department of Technology. Mr. Cruz oversaw the delivery of California data center services to over 400 state and local government entities. Mr. Cruz earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from California State University at Sacramento and attended the UC Davis Executive Program in Leadership Excellence.



Jacquelyn H. Choi counsels secured and unsecured creditors involving all facets of corporate bankruptcy and has extensive bankruptcy litigation and appellate experience. For more than a decade, Ms. Choi has successfully advocated on behalf of numerous Counties and governmental entities throughout the State of California concerning various bankruptcy issues, including complex tax disputes. She frequently lectures on behalf of California Counties with regard to current developments in bankruptcy law and litigates before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals concerning issues of first impression. Ms. Choi has presented many times for CACTTC and most recently conducted the Bankruptcy 101 - Back to the Basics Webinar on August 20, 2020.