MICHAEL BARRETT
Michael Barrett has been with the City of Dallas for over 10 years. In his latest role, as the City of Dallas Disaster Recovery Manager, he works with every work group, including the City of Dallas Office of the Auditor. Michael participated, as one of the Communication Information Services (CIS) representative, in the preparation and reporting of the, “Audit of the City of Dallas’ Pandemic Influenza Continuity of Operations Basic Plan.”

Michael is a Certified Business Resilience IT Professional, Protected Critical Infrastructure Information certified (PCII) and is the Texas Department of Public Infrastructure Liaison officer for CIS. In Michael’s former career he was a member of the Initial Response Team (IRT), for American Airlines, for over 10 years.

MELINDA J. DECORTE
Melinda DeCorte has 20 years of accounting, auditing and government financial management experience. She directs, manages and serves in a quality assurance capacity for financial statement audits conducted in accord with government auditing standards. Additionally, she has extensive governmental consulting experience focusing on internal controls and risk assessments, financial statement preparation, financial system implementation, and evaluating agencies for audit readiness and compliance with internal control standards and generally accepted accounting principles.

Prior to her career in public accounting, Melinda served as a commissioned officer in the United States Army, Finance Corps.

Melinda also serves as the Vice-Chair of the Association of Government Accountants national Professional Ethics Board and on the advisory council to the Government Accountability Office in updating the Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government (Green Book).

STEVEN PUTANSU
Steven Putansu is a "pracademic," who splits his time between being a senior social science analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) on the one hand, and academic research and teaching on the other. Steven specializes in evidence-based decision making, including political consequences of incorporating evidence into policy debates, research on leading practices for making evidence-based decisions, and applied work in a variety of policy areas. His PhD Dissertation, Measured Words: Politics and Performance in the Federal Bureaucracy, examined the interplay between performance information, ideology, institutions, and interests in the decision-making process. At GAO, Steven has contributed to products on best practices for evaluating government programs, audit criteria, and frameworks for assessing performance systems, interagency collaboration, human capital, risk management, duplication, and fraud in the federal government. He has applied these and other frameworks in GAO engagements in a range of policy areas, including education, defense, international affairs, nuclear energy, project management, wildfire response, immigration, climate change, veterans’ affairs, freight rail, and traffic safety. His methodological contributions have ensured rigorous
technical standards in hundreds of GAO performance audits, provided policymakers with high-quality information for overseeing federal programs, and ensured the best use of taxpayer dollars, contributing to over $175 billion in financial benefits for the federal government. For these contributions, Steven received an Arthur S. Flemming award for Leadership and Management in 2017.

KEITH SALAS
Keith Salas has been with the City of Austin’s Office of the City Auditor for almost 5 years, most of that time in the City Auditor’s Integrity Unit (investigations). He holds degrees in economics and public affairs, and is a CGAP and CFE. Prior to becoming an auditor, Keith taught high school algebra and geometry.

MAMATHA SPARKS
Mamatha Sparks has over 20 years of auditing and assurance experience. She has been with the Office of the City Auditor for 11 years and is currently Assistant City Auditor IV. She assists in the review of performance and attestation engagements as well as training and developing staff. During her tenure at the City of Dallas, she has focused on engagements related to Information Security, Ethics, Emergency Operations, Risk Management and Audit Plan Development as well as procurement assessments.

Prior to joining to the City of Dallas, Ms. Sparks spent nine years working with PricewaterhouseCoopers as a Manager. She worked with Fortune 500 clients in assisting internal control departments with the implementation and auditing of Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) requirements, performing computer controls reviews to support financial audits, developing project management support offices for software development projects, business process control reviews, attestation engagements, and developing business continuity plans.

Ms. Sparks graduated with Bachelor of Business Administration in Management Information Systems and also in Finance from the University of Texas at Austin, McCombs School of Business. She is a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) and a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) and has completed the Institute of Internal Auditor (IIA) Committee of Sponsoring Organization (COSO) Internal Control Certificate. Ms. Sparks also authored and published Debt-Free College: 79 Secrets to Successful College Financing (2002).

LINH TRUONG
Linh Truong is currently the Chief Audit Executive at Orthofix International, a global medical device company focused on improving patients' lives by providing superior reconstructive and regenerative orthopedic and spine solutions to physicians worldwide. Linh has more than 20 years of audit experience including being the former CAE of Kosmos Energy and Alon USA where she built the respective internal audit departments from ground zero. She has spearheaded Fraud Risk Assessments and ERM initiatives as well as implemented first year SOX at multiple companies. She has worked at Hunt Oil, Xerox, Credit Suisse Group, and KPMG. Her audit career has provided her the opportunity to live and work in Germany and Switzerland for four years as well as travel throughout the US, Canada, Europe, parts of Africa, South America and the Middle East.