

## Meeting Faculty

**Michael Armstrong** is serving as the current Vice President of the FARB Executive Board. In June 2021, he celebrated his 10<sup>th</sup> year as the Chief Executive Officer for the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). During his tenure, NCARB has initiated new approaches to outreach, inter-organizational collaboration, data collection and analytics, reinvention and redesign of licensure tools and paths, legislative advocacy, and the continued diversification of the staff and volunteer communities. Today, NCARB has 120 employees, a volunteer base of nearly 400, over 120,000 record holders and a budget of over \$35 million.



Armstrong is a former journalist and licensed attorney with prior history in newspaper reporting and editing, local government law, state and federal government executive management, political party and campaign management, strategic consulting for government clients, and non-profit support for federal/state/local government. He resides in Washington, DC.

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**Thom Banks**, Hon. FASID, Hon. Member IDC, is the Chief Executive Officer for the Council for Interior Design Qualification and is responsible for CIDQ's overall strategic and operational leadership. He serves as a primary spokesperson to advance the organization's mission to establish, maintain and assess standards for competence in the application of empirically validated practices in the interior design profession.



Formerly vice president with ForrestPerkins, a leader in luxury hotel, resorts and multi-residential projects, Banks was also Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Executive Director of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) from 1998-2014.

An honorary fellow of ASID, one of only 30 in the Society's 40-year history, he was also the inaugural President of the Interior Design Continuing Education Council and a founding board member of the National Academy of Environmental Design. Earlier in his career, he worked at the American Institute of Architects in Washington, D.C.

Banks holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

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**Marcus J. Beauregard** assumed the duties of director for the Defense State Liaison Office within the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy in November 2015. As director, Beauregard is responsible for an office of eight regional liaisons, a senior

liaison who oversees their operations and a senior state policy analyst. Together, they conduct strategic planning, legislative analysis, outreach, and education to assist governors, state legislators and other state officials in addressing the department's priority issues affecting service members and their families.

Prior to appointment as the director of the Defense State Liaison Office, Beauregard worked on the team as a contractor and a civil servant. Before that, Mr. Beauregard served with Military Community and Family Policy starting while on active duty in the Air Force.

Beauregard is the recipient of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service. His military awards and decorations include: The Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Defense Superior Service Medal.

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**Thomas Brooks** is on the Board of Directors of the Association of Social Work Boards and recently former Chair of the Minnesota Board of Social Work. As a public member, he works in local government as an Equity and Inclusion Manager for the City of Roseville, MN and has a professional background primarily in the private sector in financial services and technology. Thomas's passions include working to improve our communities through addressing systemic inequities and barriers and has done this work in local city and county governments, public education, and social work regulation. He holds a Master of Science degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Grand Canyon University.

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**Brenda L. Dennis** of Oregon was elected director at large to serve on the 2021 Board of Directors of the Association of Social Work Boards. Dennis administers two statewide programs for the Oregon Health Authority, providing evidence-based services to those with severe and persistent mental illness and overseeing the statewide mobile crisis response for behavioral health. During the current pandemic and recent disasters, she also has been administering federal grants and contracts for crisis counseling and collaborating with federal funders, community partners, and contractors to implement programs, collect data, and perform regular reporting on progress. Dennis received degrees in music therapy and psychology, and her previous work history includes direct service as a music therapist, case manager, and corrections counselor and administrative service in state corrections and behavioral health settings.

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**Rubby Douglas** currently serves as the Preparedness Section Chief in the Emergency Management Division for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Her vast knowledge in coordination, collaboration and cooperative endeavors have supported preparedness, planning, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts on a state and local level.

Douglas holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Political Science from Louisiana State University. She holds a Master's of Social Work degree from LSU's School of Social Work. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Board Approved Clinical Supervisor.



In 1998, she was awarded the Louisiana Distinguished Civilian Service Medal for her contributions in time and services promoting a drug-free community while serving as both a trainer and cadre for the Louisiana National Guard's R.O.P.E.S. Challenge Course. In addition, in April 1999, Rubby was honored to be the recipient of the 2002 Vision Award and the 1999 Anchor Award by the Louisiana Association for Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities for her outstanding support for the safe and drug-free schools and communities' programs statewide.

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**Brian E. Francis** has been Executive Director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) since September 1, 2016. TDLR is the state's occupational licensing agency with almost 1,000,000 licensees in 39 diverse occupations and industries.

Francis leads with integrity and motivates TDLR's employees to achieve the agency's strategic vision. He manages day-to-day operations, implements Commission objectives, and ensures agency compliance with statewide goals and initiatives.

Prior to joining TDLR as the Deputy Executive Director, he served as the Assistant Administrator of the Texas Real Estate Commission and as a Senior Securities Analyst at the State Securities Board. He started his more than 30 years of public service at the Texas Savings and Loan Department.

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**David B. Fye J.D.** serves as Executive Director for the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board, the state agency which regulates most mental health professionals. The BSRB licenses 7 unique professions, including Licensed Psychology, Social Work, Professional Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, Master's Level Psychology, Addiction Counseling, and Behavior Analysis.





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**Lavina Harless** is a licensed clinical social worker and senior director of examination services for the Association of Social Work Boards. She oversees development and administration of the social work licensing examinations used in the United States and Canada. Her responsibilities include the coordination of more than 150 volunteers, consultants, paid item writers, and staff and the management of several examination-related contractors.



Harless is the author of *Becoming the SME Whisperer: Creating a Culture of Engaged, Hardworking (and Happy) Subject-Matter Experts*, a resource document white paper for the Institute for Credentialing Excellence on recruiting and retaining diverse subject matter expert talent. Before starting at ASWB, she served as the clinical director at a residential treatment facility for children. Harless earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from Radford University.

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**Jennifer Henkel** is the Senior Director of Member Engagement and Regulatory Services at the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), the nonprofit association of social work licensing boards in the United States and Canada. Henkel has been with ASWB since 2013. Henkel leads all member board and regulatory support services and provides integral support and services to member licensing boards, so they are better able to carry out their missions. Henkel provides trainings to ASWB member boards and social workers regarding regulation, as well as research and policy analysis. Henkel is also proud to be a contributor to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative at the Association. Prior to ASWB, Henkel worked as a clinical social worker in a variety of settings and was the director of an intensive in-home agency and a rural community mental health clinic.



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**Julie Hildebrand** is the Executive Director of the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners. Hildebrand received her undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin in Sociology. Subsequently, she received her law degree from Texas Tech University. She then worked for one year with the Texas Medical Board as a staff attorney and then for almost thirteen years as assistant general counsel and then litigation counsel for the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. Prior to the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners, she was the executive director for the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners, where she had previously served as the general counsel.



Additionally, Hildebrand is certified in administrative law by the Board of Legal Specialization and is a graduate of the Senior Management and Strategic Planning Programs of the

**Ronne Hines** was appointed Director of the Division of Professions and Occupations (DPO) in August 2016. DPO is an umbrella agency that regulates more than 55 professions and over 500,000 licensees. As the Division Director, she is responsible for licensing nearly 15-percent of the state's workforce and protects consumers through the enforcement of rigorous licensing standards and standards of practice. DPO strives to provide excellent customer service, to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden including working to expand access to healthcare across Colorado, and to break down silos among professions to help solve some of the State's toughest challenges such as prescription drug abuse.



Hines has been with the Department since February 2008 and has served in a variety of senior-level positions in DPO, most recently as its Deputy Director for Healthcare with responsibility for approximately 250,000 healthcare professionals in the state in more than 25 different regulatory boards and programs. Prior to her role as Deputy Director for Healthcare, Hines was a program director charged with the day-to-day operations and enforcement for six mental health regulatory boards. Previously, Ms. Hines was an attorney in private practice.

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**Suzanne Hultin** is an Associate Director in the Employment, Labor & Retirement Program at the National Conference of State Legislatures. In this role, she oversees issues around employment, occupational licensing, and workforce development. Hultin joined NCSL in 2013 as a policy specialist in postsecondary education with a focus on topics including community colleges, workforce development and underserved student populations. Prior to joining NCSL, she served as Deputy Chief of Staff for two lieutenant governors in Colorado where she worked on issues ranging from early childhood education to higher education and workforce development. She received her Bachelor of Art in Political Science and Journalism from the University of Washington and her Master's in Public Policy from the University of Denver.



**Ron Jacobs** is a partner in Venable's government division in Washington, D.C. He represents several national associations of state licensing boards, as well as professional societies. His practice includes providing strategic guidance about approaches to legislative changes to state licensure laws, assistance with model law drafting, writing amicus briefs before courts of appeals in support of state licensure bodies, and helping clients with comments to federal agencies dealing with scope of practice issues.



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**Robin Y. Jenkins, MSW, CAE** is currently the Chief Client Engagement Director for Allied Health Professions at CGFNS' International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. (ICD). She is the executive contact for individuals and entities seeking to use ICD's credentialing evaluation and primary source verifications services, which assess internationally educated professionals for licensure, certification, employment, education, and immigration purposes.



Prior to joining ICD, she was the executive director for 13 health regulatory boards responsible for the licensure of 31 different professions at the District of Columbia Department of Health. In her career, Robin has also served as the executive director for the District of Columbia's Higher Education Licensure Commission and was a Senior Policy Associate for the National Association of Social Workers.

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**Dan Logsdon** is the Director of the National Center for Interstate Compacts at The Council of State Governments. Previously, Logsdon was Vice Chair of Kentucky's Public Service Commission. He served as Kentucky Governor Steve Beshear's deputy chief of staff and as Assistant Kentucky State Treasurer. He has experience in the telecommunications industry having served as vice president for external affairs at Alltel Communications and Windstream Communications. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Murray State University.



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**Shannon Lynd** is the co-Founder, Partner, Graphic Designer and Website Developer at Dovetail Digital Marketing. Two years prior to graduating from Texas A&M University in 1994, Shannon began working in the software industry, programming for Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America (we're talking old school computer nerd) and has held numerous positions in the industry



since then. She continued programming and worked in sales, directed marketing, and managed projects for companies like Seer Technologies, Versata, and Bizzuka.

With over 25 years of working relatively every side of marketing and web design, Shannon honed her skills and further developed her passion.



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**Brenda Macon** is the executive secretary of the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists. In this position, she works with the board as its administrative manager. Prior to serving in her current position, she was with Louisiana State University, where she held a variety of positions, including managing a major literary journal (The Southern Review) and producing a vital college magazine (Kaleidoscope: The Magazine of the LSU College of Arts & Sciences). She has also taught technical writing, composed reports on engineering research, developed proposals for both academic and research projects, and served as human resources liaison for two university units.



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**Cathie A. Maeyaert** is the Director of Private Postsecondary Institutions with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Ms. Maeyaert has worked for the Coordinating Board since 2012, primarily overseeing authorization of private postsecondary educational institutions operating in Texas. She is also the THECB Title IX Coordinator for Institutions and serves as the ADR Coordinator for negotiated rulemaking. Prior to her time with THECB, she worked in the areas of compliance, accreditation, and licensing for a private for-profit multi-state educational system. Maeyaert has been an adjunct instructor at both a for-profit college and a non-profit private university.



Throughout her career, Maeyaert has served on boards of directors for various non-profit charitable organizations. In a previous life, she practiced intellectual property and employment law and developed continuing legal education seminars. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hamline University and a Juris Doctor degree from William Mitchell College of Law (now Mitchell Hamline School of Law). Ms. Maeyaert currently serves as the Vice President for the National Association of State Administrators and Supervisors of Private Schools.

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**Karen McGovern** is the Deputy Division Director of Legal Affairs for the Division of Professions and Occupations (DPO) at the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA). DPO regulates

nearly 500,000 licensees through the administration of 23 boards and commissions and 17 director model agencies. Prior to her role at DPO McGovern served as an Assistant Attorney General representing the Division's healthcare boards/programs and managed her own law firm where she represented professionals against licensing and disciplinary matters.



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**Veronica L. Meadows, CAE** is the Chief Strategy Officer for the Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards. Veronica is responsible for the management and refinement of CLARB's strategy system in addition to the oversight of the organization's governance, membership, communications, and advocacy functions to promote stakeholder engagement and empower partners to defend commonsense regulation and licensure of landscape architecture.



She partners with the CEO, Board of Directors, and management team to create CLARB's long-term and short-term initiatives and guides the CLARB Board through the planning process. In partnership with the CEO, Veronica manages leadership development and assessment, growth initiatives, and strategic governance processes to ensure organizational effectiveness.

Her career in association management spans over 20 years and includes experience in marketing, communications, customer and public relations, strategic planning, leadership development and strategic governance systems. Meadows also serves as a Member-at-Large on the Executive Board of the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) and is a Certified Association Executive.

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**Graham Oey** is a Senior Staff Attorney/Special Assistant Attorney General with the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation. His primary responsibilities include representing and advising nine professional and occupational licensing agencies. Oey has significant experience in administrative hearings and rulemaking procedures. In addition, during legislative session he is responsible for drafting bills, providing bill analyses, and lobbying and testifying.



Before practicing administrative law, Oey prosecuted criminal cases in a State's Attorney's Office. Oey graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Arts, double majoring in Political Science and Sociology. He earned his juris doctor from the University of South Dakota School of Law.



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**Kelly Parker** is the current Executive Director of the Texas Optometry Board. She also currently serves as the Vice-Chair of the Texas Health Professions Council, which coordinates regulatory efforts among the various health care licensing boards in Texas. Ms. Parker previously served as the Executive Director of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners, Louisiana State Board of Psychology Examiners and the first-ever Executive Director of the Louisiana Behavior Analyst Board. Parker was also previously a registered lobbyist who represented organized dental groups in Texas.



Parker completed the Governor's Executive Development Program in 2017, through the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. She managed and facilitated *Texas's Blue Ribbon Panel on Dental Anesthesia/Sedation Safety*. Parker completed her undergraduate education at the University of Maryland. She also serves on other national and state committees related to healthcare and regulation.

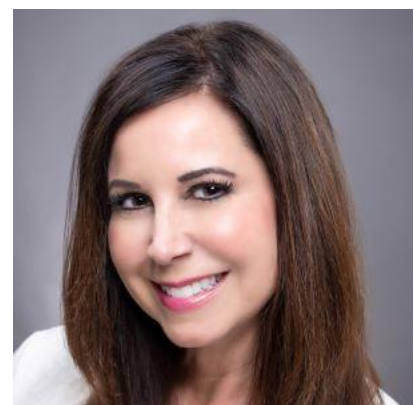
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**Dalene Paull** is Executive Director of The International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards, Inc. She is a two-time graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a master's degree in public administration. She began her career with The Conference in 1998 as a registrar and a year later, began serving as Assistant Executive Director. She was named Executive Director in 2002.



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**Holly Silvestri**, who is a partner/co-owner with The Ferraro Group, oversees strategic public relations and communications initiatives, client relations, developing communications plans, media relations, social media planning, community relations/charitable outreach, business development, and the operations of the Las Vegas office and its staff.



Silvestri merged her PR firm with The Ferraro Group in 2008 to become part of a leading Nevada statewide agency. Since then, The Ferraro Group has expanded into Phoenix, AZ and Washington, D.C. She has been recognized in the past as the "PR Practitioner of the Year" by the Public Relations Society of America, Las Vegas chapter. Her firm also earned a Pinnacle Award for Marketing Communications for its successful launch of Dunkin' Donuts in the Southern Nevada market and won several Pinnacle Awards for its Nevada State Census community outreach and PR work.

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**Karen Valencic** Best-selling author and speaker, Karen Valencic is passionate about revealing the keys to mastering conflict so leaders can fast-track innovation and smooth the turbulence of change – thereby increasing momentum. Her artistic flare and power come from thirty years of martial arts training. The effectiveness and practicality of her work comes out of her engineering background. Valencic’s concepts are third-party validated by the 100’s of teams she’s guided to boost their performance and collaborative spirit.



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**Cristina Vessels** is an associate in Venable’s government division in Washington, D.C. Her work for leading trade associations and regulatory boards, including in the architecture and early childhood education industries, involves legislative and regulatory drafting, litigation concerning challenges to Board authority, contract negotiation, and general counseling on organizational and operational matters. Cristina gives practical, efficient, clear, and, when appropriate, creative advice to meet her clients’ legal obligations and the realities of putting their plans into action.



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**Alicia Wheeler** is an Assistant Attorney General with the Louisiana Department of Justice. She is a member of the Civil Division, Governmental Litigation Section.



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**Marta Zaniewski** while serving as Vice President of State Regulatory and Legislative Affairs leads the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants’ (AICPA) state regulatory and legislative efforts. In her role, she builds strong and collaborative relationships with internal and external stakeholders on issues that impact the CPA profession. She serves as the AICPA’s primary voice on state advocacy efforts. Zaniewski works closely with state CPA societies, the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA), state legislative and executive

branch officials, and global professional services firms. Additionally, in her role as the Executive Director for the Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing (ARPL), she helps drive strategy regarding reasonable regulation in the occupational licensing space.

Ms. Zaniewski previously served as the Assistant Vice President for advocacy and external engagement at the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). Before joining NCARB, Ms. Zaniewski managed coalitions and partnerships at the American Institute of Architects. She also coordinated state political campaigns, grassroots, and fundraising efforts for the National Association of Realtors.



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**Jared Zurn, AIA, NCARB, CAE**, Vice President, Examination, serves as a member of the senior leadership team at the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. Zurn has responsibility for the strategic direction of examination related initiatives, professional ethics initiatives, as well as oversight of and participation in research regarding the current and future states of the architectural profession. Zurn is a licensed architect and Certified Association Executive.

Before joining NCARB, Zurn operated a sole proprietorship architectural design firm in northern Minnesota. He also served as faculty of the Architectural Technology program at Minnesota State Community and Technical College where he served as a Division Chair and led the Architectural Technology program in the areas of curriculum development, course assessment, and program outcome assessment.

