

Panel Bios

G. Allen Mayer, Chief of Staff, Illinois State Treasurer's Office

G. Allen Mayer has over 20 years of experience providing policy and legal advice in Illinois state government. As Chief of Staff to Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs, Mr. Mayer manages a staff of over 170 employees in Chicago, Springfield, and across Illinois. The State Treasurer's Office (STO) has an approximately \$40 million operational budget and a \$3.4 billion total budget. The STO is charged with providing treasury, cash management, and investment support to Illinois state government, providing the necessary liquidity to meet the State's daily obligations while investing the remaining funds. The STO actively invests approximately \$32 billion in assets on behalf of state and local governments and college savings accounts and processes over \$278 billion in banking transactions annually.

Mr. Mayer presently serves as the Chair of the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators (NAUPA) Legal Committee and as a member of the NAUPA Executive Committee. He served as Treasurer Frerichs' official observer to the Uniform Law Commission's Committee to Revise the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act (RUUPA). Mr. Mayer was the recipient of the NAUPA 2017 Presidential Distinguished Service Award for his work on the RUUPA and the Unclaimed Property Professionals Organization (UPPO) "Above and Beyond Award" in 2019.

Before coming to work for the Treasurer in 2015 Mr. Mayer was Deputy General Counsel to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and Special Counsel to then-Illinois Comptroller Dan Hynes. Prior to working as an associate in a small Peoria litigation firm, Mr. Mayer began his legal career as an Assistant Counsel to the Illinois House Speaker.

Mr. Mayer is a graduate of the Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA) and an honors graduate of the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois College of Law.

Dennis Johnston, Administrator, Unclaimed Property Division, Utah State Treasurer's Office

Dennis Johnston became the Administrator of the Utah Unclaimed Property division in October 2011. Mr. Johnston received his MBA from USU and a BS from BYU where he met his wife, Dana Roberts. Together they reared two boys and two girls and now have five grandchildren. He received a commission from the US Navy as a Supply Corps Officer and retired following 20 years of service mainly as a Reserve Officer. He also worked for over 25 years as a Trust Officer for some of the local banks in the Salt Lake City area. As a corporate fiduciary, Mr. Johnston, observed the importance of always working for the benefit of his trust beneficiary clients. That work was akin to his current role in seeking to return unclaimed money to the rightful owners as a representative of the State Treasurer in Utah.

Meaghan Aguirre, Assistant State Treasurer – Unclaimed Property Director, Nebraska State Treasurer’s Office

Meaghan Aguirre is the Director of Unclaimed Property at the Nebraska State Treasurer’s Office. She has served as Director since 2009 and has overseen the return of \$107 million in unclaimed property to Nebraskans. Prior to this position, she assisted the Nebraska State Treasurer’s Office as an Unclaimed Property Specialist, reviewing claims and planning educational seminars. Meaghan is a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Kathy Janes, CPA, Director of Unclaimed Property, Office of the State Treasurer

Kathy Janes, Certified Public Accountant, has been an employee of the Treasurer’s office since 1992. She has served as Accountant, Accounting Manager, and is currently the Director of Unclaimed Property. Prior to employment with the Oklahoma State Treasurer’s Office, Kathy worked in public accounting in the areas of tax and audit.

The 22-employee Unclaimed Property Division collected an average of \$90 million dollars annually of unclaimed property from businesses for the last 5 years. The Unclaimed Property program is seeking to reunite 1,000,000 citizens with more than \$700 million dollars. In 2019 the Unclaimed Property Division of the Oklahoma State Treasurer’s office returned a record \$52 million to the rightful owners.

Kelmar Associates, LLC

Kelmar provides specialized services and solutions to assist governments with the management and administration of unclaimed property programs.

With substantial knowledge of state governments, system tools, and process workflows, we have been helping unclaimed property departments across the United States since 2001. By dedicating our organization exclusively to matters of unclaimed property, we maintain the necessary subject matter expertise and reliability to serve as a partner in unclaimed property resources, and offer the next step in unclaimed property management.