

Public Employees' Benefits Program Board Members

The Board of the Public Employees' Benefits Program consists of nine members appointed by the Governor. Each appointee represents a specific class of public employees and retirees. These include the Nevada System of Higher Education, retired public employees, state employees, and local government employees. Additionally, two members must have substantial and demonstrated experience in risk management, portfolio investment strategies, or employee benefits programs. One member must be employed in a managerial capacity for the Department of Administration. NRS 287.041

LEO M. DROZDOFF, P.E., Board Chairman

Mr. Drozdoff was appointed to the PEBP Board in September 2008. He was appointed Acting Director of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on May 1st, 2010. He was the Administrator of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection from October 2004 to April 2010. Prior to becoming NDEP's Administrator, Mr. Drozdoff served as the Bureau Chief of Mining Regulations, as the Bureau Chief of Water Pollution Control and as Deputy Administrator for NDEP's water programs. Mr. Drozdoff obtained his Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Nevada, Reno. He is a licensed Civil Engineer in the State of Nevada.

JACQUE EWING-TAYLOR, Vice Chairperson

Ms. Ewing-Taylor is a faculty member in the College of Education, University of Nevada, Reno where she writes and manages educational technology grants and conducts research in educational technology. She acquired both her bachelor's and master's degrees from UNR in communication and journalism, and is ABD in Information Technology in Education. Ms. Ewing-Taylor was appointed to the Public Employees' Benefits Program Board in March 2002. Her previous benefits experience includes Assistant Vice President of the former Nevada National Bank, where she was in charge of employee benefits for both active and retired employees. She was also a member of Nevada National Bank's Board of Directors Benefits Subcommittee. Ms. Ewing-Taylor has been a resident of Nevada since 1978 and lives in Reno with her husband and very old cat.

DAWN STOUT

Ms. Stout has been the Administrative Services Director for the City of Elko since July 2006 where she oversees Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. She has been with the City of Elko since 1988 and was previously the Accounting Manager where she was responsible for all financial functions of the City including financial reporting, auditing, utility billing, budgeting, payroll, employee benefits, self-insured group health insurance administration, debt administration, revenue and cash management, and investments. Ms. Stout attended Northern Nevada Community College in the 1970's and more recently the University of Nevada, Reno. She resides in Elko with her husband and daughters.

GEORGE CAMPBELL

Mr. Campbell was appointed to the PEBP Board in September 2008. He retired in 2006 after serving in the Civil Division of the Washoe County District Attorney's Office and in the Civil Division of the Nevada Attorney General's Office. His background includes public works, utilities, contract administration, purchasing, licensing and permitting, water rights, personnel and employee benefits, real estate, building and construction, regulatory boards and commissions and risk management. He has lived in Nevada since 1957 and graduated from Reno High School and the University of Nevada, Reno. He resides with his wife in Washoe County.

JEFFERY A. GAROFALO

Mr. Garofalo is an attorney and shareholder in Lee, Hernandez, Kelsey, Brooks, Garofalo & Blake, a civil litigation law firm located in Las Vegas, Nevada. Prior to joining his current firm, he was the managing partner for the Las Vegas office of a regional law firm, where he oversaw all aspects of firm administration, human resources, employee benefits, budgeting, billing and collections. His seventeen year practice has afforded him extensive exposure to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, through which he has resolved nearly 85 million dollars in claims. Mr. Garofalo earned his Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of California, San Diego in 1989, and his Juris Doctorate from University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in 1992. He has also studied mediation and alternative dispute resolution at the Pepperdine University School of Law, Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution. He resides in Las Vegas.

KAREN CATERINO

Ms. Caterino is the Administrator for the Risk Management Division of the State of Nevada where she oversees the State's workers' compensation, property, fleet, fidelity and commercial liability programs. Prior to joining the State, Ms. Caterino worked as a Risk and Benefits Analyst for the City of Sparks where she helped manage the City's self-insured group health insurance and workers' compensation programs. Ms. Caterino served as a member of the Nevada Health Care Coalition and its Hospital Performance Improvement Council. Ms. Caterino has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Roanoke College, a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She achieved her Certified Government Benefits Administrator designation from Eastern Kentucky University and is finishing an Associate degree in Risk Management. She resides in Reno with her husband and daughter.

JULIA TESKA

Ms. Teska is a Budget Analyst with the Department of Administration and has been with the State of Nevada since 2003. Prior to that time she worked eleven years in public education in California including seven years as Accounting Manager and Director of Fiscal Services for the Santa Maria High School District. Her duties included overseeing both purchasing, competitive bids and contracts as well as payroll and benefits administration. In her spare time she has worked as a member of a sports broadcasting team and as a sports writer for Santa Maria Times. She lives in Douglas County with her husband and two dogs.

TERESA THIENHAUS

In November 2008, Teresa Thienhaus was appointed Director of Personnel for the State of Nevada. Shortly thereafter she was appointed to the Public Employees Benefits Board. Prior to joining DOP, Thienhaus worked for the Nevada Attorney General's office where she was a Senior Deputy Attorney General. She served as the primary personnel attorney for the Department of Transportation and the Department of Business and Industry, among others.

Thienhaus received a registered nurse diploma from Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, and worked for several years as a psychiatric primary care nurse. Her undergraduate B.A. was earned at the University of Cincinnati in German Studies. Thienhaus also received her law degree from the University of Cincinnati. She practiced primarily in the areas of employment and labor law, personal injury and civil rights before joining the Nevada Attorney General's Office in 1999.

Thienhaus is married and has one son. She divides her time between Las Vegas and Reno.