

NAIOP

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

NAIOP OF OHIO

NAIOP Weekly Legislative Report
Prepared by: Law Offices of Matthew G. Kallner
Report created on September 12, 2011

Supported Bills

- HB10** **REMEDIATION OF CONTAMINATED SITE (SEARS, B)** To authorize refundable tax credits for the completion of a voluntary action to remediate a contaminated site and for the return of such sites to productive use, and to exempt persons through 2017 who have issued covenants not to sue under the Voluntary Action Program from certain fees and penalties for one year after the issuance of such a covenant.
- Current Status:* 3/2/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fifth Hearing)
 All Bill Status: 2/23/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)
 2/16/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
 2/9/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
 2/2/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)
 1/26/2011 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
 1/11/2011 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
 1/11/2011 - Introduced
- HB17** **TAX CREDIT FOR HIRING UNEMPLOYED (BAKER, N)** To authorize a \$2,400 income tax withholding credit for an employer that hires and employs a previously unemployed individual.
- Current Status:* 1/11/2011 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
 All Bill Status: 1/11/2011 - Introduced
- HB18** **TAX CREDIT - EXPANDING BUSINESSES (BAKER, N)** To authorize a nonrefundable tax credit for a business that increases payroll and expands into a vacant facility.
- Current Status:* 2/23/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fifth Hearing)
 All Bill Status: 2/16/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)
 2/9/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
 2/2/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)
 1/26/2011 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
 1/11/2011 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
 1/11/2011 - Introduced

Oppose

- HB50** **TYPE-II ANNEXATION (SNITCHLER T)** To require that a political subdivision owner be included in determining the number of owners needed to sign a petition for an expedited type-II annexation.
- Current Status:* 6/21/2011 - House Local Government, (Fifth Hearing)
 All Bill Status: 6/14/2011 - **BILL AMENDED**, House Local Government, (Fifth

Hearing)
5/24/2011 - **SUBSTITUTE BILL ACCEPTED**, House Local Government, (Fourth Hearing)
3/1/2011 - House Local Government, (Second Hearing)
2/22/2011 - House Local Government, (Second Hearing)
2/15/2011 - House Local Government, (First Hearing)
2/1/2011 - Referred to Committee House Local Government
1/26/2011 - Introduced

Monitoring

- HB134 CAPITAL GAINS INVESTMENTS (SCHURING K)** To reduce the income tax rate on capital gains reinvested in Ohio-based investments.
Current Status: 6/1/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Fourth Hearing)
All Bill Status: 5/11/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
3/30/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Third Hearing)
3/23/2011 - House Ways and Means, (Second Hearing)
3/16/2011 - House Ways and Means, (First Hearing)
3/2/2011 - Referred to Committee House Ways and Means
3/1/2011 - Introduced
- HB198 PROPERTY TAX COMPLAINTS (COLEY II W)** To permit property tax complaints to be initiated only by the property owner.
Current Status: 5/12/2011 - House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development, (Second Hearing)
All Bill Status: 5/4/2011 - House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development, (First Hearing)
4/12/2011 - Referred to Committee House Financial Institutions, Housing and Urban Development
4/12/2011 - Introduced
- SB89 LABOR REQUIREMENTS (JORDAN K)** To prohibit state agencies from requiring or prohibiting certain labor requirements as a condition of performing public works and prohibit the appropriations of state funds for public works when political subdivisions require or prohibit certain labor.
Current Status: 3/8/2011 - Referred to Committee Senate Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review
All Bill Status: 2/23/2011 - Introduced
- SB115 PROPERTY SALE GAINS (KEARNEY E)** To exempt from income taxation any gains from the sale of Ohio property used in a trade or business and held for at least two years.
Current Status: 3/24/2011 - Senate Ways & Means & Economic Development, (First Hearing)
All Bill Status: 3/15/2011 - Referred to Committee Senate Ways & Means & Economic Development
3/9/2011 - Introduced

Bills Introduced Since 9/5/2011

- HB313 INTRASTATE MUTUAL AID COMPACT (CARNEY J, CAREY, JR. J)** To modify the laws

- governing the Intrastate Mutual Aid Compact.
- HB314 STATE EMPLOYEE'S SALARY INCREASES** (BECK P) To limit the amount by which a state employee's salary or wage may be increased.
- HB315 CAMPAIGN MATERIALS** (BAKER N, SEARS B) To increase the penalties for making a false statement in campaign materials related to nomination or election for a statewide office or office of a member of the General Assembly, or in regard to any campaign for or against a ballot question or issue, and to require the person who made the false statement to pay reasonable attorney's fees.
- HB316 MOTORCYCLES** (ROSENBERGER C) To permit motorcycle handlebars to be of any height so long as the height does not adversely affect the ability of the operator to operate the motorcycle safely.
- HB317 STATE GOVERNMENT TEMPORARY HIRING FREEZE** (YOUNG R, THOMPSON A) To impose a temporary hiring freeze in state government until the state workforce is reduced by ten per cent.
- SB211 COUNTY COURTS** (BACON K) To require all moneys collected by the clerk of a municipal or county court be paid to the appropriate person, fund or entity on or before the twentieth day of each month, permit county court to collect unpaid fees from obligor's state income tax refund, to require the Auditor of State to create and maintain a chart detailing the distribution of court costs, fees, and fines collected by municipal and county court clerks, to create the Committee on Court Costs, and to ensure that neither the Registrar nor any deputy registrar accepts any application for the issuance or renewal of a driver's license, commercial driver's license, or temporary instruction permit, or for the registration or transfer or transfer of registration of a motor vehicle of a person who fails to pay court costs imposed for offenses by a municipal mayor's, or county court.
- SB212 OIL/GAS WELL STIMULATION** (SKINDELL M) To establish requirements governing well stimulation, brine disposal, and water that is used in the drilling and operation of oil and gas wells on state land, including a requirement that oil and gas permittees pay a five per cent overriding royalty for each well that is stimulated.
- SB213 MORATORIUM ON HORIZONTAL STIMULATION OF OIL/GAS WELLS** (SKINDELL M) Establishes a moratorium on horizontal stimulation of oil and gas wells until the USEPA publishes a report containing the results of a study of the hydraulic fracturing to drinking water resources and the Chief of the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management issues a report analyzing how Ohio's rules address such issues raised in the USEPA report.
- SB214 RETIREMENT PLANS** (BURKE D) To modify when a public retirement system, alternative retirement plan, or deferred compensation program must comply with a withholding order for restitution issued on conviction of a public employee for certain offenses committed in the course of public employment.
- SB215 PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS** (BURKE D) To require public improvement or service contracts between a state agency and a contractor to contain a provision requiring the contractor to use an electronic employment verification system.
- SB216 ELECTRIC COMPANIES** (JORDAN K) To repeal the requirement that electric distribution utilities and electric services companies provide 25% of their retail power supplies from advanced and renewable energy resources by 2025.
- SCR16 MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR COMBAT PERSONNEL** (BURKE D) To urge Congress to support the provision of efficient and comprehensive mental health treatment to combat military personnel and combat veterans who are suffering from Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other combat-related stress disorders.

Week in Review

Friday, September 9, 2011

AGRICULTURE

Bobby Moser, Ohio State University's vice president for agriculture administration and dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, said he will step down as dean once a replacement is found.

New federal assistance is available for Ohio farmers and agricultural producers who experienced crop or production loss due to severe weather from Feb. 2 to July 31. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has determined a primary disaster designation for 49 counties due to excessive rain, flash flooding, high winds, excessive heat, and tornadoes. In addition to the 49 primary counties, 38 other Ohio counties are also designated as contiguous disaster counties.

BALLOT ISSUES

Both the "Vote Yes" and "Vote No" campaigns rolled out their first ads this week and both featured firefighters. We Are Ohio, the "Vote No" campaign, rolled its out before the Labor Day holiday, noting, "SB5, if it is enacted, will compromise the safety of our communities and our firefighters." Building a Better Ohio, the "Vote Yes" campaign, featured former firefighter and now Toledo Mayor Mike Bell, who touts SB5 as giving cities the tools needed to balance their budgets.

Meanwhile, news reports indicated that the Republican Governors Association will take to the airwaves to defend Issue 2 and Gov. John Kasich's record, and that Kasich Chief of Staff Beth Hansen is taking leave to run the TV campaign for Building a Better Ohio.

The Ohio Right to Life Society endorsed passage of State Issue 3, the Ohio Healthcare Freedom Amendment.

The Ohio Farmers Union urged a "no" vote on Issue 2, the SB5 referendum, to repeal the collective bargaining law.

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor encouraged judges in her first State of the Judiciary speech to speak out on behalf of Issue 1, which would increase the mandatory retirement age for judges. O'Connor said she opposes having any mandatory retirement age at all but views the move from 70 years to 75 years proposed in Issue 1 as an improvement.

FY12-13 BUDGET

Preliminary financial data from the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) showed August revenues beating estimates by \$67.4 million, more than making up for a lag reported in July. To date this fiscal year, revenues are \$51.4 million ahead of estimates.

CORRECTIONS

On Sept. 10, the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) plans to move juveniles from the Ohio River Valley Juvenile Correctional Facility to the state's remaining facilities in anticipation of its officially closing on Sept. 30. DYS Director Harvey Reed said a good portion of the youths housed in Ohio River Valley were placed into re-entry programs or released to their families for completion of community-based programs, while the remaining higher risk youths will be divided among the four facilities still open across the state. Those include Circleville Juvenile Correction Facility (JCF), Cuyahoga Hills JCF, Indian River JCF and Scioto JCF.

DEATH PENALTY

A man on Ohio death row for more than 14 years died of natural causes Tuesday at the Ohio State Penitentiary in Youngstown. Fifty-year-old Jessie Cowans suffered a heart attack and was pronounced dead shortly after. Cowans was convicted of strangling 69-year Clara Swart to death in August 1996 while robbing her home. He had been released on a parole a second time three months prior for an earlier murder-robbery.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JobsOhio Interim Chief Investment Officer Mark Kvamme said at a regional JobsOhio forum in Columbus that the reorganization of development tasks in public and private spheres is meant to allow Ohio to "go to market as a state," rather than fragment development into bureaucratic silos.

The Kasich administration has indicated it will cancel three of Ohio's 11 contracts with foreign trade offices -- those in South Africa, Chile and Brazil -- as it continues to review the remaining contracts for a return on investment for the state in export promotion and foreign investment.

Gov. John R. Kasich Thursday announced the appointment of Lawrence J. Kidd of Jackson to the board of directors of JobsOhio, the new private, nonprofit corporation that will lead Ohio's job creation and economic development activities.

EDUCATION

Ohio's public funded community schools continue to trail their district counterparts in all measures of academic performance, the latest statewide report card shows. Charter schools are failing minimum proficiency targets in all subjects and meet on average only three out of 11 academic standards. Charters, however, are showing improvement.

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is rejecting misconduct allegations leveled against the agency by Parent Advocates for Students in School (PASS), even as the Ohio Auditor of State's Office moves ahead with a full investigation of purported fraud in the state's federally funded tutoring program. PASS lodged its original complaint against ODE and Columbus City Schools with the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) in April and followed with "numerous allegations" over the following months, the department says in an internal audit of its Supplemental Educational Services (SES) Program, dated Friday and released to the public on Saturday.

The state is moving forward with a comprehensive review of public broadcast operations that could mean the privatization of another piece of government infrastructure. eTech Ohio has launched an "aggressive" timetable to determine whether the state technology leader can save money and improve services by spinning off one third of its budget to a private operator of "central master control." The move to privatize operational support for Ohio's eight regional PBS channels and 12 public radio stations originated with Chancellor Jim Petro. Seven radio reading services, Ohio Government Television and, potentially, eTech's growing videoconferencing services would be included in the deal.

eTech Ohio announced that Director Kate Harkin had been nominated by KnowledgeWorks to attend the Jeb Bush-led Foundation for Excellence's annual summit in October.

The Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC) continues the work of overhauling K-12 classrooms in the Buckeye State, albeit with less funding, awarding a third fewer dollars in FY11 than in the previous fiscal year. School districts apparently face the same fiscal crunch, with the number of "lapsed" projects spiking at roughly the same rate -- 30 percent -- as many school officials scramble for local matching funds.

ELECTIONS

Cuyahoga County Executive Ed FitzGerald and Secretary of State Jon Husted settled their disagreement over the county's plan to send absentee ballot applications, with Husted agreeing his office will send absentee ballot applications to voters in all 88 counties for the 2012 presidential election and FitzGerald agreeing to back off on his plans for this year.

The House State Government and Elections Committee began hearings Tuesday on redrawing Ohio's congressional lines, and Rep. Matt Huffman (R-Lima), the new chairman, said he hopes to see actual maps from legislative caucuses and outside groups at additional hearings next week. Action on the maps is expected in the House the week of Sept. 12, with that bill and one changing the Ohio primary from March 2012 to May 2012 expected to be introduced on Tuesday, Sept. 13.

U.S. District Court Judge Algenon Marbley granted a preliminary injunction preventing Secretary of State Jon Husted from enforcing ballot access requirements in HB194 (Mecklenborg-Blessing), following a challenge from the Libertarian Party of Ohio, which said HB194 restored requirements previously ruled invalid.

EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT

U.S. employment was essentially flat in August, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported, as the jobless rate held at 9.1 percent. There was little change in the number of unemployed people, which stayed at 14 million, of which six million counted as long-term unemployed.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services said its will go before the Controlling Board Sept. 12 to request permission to make the first interest payment of \$70 million on the \$2.3 billion borrowed from the federal government to cover unemployment compensation costs. The state also plans to repay by the end of September about \$297 million it borrowed this year for unemployment benefits -- thus avoiding interest payments on that amount.

ENVIRONMENT

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) is offering two free workshops to inform small and rural communities about the state and federal resources available to help redevelop brownfields or blighted properties. They will be in Waverly on Sept. 13 and in St. Clairsville on Sept. 15.

FEDERAL

Former Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray told the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs that he has no plans to seek a public office if he is confirmed as chief of the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) as the committee began its confirmation hearings Tuesday on Cordray, who has been serving as the chief enforcement officer for the CFPB.

In advance of President Barack Obama's jobs speech Thursday night, U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH) introduced legislation to create an infrastructure bank, which was expected to be one of Obama's proposals.

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) said Thursday he hopes President Obama focuses his jobs speech on items with bipartisan support but said the administration's proposals should not be at cross-purposes with the push for deficit and debt reduction.

Three Ohioans were among guests in Michelle Obama's box at the president's jobs speech to Congress: Cincinnati Mayor Mark Mallory; Albert Green, CEO of Kent Displays; and Nicole Gentile, a Cleveland third-grade teacher at risk of being laid off.

The White House announced that President Barack Obama will visit Columbus on Tuesday, Sept. 13 to discuss proposals laid out in his jobs speech to Congress.

GAMING

A report to the Casino Control Commission from consulting firm Spectrum Gaming Group recommended that the commission hire the Ohio State Highway Patrol or the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation to provide gaming agents for casino floors temporarily, rather than rush to build its own police force in the several months before the first facilities open. The two law enforcement agencies are scheduled to pitch their services to the commission at its next meeting.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY/STATEHOUSE

House Speaker William Batchelder (R-Medina) stripped Rep. Jarrod Martin (R-Beavercreek) of his chairmanship of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, with a spokesman saying the speaker viewed the charges of drunken driving against Martin as "a major distraction." The move came amid a broader committee shuffle to reflect the departure of two members for the Senate, the seating of their replacements and the resignation of Rep. Robert Mecklenborg (R-Cincinnati).

Sen. Mike Skindell (D-Lakewood) unveiled two bills that would impose a two-year moratorium on horizontal hydraulic fracturing in oil and gas extraction while the U.S. EPA studies potential threats to water supplies with the second bill establishing requirements governing well stimulation, and brine and wastewater disposal by drillers.

The House GOP said it received 10 applications for the vacancy left by Rep. Robert Mecklenborg's (R-Cincinnati) resignation: retired NFL player Rocky Boiman, founder of Rocky Boiman Football Academy; Richard Hammersmith, a self-employed communication specialist whom Mecklenborg defeated in a 2008 primary; Tony Hornbach, attorney at Thompson Hines LLC; James Krause, director of internal auditing at Western & Southern Financial Group; Matthew Miller, research scientist at University of Cincinnati; Charlie Norman, Southwest Ohio regional director for Attorney General Mike DeWine; Pakkiri Rajagopal, chief of community relations for Hamilton County Probation Department; Mary Beth Walter Schill, health care social worker; Steven Schinkal, project and operations manager; and Louis Terhar, managing director at Strategic Planning Advisors and husband of State Board of Education President Debe Terhar.

GOVERNOR

Gov. John Kasich overruled the Ohio Parole Board's opinion that Akron mother Kelley Williams-Bolar was "wholly undeserving" of clemency in the case where she falsified records to send her children to Copley-Fairlawn Schools. Kasich reduced her felony convictions to misdemeanors, calling it a "second chance" and saying a felony record "could exclude her from certain economic opportunities for the rest of her life."

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Reports from two subcommittees of the states Unified Long-Term Care System Advisory Workgroup -- the Nursing Facility Capacity Subcommittee and the Nursing Facility Quality Measurement Subcommittee -- that were mandated by FY12-13 budget bill, HB153, were released Thursday, the deadline set in the budget. The latter outlined 20 accountability measures for nursing homes to meet to qualify for the full \$16.44 per Medicaid bed day quality payment in FY13.

The Ohio Hospital Association (OHA) released its annual community benefit survey Tuesday, estimating its members' charitable and outreach efforts at \$2.9 billion, based on information contributed by member hospitals from 2009. The report says that total marks an 11 percent increase from the previous year's report.

A portion of funds that the Ohio Department of Health recently received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will be used to extend Ohio's Tobacco Quit Line program through September 2012, although the limit on who is eligible will remain in place. Eligible individuals include those who are uninsured, pregnant, Medicaid recipients or a member of the Tobacco Collaborative. (This latter is a group of seven insurers and seven employers who, by joining the collaborative, provide access to the Quit Line for their members and/or employees.)

Health care consumer advocates urged state leaders Thursday to adopt insurance regulations that ensure parity among health plans offered inside and outside the insurance exchange that must be set up pursuant to the federal Affordable Care Act.

Data gathered amid the recession from 2008 to 2010 show that 16.4 percent of Ohio households, or about one in six, dealt with hunger problems, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's annual report on food insecurity. The Ohio Association of Second Harvest Foodbanks (OASHF) noted that the breadth of the problem compares to a 12.6 percent food insecurity rate for 2003 to 2005.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Bowling Green State University (BGSU) announced it has hired Robin Gerrow as chief communications officer. Gerrow, now assistant vice president of the University of Texas at Austin Office of Public Affairs, starts at BGSU on Sept. 30.

University of Cincinnati (UC) researchers have received a \$431,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to investigate the interaction between two genetic mutations associated with the development of Parkinson's disease.

JUDICIAL

The Supreme Court of Ohio is continuing its review of probate rules, with seven additional probate forms proposed by the Forms Committee of the Ohio Association of Probate Judges and now available for public comment through Oct. 4.

The U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Ohio's restrictions on strip clubs and adult bookstores passed in 2007 in 127-SB16 (Harris), agreeing with a lower court decision that dismissed claims brought by a group of adult business owners.

Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor said in her first State of the Judiciary speech that the Ohio Supreme Court will form a task force to study the administration of the death penalty. The group will have about 20 members, including judges, prosecuting and defense attorneys, legislative leaders and academics.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of the Ohio Shale Coalition, said it has contracted with Cleveland State University, Ohio State University and Marietta College to research the economic effects and opportunities associated with the development of oil and gas resources in the Utica/Point Pleasant and Marcellus shale formations in Ohio.

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director David Mustine jumped to JobsOhio to work on developing oil and reserves as general manager for energy. Gov. John Kasich promoted his assistant, Scott Zody, to interim ODNR director.

PENSION FUNDS

The conservative Buckeye Institute issued a report it says shows Ohio governments, and by extension their taxpayers, generally are liable for a higher percentage of public employees' pension costs than many other states' residents.

PEOPLE

Former Parma councilman, state representative and state senator Jerome Stano died Monday, Aug. 29 at the age of 78 after a battle with chronic lymphoma. He is survived by his wife, four children and five grandchildren.

The *Cincinnati Enquirer* has hired former *Canton Repository* reporter Paul Kostyu as its new Statehouse reporter. Kostyu had worked at the Office of Ohio Consumers Counsel following the closing of the *Repository's* Columbus bureau.

The former Hyatt on Capitol Square hotel officially changed ownership, becoming the Sheraton Columbus at Capitol Square. The new owners plan a \$10 million renovation, including new furnishings, carpet and flat-screen televisions.

Michael Sobul, former Ohio Department of Taxation administrator of the Forecasting and Special Projects Section, was recently named the new district treasurer by the Granville Board of Education (BOE), succeeding Peg Betts, who retires at the end of October.

Jon Woods, who has directed the Ohio State University Marching Band for the last 25 years, will retire at the end of the 2011-12 academic year, OSU President E. Gordon Gee announced on Saturday. According to the university, the 72-year-old Woods has had the longest tenure as full-time director of the band.

Donald Edward Franks of Columbus was appointed as a member of the Ohio Ethics Commission for a term beginning Sept. 6, 2011 and ending Jan. 1, 2016.

The Strategy Group for Media announced the appointment of Scott Schweitzer as chief operating officer.

REDISTRICTING/REAPPORTIONMENT

The Apportionment Board set noon Sept. 23 as the deadline for submission of draft plans to redraw General Assembly districts. The board is next set to meet at 9 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 26 in the Senate Finance Hearing Room.

TRANSPORTATION

Ohio Department of Transportation Director Jerry Wray said that the department and the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) will be slowing down the process of selecting an Ohio Turnpike lease advisor because of the high interest in the contract. The list of finalists will now be released on Sept. 23.

UTILITIES

American Electric Power Ohio reached an agreement with a majority of parties involved in several cases pending before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, including the companies Electric Security Plan rate case, the merger of two of its operating companies and the separation of its generation assets. Some parties did not sign the agreement, including the Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy and FirstEnergy Solutions.

The Office of Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) warned Thursday that restructuring the wholesale natural gas auction, as approved Wednesday by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), will increase the cost of natural gas for customers who take default service from Columbia Gas of Ohio.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) Administrator Steven Buehrer on Tuesday announced the appointment of Dennis A. Vanek as chief of BWC's Internal Audit Division. He most recently served as director of global audit services for Expedia Inc. in Washington state.