



2018 WTA SPRING MEETING SPEAKERS

Carri Bennet has launched several startups, including her own successful boutique communications and technology law firm prior to joining Womble Bond Dickinson. Carri uses her entrepreneurial spirit and smarts to make the often times seemingly impossible achievable. Carri is exacting and persistent in achieving her clients' goals. When working with clients, Carri determines the desired outcome and then creatively develops solutions that are structured to be cost effective and result oriented. She is known as a spunky outspoken advocate for small rural carriers, having battled with regulators and large companies for more than 30 years to ensure that small rural businesses have a seat at the table and a strong voice in Washington, DC.

In an effort to better understand the intricate technical and business issues facing her wireless and broadband client base, Carri also served as General Counsel and the de facto chief operating officer of an international wireless carrier. In that role, she developed a wealth of knowledge on nearly every aspect of running a small commercial wireless company that operated in the United States, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Poland, Sweden, and Germany. She has since translated this experience into better servicing her clients.

Carri testifies before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Congress and the courts on rural wireless issues and speaks regularly at industry trade shows and legal seminars on cybersecurity, data privacy, spectrum policy, universal service funding reform and business development and strategy issues for communications and technology companies. She represents her clients before the FCC, state regulatory agencies, the courts and Congress. She has advised clients and industry groups on creating strategic alliances and new business opportunities in the fast-paced world of communications technologies. In 2017, Carri was appointed by FCC Chairman Ajit Pai to serve on the FCC's BDAC Federal Siting Work Group and tasked with making recommendations for improving the timing and processes associated with the siting and deployment of broadband infrastructure on federal lands and buildings.

Jon Brown currently holds the position of Sr. Technology Leader for **Vantage Point Solutions**. Mr. Brown has been in the telecommunications industry for over 18 years and has been with Vantage Point Solutions for just over 15 years. Mr. Brown studied Computer Science at South Dakota State University and currently serves Chairman of the Computer Systems Technology Advisory board at Mitchell Technical Institute. Mr. Brown holds various industry certifications and has been instrumental in a number of large scale advanced IP implementations.

Bill Ciminelli has been with REDCOM for two years. Prior to REDCOM Bill worked in Business Development, Marketing, Sales Management and Product Management for EarthLink, Soleo Communications, American Fiber Systems, Global Crossing and Nortel. Prior to joining REDCOM Bill was leading the product team at EarthLink to deliver an early stage SD-WAN managed services solution. Bill has a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and Political Science, and an MBA from Clarkson University.

Bob DeBroux is Director of Federal Affairs and Public Policy at TDS Telecommunications Corp. (TDS). He joined TDS in 1992 as Manager of Regulatory Policy, was promoted to Director of Federal Affairs in 1999, and in his current position is responsible for overseeing the development of TDS Telecom's public policy as well as management of all federal advocacy, including regulatory and judicial proceedings.

Bob is active in telecommunications policy development and advocacy at both the state and federal level. He is a director on the WTA board, and is active on its regulatory and legislative committees. He also sits on the NTCA's Industry Committee. In 2017 he was appointed by FCC Chairman Pai to the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, and is chair of its "Removing State and Local Regulatory Barriers" Workgroup.

Prior to TDS, Bob worked at NorLight, a regional fiber-optic long-distance company, where he held the positions of Manager of Business Development and Manager of Rates and Tariffs. Bob began his career in telecommunications as a regulator, serving four years at the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. Bob holds both bachelor's and a master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

Gerard J. Duffy has been a Blooston, Mordkofsky, Dickens, Duffy & Prendergast partner since January 1, 1992. His areas of practice have focused upon rural telephone, commercial mobile radio, Internet and cable television issues.

Gerry was born and raised in Rochester, New York. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Villanova University and a Juris Doctor (with honors) degree from the George Washington University Law School. He also holds graduate degrees in economics from the University of Illinois, and in accounting from Virginia Tech.

Gerry is Regulatory Counsel for WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband. He and his wife Janette reside in not-so-rural Bethesda, Maryland, and are the proud parents of Maureen, Christopher, Daniel and Katie, and the even prouder grandparents of Colin, Julia, Chelsea and Hunter.

Bob Gnapp began his telecommunications career with NECA in 1989. He held several management positions with varied areas of responsibility. Bob currently heads a department that provides member training on telecommunications technology, service pricing, cost recovery and regulatory change. This department is also responsible for providing resolution to complex issues involving access tariffs, cost recovery, universal service funding, demand changes, next generation technology deployments, changing network designs and/or evolving regulations.

Troy Hawes is a senior manager with the IT Compliance, Consulting & Cybersecurity group at Moss Adams with over 25 years of information technology experience. Troy serves clients in a variety of industries, including government entities and critical infrastructure sectors such as, communications,

health care, information technology, transportation, and water and wastewater system sectors, as well as publicly traded entities, private businesses, and higher education institutions. He has extensive experience managing and leading cybersecurity and compliance assessments using a number of different security frameworks including: NIST Cybersecurity Framework, NIST Special Publication 800-53, ISO 27001, Cloud Controls Matrix, HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules, HITRUST Common Security Framework, Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards and others. He frequently leverages his security and compliance expertise to determine areas of risk, identify security weaknesses or infrastructure needs, and develop practical corrective action plans.

Evelyn Jerden is the Senior VP-Regulatory Dynamics of the LICT Corporation which owns 15 small, rural ILECs ranging from 600 to 6,000 access lines. Evelyn is a CPA who has worked on Rural Local Exchange Carrier issues since 1979. Evelyn began her telecommunications career with Ernst & Young's Telecommunications Group prior to joining Western New Mexico Telephone Company, a subsidiary of LICT, in 1992 as the Director of Revenue Requirements. She is a Subset 2 representative of the NECA Board of Directors and Co-Chair of the NECA Board Common Line/Traffic Sensitive Committee. She is a member of NECA's Cost Issues Task Group and Co-Chairperson of the Western Telecommunications Alliance's Public Policy Committee. She was a member of the Rural Task Force appointed by the Federal/State Joint Board on Universal Service to review the universal service support mechanisms for RLECs. Evelyn has participated on various RLEC industry associations' USF, separations, and intercarrier compensation committees. She has taught seminars and spoken at numerous conferences on these topics and has testified in front of state commissions.

Carrie Johnson is Director of Strategy and Policy and serves as the Tribal Affairs Specialist for the FirstNet Program. Before joining AT&T, she worked as a telecom policy adviser in the U.S. Senate when the FirstNet enacting legislation was being considered. In 2015, Carrie returned home to South Dakota and worked as the Manager of Government and External Affairs for SDN Communications, a rural statewide broadband provider based in Sioux Falls, SD and owned by the rural independent telecom companies of South Dakota. She joined the AT&T FirstNet Team in July 2017. Carrie has an M.B.A. from Johns Hopkins University, a B.A. from American University, and a Certificate in Cybersecurity & Privacy Law from Mitchell Hamline School of Law.

Archie Macias is a certified public accountant, licensed in the state of Kansas. His practice is based in Wichita, Kansas but has clients in numerous states. Archie's tax and accounting practice consists of individuals and small businesses.

Mr. Macias joined Wheat State Telephone in August, 1984 as the Controller. In 1994 Archie assumed the role as General Manager, a position he held until retirement in September 2017. While employed at Wheat State Telephone, Mr. Macias kept his CPA license active, building a tax practice by helping fellow employees and family members with their tax compliance. His tax practice grew all during his tenure at Wheat State Telephone and continues to grow today.

Archie served as Chairman of OPASTCO, two state associations in Kansas, and the board of WTA. Mr. Macias also served on the Board of Trustees of his alma mater, Newman University and is very active in several nonprofit community groups.

Archie lives in Wichita, KS with Jean, his wife of 40 years. They have two grown children and three grandchildren.

Michael McCalpin, principal sales engineers for Calix. Michael joined the company in 2001 in order to launch the original multi-service access platform known as Calix C7. Since then, he has worked with more than one hundred network operators, large and small, to translate business needs into real and workable network solutions. He has just returned from a two- year assignment in Europe with an even broader view of the telecom market...and an increased appreciation for good Tex-Mex food.

Steve Meltzer is Senior Vice President at JSI where he has been employed since 1977. Steve plays an active role in the operations of JSI as well as in the development, coordination, and presentation of various JSI seminars and webinars. In addition, Steve is active in several rural Telecom organizations and including serving on WTA's PPC, NTCA's Industry Committee, NECA's Cost Issues Task Group and Rate Development Task Force, and is involved with the advocacy efforts with the Rural Association Group on behalf of the rural telecom industry. Steve also is a Board member as well as past President of the Board for the Foundation for Rural Service, working to bring grants and scholarships to communities in rural America.

Steve is a 1976 graduate of the American University in Washington DC, earning his B. S. in Management and Technology. Steve is married and has three daughters and one grandson.

Mike Reed is an Account Executive in UNITEL Insurance based out of Denver, CO managing client relationships in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Kansas. Mike's role includes advising clients on risks and coverages, coordinating risk management services, and assisting clients with claims. Mike sits on the WTA associate member committee and manages the WTA ancillary benefits offered in partnership with UNITEL. Prior to joining UNITEL in 2009, Mike spent 12 years in the financial services industry.

Tory Richtmyer is the VP of Business Development for Mid-State Consultants focusing on industry partnerships to support CEOs and executives. Tory has spent nearly two decades working in all aspects of company development involving conversions, network development, planning and how to develop long term vision in a changing regulatory and support environment. Tory also has experience in business software and business management. Tory holds a BA in both Marketing and Business Management from the University of Montana and a MBA from Ashford University in International business.

Since joining Mapcom in 2003, **David Spiller's** responsibilities have included digital cartography, software training, customer consulting and project development. Outstanding performance in these roles has enabled David to develop a vast understanding of M4 and how telecommunications companies may best utilize the software's capabilities.

As Vice President at Mapcom, David is a key player in generating ideas for the future of M4 Solutions and is constantly researching, designing and developing the software in order to better fulfill customer needs and to ensure customer satisfaction. Besides being in charge of where M4 is going in the development department, David must also stay on top of trends in the telecommunications industry as well as in technology platforms so that M4 can work optimally with the newest systems.

David actively manages a number of client projects and still finds time to speak on behalf of Mapcom Systems at state and national conferences on the latest developments in M4, as well as in the telecommunications industry. David's visionary ideas have contributed to solving the needs of telecommunications providers all over the country. Prior to joining Mapcom, David trained with the Fila USA Discovery Team and attempted to qualify for the US Olympic marathon trials. David earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Integrated Science and Technology from James Madison University and holds a minor in Computer Science.

Judi Ushio manages the Midwest Division of GVNW. She provides a high-level of expertise in the areas of emergency preparedness, strategic planning, regulatory planning and compliance, and RUS loan management. She currently serves on the GVNW Board of Directors and the WTA Board of Directors

Judi was a part of the management team that created and built a fiber optic network throughout the Hawaiian Islands for a cost of over \$400 million dollars. The changing construction, operational and regulatory requirements have provided Judi with extreme experiences managing change.

Barbara Vrahnos is a telecommunications professional who began her career in 1981 working for a small consulting firm in northern New Jersey. She joined NECA in 1998 and has since held a variety of management positions within the organization. She was instrumental in steering the development of NECA's Ethernet Transport Service E-Rate Option and Fixed Rate Option offerings. Barbara works closely with rural ILECs that want to deliver these specialized stabilized rate offerings to their customers. She is NECA's representative on ATIS' Ordering & Billing Forum.

Barbara is a graduate of Upsala College with a B.A. in Psychology, a graduate of the College of St. Elizabeth with a M.S. in Business Management and a graduate of Seton Hall Law with a M.S.J. in Intellectual Property.

Barbara spends her spare time as a volunteer for the Housing Authority in Newton, NJ; as well as serving as a member of the Planning/Zoning Board in Newton.

Brian Wagner is the VP of Carrier Relations for Mammoth Networks, overseeing the sales engineering and carrier management efforts for the organization. Brian's career has largely been focused on the rural broadband sector, including CLECing in CenturyTel/CenturyLink markets, working as a consultant to rural carriers and local municipalities, teaching rural competition in the telecom (ICT) program at the University of Denver, as well as serving on several boards such as the Colorado Telecommunications Association and the Colorado Broadband Deployment Board. Brian holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Denver and an MBA from the Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver.

Mel Wagner Jr. is the Chief Executive Officer of INDATEL Services an evolving nationwide network providing superior connectivity from rural to urban America. Wagner joined INDATEL in 2013 with the transition from a marketing consortium of INDATEL Group to the "for-profit" INDATEL Services, wholly owned by statewide facility-based Network Members/Owners & Affiliates. INDATEL represents over 30 states and nearly 700 rural stakeholders including 100K+ fiber route miles, 6 national aggregation POPs (points of presence), 1000+ regional POPs and approaching over 500K fiber feed buildings.

Wagner brings more than 27 years of experience in telecom and an entrepreneurial focus that has been instrumental in driving INDATEL's market position and achieving financial growth, his path is inclusive of executive and management positions with AT&T, Birch Telecom, Comcast Cable and AVID Communications. Wagner began his telecom career with Southwestern Bell/SBC Communications in 1991 where he held executive leadership development management positions in Finance, Commercial and Residential Sales & Customer Service, Information Systems, Outside Plant. Mel continually finds ways to optimize efficiency in operations, be a leader that creates common vision and success within teams, along with leveraging technology and maximize corporate and advocacy partnerships. A proud Emporia State University Alumni, located in Emporia, Kansas, Mel received a BS in Business Management and Computer Information Systems. An American farm boy raised in Northeastern Kansas; he enjoys working on the farm, fishing, some travel and watching Kansas City Royals baseball.