



Speaker Biographies



Peter Kageyama
Author and Urbanist

Peter Kageyama is a writer and urbanist from St. Petersburg, Florida. He is the author of five books including, *For the Love of Cities Revisited – The Love Affair Between People and Their Places*. He is a widely recognized thought leader in community and economic development and a favorite speaker for communities seeking new ideas and new inspiration. He has been called the “Pied Piper of City Love” and “The Best Friend of Cities” in his ongoing mission to make cities everywhere more livable and more lovable.



T. Daniel Santee, III
Partner, Denton, Navarro, Rocha, Bernal & Zech, P.C.

Dan Santee is a Partner/Shareholder in Denton Navarro Rocha Bernal & Zech, P.C., working out of the San Antonio office. He earned his Bachelor of Arts-Psychology from Baylor University in 1991, and his Juris Doctor from St. Mary’s University School of Law in December of 1994. Mr. Santee was admitted to the State Bar of Texas in 1995. He has 28 years of legal experience, 25 years of municipal legal experience, and 22 years of Economic Development legal experience. Mr. Santee is experienced in local government and municipal law, Texas Public Information Act, Open Meetings Act, ordinance, and resolution drafting, with expertise in land use, ordinance and code provisions, and economic development performance agreements. He is admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas. He holds merit certification for distinguished service in municipal law. He frequently trains city councils, economic development corporations and municipal development districts on the topic of economic development, land use and ethics.



AJ Fawver
Community Consulting Program Leader, Verdunity

AJ Fawver started the Community Consulting Program at Verdunity, where she leads the team to deliver fiscally-focused planning to cities of all sizes in and around Texas. She capitalizes on her twelve years of leading local government planning and development departments to help clients achieve meaningful progress, obtain feedback from residents, better understand the fiscal impact of their decisions, and chart a path that

leverages existing resources. Her skills in facilitating groups and tactfully getting to the heart of the matter, while understanding the nuanced politics and culture of communities, helps leaders bring clear communication and creativity to their work.



Kevin Starbuck

Assistant Chief, Texas Division of Emergency Management

Kevin Starbuck received a bachelor's degree from the University of North Texas in Emergency Administration and Planning, a graduate certificate from Texas A&M University Bush School in Homeland Security, and a master's degree from the Naval Postgraduate School in Homeland Security and Defense. Kevin currently serves as an Assistant Chief for the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), assigned to oversee TDEM Region 2, North Texas. Prior to working for TDEM, he served as the Deputy City Manager/Assistant City Manager for the City of Amarillo with previous positions as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Amarillo and Emergency Management roles with the U.S. Department of Energy Pantex Plant. Kevin has extensive experience in emergency management and public administration in Texas, working at the local, state, and federal government contractor levels.



Aaron Farmer

President, The Retail Coach

Aaron Farmer brings to The Retail Coach knowledge of the most current research on retail and marketing trends. Prior to joining The Retail Coach, Aaron was employed in marketing research and retail development where he worked on projects for some of America's leading retailers and restaurants including FedEx-Kinkos, Sally Beauty Supply, Adidas, Concentra, and the National American Association of Subway Franchises. Aaron holds a degree in Marketing from The Mays Business School at Texas A&M University and an MBA from Texas A&M University – Commerce. Aaron and his teamwork with municipal leaders across the State of Texas to recruit new retail development to their communities.



Miesha Adames

Executive Director-Sweetwater Economic Development, Municipal Development District

Miesha is an accomplished economic development professional with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a wealth of experience in consulting energy companies. She has completed all courses required to sit for the Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) certification through The University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute and the International Economic Development Council.

With over a decade of consulting experience, Miesha has been an integral part of Sweetwater Economic Development for five years. As the Executive Director since September 2021, she has spearheaded numerous initiatives to foster economic growth and enhance the community's quality of life. Miesha's strategic vision has led to the creation of innovative job creation incentives, housing developments, and retail expansion projects in Sweetwater.

Under her leadership, Sweetwater has welcomed multiple national brands and continues to attract new retail ventures. Miesha's dedication to economic development and her proven track record of success make her a driving force behind Sweetwater's ongoing prosperity.



Tony Aaron

City Administrator, City of Early

Tony Aaron is married to Jennifer Aaron, and they have two adult children. His family has inspired him to continue to grow both personally and professionally. As a self-professed perpetual student of life, he is committed to all opportunities that allow him to grow personally, professionally, and spiritually.

He began his dedication to public service at the age of 18 by serving in the Army National Guard and has been a commissioned Peace Officer for the State of Texas for over 25 years. Currently, he is serving in his 33rd year of public service and has been with the City of Early for 9 years.

As a 1993 Cancer survivor of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Tony learned the healing power of prayer and the strength that comes from the support of community, close friends, and family. Just as important in his year cancer of treatments, he learned just how far a "never give up attitude" can get you in life regardless of what challenges are facing you.

Nearly 17 years after graduating from high school, while working full-time as a Captain in law enforcement, and married with two kids, Tony returned to his pursuit of higher education. He obtained his Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences with a Major in Criminal Justice from Howard Payne University and, Master of Public Administration from Sam Houston State University.

In December 2014, He was appointed as City Administrator for the City of Early and is still working in that capacity. Tony views this responsibility as an opportunity to have a broader impact on the community. He challenges staff and employees to take ownership in making their community a better place.

He has developed a "Teamwork" mentality and environment for all the stakeholders of Early, Texas. By instilling a servant leadership mindset, a proactive approach to problem-solving, and budget-conscious decision making the City of Early has achieved great success for the community and its citizens. Tony strongly believes that "To every challenge, there is an opportunity to grow, and every success begins with someone taking the initiative to just make things better."



Monty Wynn

Director, Grassroots and Legislative Services, Texas Municipal League

Monty Wynn is the Director of Grassroots and Legislative Services for the Texas Municipal League where he coordinates and implements the legislative policy program for the 1,178 member cities. He has been with TML for 16 years. Prior to his work at TML, Wynn worked for two state comptrollers, was the committee director for the House Public Education Committee and served as the chief of staff to two senators.

Wynn is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin with a degree in economics and political science. He and his wife, Rosemary, have two sons, Aiden, 16, and Owen, 15.



JJ Rocha

Grassroots and Legislative Services Manager, Texas Municipal League

JJ Rocha is the Grassroots and Legislative Services Manager at the Texas Municipal League where she coordinates the legislative policy program for the 1,178 member cities. Before joining TML in 2010, she interned at the Texas House of Representatives. Rocha is a graduate from St. Edward's University with a degree in political science. In 2014, she received her master's from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas in Austin.



Michael (Mike) R. Gentry

Director of Training, Texas Police Chiefs Association

Chief Gentry has been in the law enforcement field since 1978 and had served as a Chief of Police for 27 years before retiring in 2018. After working as a patrol officer, tactical officer, investigator and supervisor, he became a Program Manager for the Law Enforcement Training Division at Texas A&M University where he was responsible for the development, documentation, marketing and presentation of tactical and special operations training programs throughout the United States and internationally. During this period, he was a repeated guest lecturer at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), the U.S. Marshals Special Operations Group Training Center and the FBI Academy specializing in special weapons and tactics (SWAT), unarmed defensive and arrest tactics as well as high performance and tactical vehicle operations.

Chief Gentry has presented leadership, management and supervision training for the Penn State University Justice and Safety Institute, Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas, Texas A & M University, United States Marshals Training Academy and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He has presented command management training for the supervisors and senior command staffs of the U.S. Capitol Police, United States Supreme Court Police, Washington D.C. Metro Police, Newark, NJ Police, United States Secret Service, United States Marshals Service, Colorado State Patrol, Connecticut State Police, Arizona Department of Public Safety and many others. Regularly training law enforcement leaders from across the United States, he has additionally presented tactical and operational training to military units, both American and those representing over 20 foreign governments, from South and Central America, Europe and the Middle East.

With over 45 years in Law Enforcement and 29 years as a Chief of Police, Chief Gentry led the Harker Heights Police Department near Fort Hood, Texas from 1995 to 2018 after serving five years as the police chief in Bowie, Texas. He returned to Harker Heights in 2022-23 as the Director of Police Services. He is a Life Member and the 2013 Past-President of the Texas Police Chiefs Association, a Life Member of IACP and a multi-term past president of the Central Texas Area Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs Association. He holds an Associate Degree in Business Management and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and is the graduate of several nationally recognized executive development programs including the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas' Leadership and Command College, the Penn State University's Police Executive Development Program, the FBI's Law Enforcement Executive Development Program and the Police Executive Research Forum's Senior Management Institute for Police at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He currently serves as the Training Director for the TPCA



Tad Cleaves

Legal Counsel, Texas Municipal League

Tad joined the Texas Municipal League in 2021. During his 13+ years' experience as an attorney, he has served as an in-house City Attorney and Assistant City Attorney for multiple cities in Texas as well as outside counsel to cities across the state while employed with private law firms. He earned a history degree at The University of Texas and a mathematics degree at Texas Tech University before studying law at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. Most importantly, he has an extraordinary wife, four boys, three cats and two dogs to keep him company in his free time.



Stephanie Huser

Legal Counsel, Texas Municipal League

Stephanie Huser is a graduate of St. Mary's University School of Law and has previously worked as a research attorney at the Texas District and County Attorneys Association. Her experience also includes working for the City of New Braunfels and state agencies such as the Office of the Attorney General and General Land Office.