

Agenda

Registration: 8:00 am - 8:50 am

Breakfast Networking: 8:00 am - 8:50 am

Session 1: 9:00 am - 10:15 am

How Bid Protests Shape Acquisition and Capture Management: Strategic Approaches for Protesters, Intervenors, and Agencies

LaCava 305

David Black

Strengthening Professional Communications, Advanced Strategies

LaCava 325

Dr. Ethan Becker

My Proposal Was Late, Now What?

LaCava 375

Raymond Fioravanti

Reducing Antitrust Risk in Bidding and Contracting

LaCava 335

Robin Crauthers

Session 2: 10:30 am - 11:45 am

DFARS Estimating Systems - Effectively Steering Through Audits and Corrective Action Requests

LaCava 335

Efrain Gutierrez

Influential Leadership Today

LaCava 375

Michelle Currier

Government Contract and Cost Accounting Compliance Concerns? - The Compliance Doctors are IN!

LaCava 325

Chad Braley, Kody Van Rentergem, Ryan Roberts, and Ariel Debin Collinsworth

Optimizing your Indirect Rates: A Spring-Cleaning Approach

LaCava 305

Geoff Merritt and Andy Kangelaris

Keynote: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Lunch: 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Session 3: 2:15 pm - 3:30 pm

What's New in Federal Contracting: A Procurement Policy Update	LaCava 325	David Black and Greg Hallmark
Practical Guide to External Restructuring Proposals	LaCava 305	Kody Van Rentergem
CMMC Demystified: Navigating Compliance and Achieving Certification	LaCava 375	Katie Dodson
Integrating Expertise with Technology	LaCava 335	Nancy Patel

Session 4: 3:45 pm - 5:00 pm

Preparing to Manage Federal Grants - What to Expect and How to Prepare	LaCava 305	Gina McDonald
Building Meaningful Connections: Strategies for Networking Engagement	LaCava 325	Michelle Currier
Mastering Risk in Communication & Contract Compliance	LaCava 375	Joe Hamilton and Tony Bone
Cost Accounting Standards - What's New?	LaCava 335	Bill Walter

On-Site Location Information



BENTLEY UNIVERSITY

Conference Services

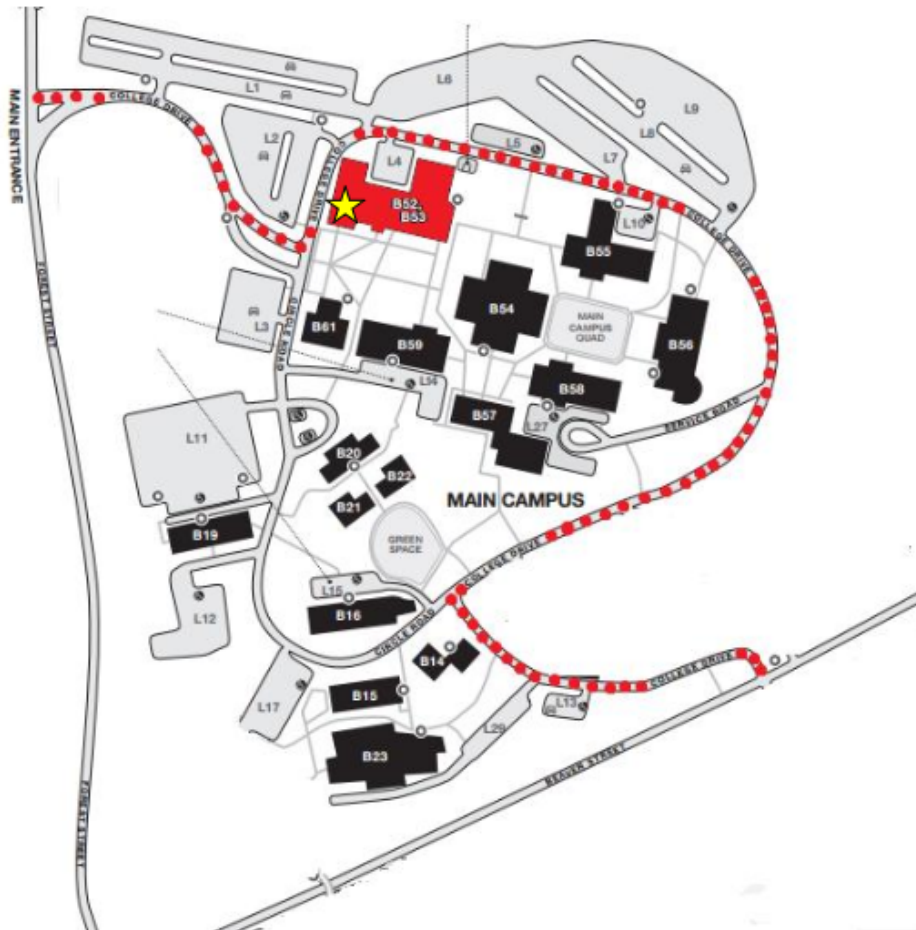
Parking Instructions for The Conference Center at Bentley:

Parking is permitted in **LaCava Lots L1 & L2** on the campus map below.

Your program is located in the LaCava Center (Building 52, 53) on the third floor.

Building Directions:

The main entrance to LaCava is on the plaza between LaCava (Building 52, 53) and Rauch (Building 61).



Keynote Session



Keynote Presenters:

Chad Braley – CEO and Managing Partner at Capital Edge Consulting

Ryan Roberts – Partner at Sheppard Mullin

Ariel Debin Collinsworth – Associate at Sheppard Mullin

Keynote Title: Managing Risk in the Everchanging World of the Trump Administration's Executive Orders and Spending Priorities

Meet the Speaker Interview:

<https://youtu.be/luiOA58Z8bo>



This keynote session will provide insight on the new administration's executive orders that impact government spending policies, focusing on key directives that shape federal funding, procurement, and agency priorities. This presentation will cover changes to immigration and foreign aid funding, shifts in energy policy, the termination of DEI-related initiatives and more. Additionally, the discussion will address the implications of these orders for government contractors, including but not limited to potential contract modifications, stop-work orders, and funding realignments. As the administration continues to refine its policies, contractors must remain agile and informed to navigate the evolving federal landscape.



Biographies on the next page

Professional Biographies

Chad Braley is the Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer of Capital Edge Consulting, LLC. Since its inception, Capital Edge has grown into the country's leading consulting firm, focused solely on serving both domestic and foreign contractors who contract with the U.S. Government.

Chad's areas of expertise include the Cost Accounting Standards (CAS), Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), agency supplement regulations, Contractor Accounting, Purchasing, Estimating, MMAS, and EVM Business Systems, Truth in Negotiations Act, government accounting requirements, Incurred Cost Submissions (ICS), DCAA Audits support and preparation, other regulatory non-compliance support, Terminations, Requests for Equitable Adjustment (REA), ERP systems and risk mitigation.

Professional Experience: Chad serves government contractors ranging in size from small businesses to Fortune 100 companies with full contract lifecycle support in the areas of accounting, contracts, compliance and training. His clients work in a wide range of industries, including aerospace, biotech and life sciences, defense and homeland security, education, energy, health care, information technology, intelligence and manufacturing. Chad has successfully supported clients in developing and implementing compliance controls, policies, processes, and procedures to successfully mitigate the risk of regulatory noncompliance and has helped more than 250 companies successfully complete government audits. He has also assisted numerous clients in resolving allegations of non-compliance and supported his clients in claiming over \$50 million of additional costs to which they were entitled. Chad has extensive experience with the Cost Accounting Standards and has helped companies develop their CAS Disclosure Statements, change cost accounting practices, develop cost impact statements and defend against allegations of noncompliance.

Chad also supports his clients in implementing and reviewing both new and existing business systems related to accounting, estimating, purchasing, billing, labor charging, material management, and earned value. He has supported numerous clients in either acquiring or divesting businesses and has led a significant number of government contract compliance due diligence engagements to mitigate risks during the merger and acquisition process. He has helped assess the compliance infrastructure of numerous organizations to ensure each organization can successfully meet its compliance requirements, while minimizing impacts to operational efficiencies.

Ryan Roberts is the Leader of Sheppard Mullin's Government Contracts team and is based in the Washington, D.C. office. Ryan regularly counsels government contractors ranging from small businesses to the largest defense contractors in solving their most difficult public sector procurement issues.

Ariel Debin Collinsworth is an attorney in Sheppard Mullin's Governmental Practice in Washington, D.C. Ariel's practice focuses primarily on assisting companies of all sizes and across all industries understand risks and obligations when taking money from the Federal Government; whether through traditional procurement contracts or through Federal grant and assistance programs. Ariel specializes in various government investigation, litigation, and counseling matters, including those involving supply chain management issues, such as domestic preferences and prohibited sources, and compliance with federal grant regulations.

Session 1: 9:00 am – 10:15 am; Room: LaCava 305



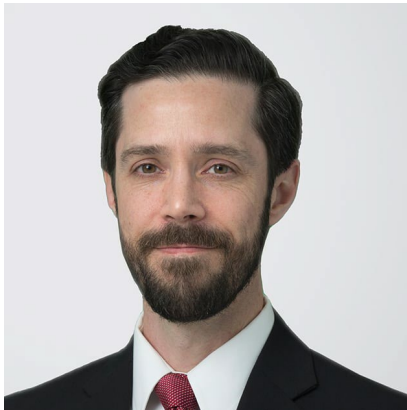
Presenters:

David Black – Partner and Co-Chair, National Government Contracts Team at Holland & Knight

Greg Hallmark – Partner at Holland & Knight

Session Title: How Bid Protests Shape Acquisition and Capture Management: Strategic Approaches for Protesters, Intervenor, and Agencies

This session will take a look at how bid protests shape the acquisition and source selection process. The session will explore specific strategies available to protesters regarding whether to file, which forum to select, which protest grounds to raise, and development of the protest to apply pressure on the agency. From an agency perspective, the presenters will explore protest defense approaches at the various forums (agency-level, GAO, Court of Federal Claims, and Task Order Ombudsman). This session further will also consider the role of the intervenor/awardee in supporting an agency's protest defense at GAO and the Court, including the role in raising early dismissal requests and working with agency counsel.



Professional Biography

David S. Black is a government contracts (GovCon) attorney and co-chair of Holland & Knight's national Government Contracts Team, and is based in the firm's Tysons office. Mr. Black's practice involves serving as a trusted advisor, problem solver and advocate for federal contractors, awardees and subcontractors in every stage of growth. He provides legal advice and representation to help his clients secure opportunities, enhance performance, mitigate risk and respond to threats. Mr. Black serves contractors and awardees in a broad array of industries, with an emphasis on innovative technology, cutting-edge products, professional services, healthcare, and research and development. Mr. Black represents clients in bid protests, contract disputes, enforcement defense matters, and negotiation of teaming agreements and subcontracts. He helps clients with all aspects of compliance and the protection of intellectual property. He helps clients, small and large, navigate small business contracting and subcontracting programs.

Gregory R. Hallmark is an experienced government contracts litigation attorney in Holland & Knight's Tysons office. He is well versed in prosecuting and defending bid protests before the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and at the agency level, as well as small-business protests and appeals at the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), having litigated more than 200 protests. He also assists clients with requests for equitable adjustment (REAs) and contract claims, and litigates contract disputes before the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals (ASBCA) and Civilian Board of Contract Appeals (CBCA).

In addition, Mr. Hallmark advises government contractors on a range of issues, including compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and agency FAR supplements, compliance with federal grant regulations, False Claims Act (FCA) matters, subcontracts and teaming arrangements, commercial item issues, cost and pricing compliance, organizational conflicts of interest, terminations, responding to adverse performance assessments, including Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS) reports, and small business regulations.

Session 1: 9:00 am – 10:15 am; Room: LaCava 325



Presenter: Dr. Ethan Becker Ph.D., D.H.L., M.B.A., B.S. – President & Executive Communication Coach at The Speech Improvement Company

Session Topic: Strengthening Professional Communications, Advanced Strategies

Meet the Speaker Interview:

<https://youtu.be/X0Kz8VroA4Q>

With a brief review of last year, Dr. Becker will build upon lessons taught and go deeper into topic of professional communication. Dr. Becker, answers the questions about what are the most important aspects regarding communication. This session hits upon how to connect with listeners, organizing your own thoughts, influence, handle difficult conversations and communication competence. Participants will be invited to share their own concerns related to communication, and will leave feeling inspired, confident, and ready to connect successfully with others.

Professional Biography

Dr. Ethan Becker, President, is a second-generation speech coach and trainer with The Speech Improvement Company. He holds multiple degrees in communication and travels the globe coaching and training leaders of countries, companies, and people at all levels of organizations on how to be more effective and comfortable with their communication. He is a co-author of the international best-selling book *Mastering Communication at Work*, which is published by McGraw-Hill Education. Ethan has developed and delivered powerful customized motivational training programs on various topics related to communication worldwide. In addition to group work, he serves as a trusted advisor and coach to many.

Ethan complements his private coaching techniques with a unique group training style. Topics for which Ethan brings expertise include executive communication, leadership and management communication, presentation skills, on-camera presence, media training, controlling nervousness, sales communication, virtual presentations, motivational speaking, persuasion, negotiation, and dealing with conflict.

Experience: In addition to helping business partners throughout the United States, Ethan has significant international experience. He has lived in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where he immersed himself in the Asian culture conducting research, training, and coaching for C-level executives throughout the region. Ethan has coached and presented in countries such as Japan, China, Australia, Singapore, England, Ireland, Italy, Indonesia, and Korea. This experience provides him with valuable international and cultural perspectives, which he brings to his clients.

Ethan has taught at and helped such organizations such as Harvard University, Boston College, Johns Hopkins University, Apple, Google, The United States Army, Boston Scientific, The Central Bank of Malaysia, The New York Giants, Bain Capital, Sony Music, YouTube, Amazon, Biogen, Pfizer, Olympus, Forrester Research, the FBI, UKG, LogMeIn, Genzyme, State Street, and IBM. He has also coached countless individual executives, leaders, managers, politicians, celebrities, and other clients from around the world.

Education: Ethan holds a doctorate in psychology, Ph.D., from the Harold Able School of social behavior and sciences at Capella University, with a focus on industry and organizational psychology. He also holds a second doctorate in humane letters, DHL, from Fitchburg State University, a Master of Business Administration, MBA, from the school of business and technology at Capella University, with a dual focus on International Business Communication and Leadership, and a BS in Mass Communication.

Session 1: 9:00 am – 10:15 am; Room: LaCava 375



Presenter: Raymond Fioravanti – Associate General Counsel at General Dynamics Mission Systems

Session Topic: My Proposal Was Late, Now What?

Meet the Speaker Interview:

<https://youtu.be/X0Kz8VroA4Q>

This presentation examines the well known "late is late" rule requiring federal government agencies to reject late proposals, and the various exceptions to that rule. Through discussion of recent bid protest cases at the GAO and Court of Federal Claims, attendees gain an understanding of what steps can be taken immediately upon learning that a proposal deadline was missed, and thereby preserve their chances of having that proposal accepted and fairly considered notwithstanding the missed deadline.

Professional Biography

Mr. Fioravanti began his career as a law clerk at the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. For 15 years, he practiced law at Epstein Becker & Green, where he was an equity partner in the firm's Government Contracts Section. He is currently an Associate General Counsel at General Dynamics Mission Systems in Taunton, MA. He's litigated more than a hundred claims and bid protests, and is a widely-published author within the Government Contracts field.

Session 1: 9:00 am – 10:15 am; Room: LaCava 335



Presenter: Robin Crauthers – Partner at McCarter & English

Session Topic: Reducing Antitrust Risk in Bidding and Contracting

Meet the Speaker Interview:

<https://youtu.be/X0Kz8VroA4Q>

This session will cover an overview of the antitrust laws, discuss the procurement collusion strike force activities and priorities in the Trump Administration, review recent procurement enforcement activities, and provide compliance tips.

Professional Biography

Robin Crauthers is an antitrust partner at McCarter & English where she counsels clients on competition law compliance, antitrust litigation, and antitrust agency investigations.

Robin's practice focuses on antitrust matters, including litigation, government investigations, and merger control. She handles matters involving price-fixing, exclusive dealing, product distributions, monopolization, competitor collaborations, and trade association conduct. Robin represents clients in government investigations conducted by the Department of Justice (DOJ), Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and various state attorneys general involving anticompetitive practices and provides antitrust compliance training to help clients avoid future regulatory scrutiny.

Robin also advises on Hart-Scott-Rodino pre-merger notification, merger analysis, and seeking clearance for transactions reviewed by the DOJ and the FTC. She has obtained multijurisdictional antitrust clearance in high-stakes, billion-dollar transactions and regularly represents clients before both agencies. Robin drafts agency presentations, white papers, and advocacy letters to help clients advance their positions before government.

Robin previously served as a trial attorney at the DOJ, Antitrust Division in the Media, Entertainment, and Professional Services section, where she led matters related to the broadcast, ticketing, and professional services industries. During her time at the DOJ, Robin was an integral part of several notable litigation teams, including United States v. AB Electrolux, United States v. Tribune Publishing, and United States v. Deere/Monsanto/Precision Planting.

Session 2: 10:30 am – 11:45 am; Room: LaCava 335



Presenter: Efrain Gutierrez – Senior Manager at Ernst & Young

Session Topic: DFARS Estimating Systems - Effectively Steering Through Audits and Corrective Action Requests

Meet the Speaker Interview:

<https://youtu.be/Jb5yfH8HK9c?si=swGhxPijHRtTwTtO>

DFARS 215.407-5-70 establishes DoD's policy that contractors have an acceptable estimating system. This interactive breakout session will focus on how to maintain a healthy DFARS estimating system by delving into effective proposal pricing and estimating policies and practices, with an emphasis on preempting, managing, and dispositioning CARs.

Professional Biography

Efrain Gutierrez is a senior manager in Ernst & Young, LLP's Government Contract Services practice in the Irvine, CA office. Prior to joining Ernst & Young, Efrain spent approximately 10 years in industry specializing in the Government contract proposal process, where he held analyst positions in major subcontract & general procurement cost/price analysis, labor and material estimating, contracts & pricing, and Estimate-at-Completion (EAC) integration.

He also has extensive experience in contract and subcontract price negotiations. At EY, Efrain specializes in internal audit, compliance mock audits, the development of compliant proposals, validation of overhead rate structures, government contracting/acquisition process, and determining system and procedural compliance with Government procurement regulations, such as the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and the Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) for clients primarily in the Aerospace & Defense (A&D), Architect & Engineering (A&E), Manufacturing, and Utilities industries.

Session 2: 10:30 am – 11:45 am; Room: LaCava 375



Presenter: Michelle Currier – Chief Learning Officer at NCMA HQ

Session Topic: Influential Leadership Today

Empowering leaders to navigate complexities, inspire teams, and create lasting impact is crucial. This involves fostering resilience, adaptability, and a forward-thinking mindset. Effective leaders handle disruptions, guide their organizations through transitions and seize new opportunities.

Professional Biography

Ms. Michelle Currier serves as the Chief Learning Officer for the National Contract Management Association leading education, training, and innovative practices for the Association. Prior to joining NCMA, she served as Professor of Contract Management at the Defense Acquisition University (DAU). Ms. Currier brings a wealth of real-world experience from her 46-year career, having served with distinction as a Contracting Officer, Division Chief, Deputy Director Small Business and Director of Contracts at the Naval Research Laboratory, Military Sealift Command, Small Business Administration, Naval Sea Systems Command, and the Army Contracting Command. Ms. Currier has received numerous DAU awards and recognitions, including inductee Hall of Fall, Frank J. Anderson, Jr. Leadership Award, Faculty of the Year, and Distinguished Teacher Designation. Ms. Currier was awarded the Army Superior Civilian Service Medal and Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Award. Ms. Currier was recognized by Inside Business as one of the Top 25 Women in Business in Hampton Roads. Ms. Currier is a recognized speaker coach for TEDxDAU events.

Ms. Currier is a Past National President of the NCMA (2001-2002) and an NCMA Fellow. NCMA has recognized Michelle with the Alvis D. Keen Honorary Life Member Award, the Charles A. Dana Distinguished Service Award, Outstanding Fellow Award, the NCMA Education Award, National Achievement Award and NCMA Volunteer of the Year 2017. Ms. Currier is a frequent presenter at industry and government events and currently serves on the NCMA Board of Advisors. She is a Contract Management Leadership Development Program (CMLDP) mentor and faculty member.

Session 2: 10:30 am – 11:45 am; Room: LaCava 325



Presenters:

Chad Braley – CEO and Managing Partner at Capital Edge Consulting

Kody Van Rentergem – Manager at Capital Edge Consulting

Ryan Roberts – Partner at Sheppard Mullin

Ariel Debin Collinsworth – Associate at Sheppard Mullin

Keynote Title: Government Contract and Cost Accounting Compliance Concerns? - The Compliance Doctors are IN!

Join Experts Chad Braley and Kody Van Rentergem from Capital Edge Consulting as well as Ryan Roberts and Ariel Debin Collinsworth from Sheppard Mullin for Drop-in Consulting Support for quick, on-demand consulting advice. No appointment needed. We will provide answers to your questions and address your issues during this dynamic session.



Biographies on the next page

Professional Biographies

Chad Braley is the Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer of Capital Edge Consulting, LLC. Since its inception, Capital Edge has grown into the country's leading consulting firm, focused solely on serving both domestic and foreign contractors who contract with the U.S. Government.

Chad's areas of expertise include the Cost Accounting Standards (CAS), Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), agency supplement regulations, Contractor Accounting, Purchasing, Estimating, MMAS, and EVM Business Systems, Truth in Negotiations Act, government accounting requirements, Incurred Cost Submissions (ICS), DCAA Audits support and preparation, other regulatory non-compliance support, Terminations, Requests for Equitable Adjustment (REA), ERP systems and risk mitigation.

Professional Experience: Chad serves government contractors ranging in size from small businesses to Fortune 100 companies with full contract lifecycle support in the areas of accounting, contracts, compliance and training. His clients work in a wide range of industries, including aerospace, biotech and life sciences, defense and homeland security, education, energy, health care, information technology, intelligence and manufacturing. Chad has successfully supported clients in developing and implementing compliance controls, policies, processes, and procedures to successfully mitigate the risk of regulatory noncompliance and has helped more than 250 companies successfully complete government audits. He has also assisted numerous clients in resolving allegations of non-compliance and supported his clients in claiming over \$50 million of additional costs to which they were entitled. Chad has extensive experience with the Cost Accounting Standards and has helped companies develop their CAS Disclosure Statements, change cost accounting practices, develop cost impact statements and defend against allegations of noncompliance.

Kody Van Rentergem is a Manager with Capital Edge Consulting, LLC. He is skilled in providing professional support to government contractors in the areas of regulatory compliance, government contract cost accounting, and estimating. Kody is experienced in assessing contractor compliance with the requirements of Cost Accounting Standards (CAS), Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) and the Service Contract Act (SCA). Kody is an expert in completing Incurred Cost Submissions (ICS).

Professional Experience: Kody has assisted numerous government contractors of varying sizes and industry focus, using his knowledge of applicable regulations and analytical skills. He has considerable experience with the preparation of incurred cost submissions, the assessment of indirect cost rate structures, and the development of indirect cost rate proposals. Relative to incurred cost submissions and indirect cost rate proposals, Kody has performed in-depth unallowable cost testing, constructed complex service-center allocations, and performed indirect rate change impact analysis. He has performed CAS applicability assessments and assisted clients in both creating and revising CAS Disclosure Statements. Kody has performed estimating system gap assessments for clients to prepare them for DCAA audits, Kody has also assisted clients with contract bid and proposal effort.

Ryan Roberts is the Leader of Sheppard Mullin's Government Contracts team and is based in the Washington, D.C. office. Ryan regularly counsels government contractors ranging from small businesses to the largest defense contractors in solving their most difficult public sector procurement issues.

Ariel Debin Collinsworth is an attorney in Sheppard Mullin's Governmental Practice in Washington, D.C. Ariel's practice focuses primarily on assisting companies of all sizes and across all industries understand risks and obligations when taking money from the Federal Government; whether through traditional procurement contracts or through Federal grant and assistance programs. Ariel specializes in various government investigation, litigation, and counseling matters, including those involving supply chain management issues, such as domestic preferences and prohibited sources, and compliance with federal grant regulations.

Session 2: 10:30 am – 11:45 am; Room: LaCava 305



Presenters:

Geoff Merritt – Industry Specialty Services Principal at BDO

Andy Kangelaris – Director, Government Contracts Practice at BDO

Session Title: Optimizing your Indirect Rates: A Spring-Cleaning Approach

In this session we will define optimization in the context of indirect costs impacting your contracts or other awards and how optimization can be implemented for your indirect rate structure. Considerations of potential risks that may impair profitability and/or compliance will be highlighted, while examining possible improvements that could be incorporated into current indirect rate structures. Participants will gain knowledge to assist decision making on different approaches that your organization can take to ultimately optimize indirect rates now and in the future as organizational strategies and operations evolve.



Professional Biography

Geoff Merritt is a Principal in the Industry Specialty Services Group at BDO with a focus on Government Contracts. This group of more than 200 professionals provides unique business solutions to organizations across a wide array of industries including government contracting, life sciences, not-for-profit, manufacturing, technology, and construction, among others.

He has over 18 years of professional finance experience with focus on Government Finance & Compliance in the Aerospace & Defense and Life Science sectors. Geoff has held management positions with small and mid-sized divisions of large corporations, bringing extensive hands-on experience with compliance matters relating to Federal Acquisition Regulations, Cost Accounting Standards, TINA, and Government Business System controls.

Geoff has extensive experience in corporate restructuring focusing on government contracting aspects, including disclosure statement development, cost accounting changes, and external restructuring proposal development. Additionally, Geoff has developed and delivered training programs for operations entering into new compliance requirements of FAR and CAS.

He has also led various government contracting business processes including development of direct and indirect rate structures, forward pricing rate proposals, proposal cost volumes, DFARS business system descriptions, EACs, and cost-type and progress payment invoicing. Geoff frequently supports clients with negotiations and government audits from agencies such as DFAS, DCAA and DCMA throughout the contracting life-cycle.

Andy Kangelaris is a Director in the Government Contracts Practice at BDO. Andy has over 12 years of experience working with small to large scale government contractors in management consulting and regulatory compliance audit roles.

His expertise includes FAR and CAS compliance, restructuring indirect costs rates in order to maximize cost recoverability, Proposal Cost/Pricing Support, DFARS Business Systems compliance, process improvement, training program implementation, and financial forecasting/analysis. Andy has provided consultations to management regarding regulatory interpretation, the improvement of policies and procedures, and the implementation of corrective actions or process improvements.

Andy has also led teams in working with regulatory agencies and funding organizations - serving as client's compliance and cost lead. In this role, Andy represented his clients in the communications and negotiations of contracts, program funding, and associated regulatory reporting.

Utilizing his background in both audit and consulting, he is able to assist clients in the evaluation and implementation of business processes in order to effectively mitigate compliance risks while maximizing organizational outcomes.

Andy has previously consulted at CohnReznick LLP, AAL CPAS, and BDO USA.

Session 3: 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm; Room: LaCava 325**Presenters:**

David Black – Partner and Co-Chair, National Government Contracts Team at Holland & Knight

Amy Fuentes – Partner at Holland & Knight

Session Title: What's New in Federal Contracting: A Procurement Policy Update

This session will bring you update on major developments and trends in Federal contracting. The New Administration has issued a torrent of executive orders and unleashed the U.S. DOGE Service on Federal agencies, which have had major impacts on Federal contracting. We'll review what's happened so far. 2024 was also chock full of important developments in areas of procurement policy, regulatory change, bid protests, contract administration, small business programs, and enforcement defense. We will highlight key happenings and help you understand how they impact both the Government customer and industry.

**Professional Biography**

David S. Black is a government contracts (GovCon) attorney and co-chair of Holland & Knight's national Government Contracts Team, and is based in the firm's Tysons office. Mr. Black's practice involves serving as a trusted advisor, problem solver and advocate for federal contractors, awardees and subcontractors in every stage of growth. He provides legal advice and representation to help his clients secure opportunities, enhance performance, mitigate risk and respond to threats. Mr. Black serves contractors and awardees in a broad array of industries, with an emphasis on innovative technology, cutting-edge products, professional services, healthcare, and research and development. Mr. Black represents clients in bid protests, contract disputes, enforcement defense matters, and negotiation of teaming agreements and subcontracts. He helps clients with all aspects of compliance and the protection of intellectual property. He helps clients, small and large, navigate small business contracting and subcontracting programs.

Amy L. Fuentes is a government contracts (GovCon) attorney in Holland & Knight's Tysons office and a member of the firm's Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice. She is experienced in all principal aspects of government contracting and focuses her practice on government contracts litigation, counseling, small business issues and transactional work. Ms. Fuentes represents clients in bid protests, contract disputes, enforcement defense matters, and corporate transactions. Ms. Fuentes advises clients in all aspects of government contract compliance and small business contracting and subcontracting programs.

Session 3: 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm; Room: LaCava 305



Presenter: Kody Van Rentergem – Manager at Capital Edge Consulting

Session Topic: Practical Guide to External Restructuring Proposals

Meet the Speaker Interview:

<https://youtu.be/20cjGviafsE?si=M3FzOyVox80L5PIH>

Is your organization considering an external restructure? Are you ready? Contractors frequently consolidate and restructure to reduce operational costs and gain efficiencies. The requirements established to govern the evaluation and approval of costs related to activities resulting from business combinations are outlined within the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS), and Cost Accounting Standards (CAS). If the contractor can provide a savings-to-cost ratio of 2:1 and meet the requirements of a compliant External Restructuring Proposal, the contractor can implement CAS practice changes and avoid contract price and cost adjustments resulting from the restructuring.

Professional Biography

Kody Van Rentergem is a Manager with Capital Edge Consulting, LLC. He is skilled in providing professional support to government contractors in the areas of regulatory compliance, government contract cost accounting, and estimating. Kody is experienced in assessing contractor compliance with the requirements of Cost Accounting Standards (CAS), Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) and the Service Contract Act (SCA). Kody is an expert in completing Incurred Cost Submissions (ICS).

Professional Experience: Kody has assisted numerous government contractors of varying sizes and industry focus, using his knowledge of applicable regulations and analytical skills. He has considerable experience with the preparation of incurred cost submissions, the assessment of indirect cost rate structures, and the development of indirect cost rate proposals. Relative to incurred cost submissions and indirect cost rate proposals, Kody has performed in-depth unallowable cost testing, constructed complex service-center allocations, and performed indirect rate change impact analysis. He has performed CAS applicability assessments and assisted clients in both creating and revising CAS Disclosure Statements. Kody has performed estimating system gap assessments for clients to prepare them for DCAA audits, Kody has also assisted clients with contract bid and proposal effort.

Session 3: 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm; Room: LaCava 375



Presenter: **Katie Dodson** – President at Hive Systems Defense Solutions

Session Topic: **CMMC Demystified: Navigating Compliance and Achieving Certification**

Meet the Speaker Interview:

<https://youtu.be/KxEMZZmjb88?si=BEEhk44kwwhxcCD6>

This session will provide a comprehensive overview of CMMC for companies of all sizes. Katie Dodson will break down key requirements across different maturity levels and outline actionable insights into preparing for an assessment. Attendees will gain practical knowledge on:

- Key CMMC domains and controls
- Common pitfalls and challenges organizations face
- Best practices for achieving and maintaining compliance
- The C3PAO assessment process: what to expect and how to prepare
- Strategies for a successful audit outcome

Whether you're just starting your CMMC journey or are preparing for an upcoming assessment, this presentation will equip you with the tools and understanding needed to navigate the compliance landscape with confidence.

Professional Biography

Katie is a seasoned cybersecurity professional with over a decade of experience spanning information assurance, security controls assessments, risk management, compliance, and cyber threat intelligence. Her expertise extends across both public and private sectors, having worked with Fortune 500 companies, the Department of the Air Force, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Defense Cyber Crime Center (DC3) under the Department of Defense (DoD).

With a strong background in cybersecurity risk assessments and compliance frameworks, Katie offers a deep understanding of the threats facing defense contractor networks handling government data, along with the critical security controls required to safeguard them.

Katie holds a Master of Science in Cybersecurity from the University of Maryland Global Campus and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Maryland. She is also a certified expert in the field, holding prestigious credentials including Certified Information System Security Professional (CISSP), Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), Certified CMMC Professional (CCP), and Lead Certified CMMC Assessor (Lead CCA).

Session 3: 2:15 pm – 3:30 pm; Room: LaCava 335



Presenter: Nancy Patel – General Manager at Unison

Session Topic: Integrating Expertise with Technology

Meet the Speaker Interview:

https://youtu.be/Jz7JUfRJm1A?si=nXy_p7LLdET0lbN

The expertise of GovCon professionals is vital for driving growth, ensuring compliance, and managing complex contracts. But what happens when key individuals retire or move on? This session explores how organizations can mitigate the risks of knowledge dependency by capturing and transforming subject matter expertise into a strategic, enduring asset.

Attendees will learn actionable strategies for:

- Systematically capturing and preserving individual and tacit knowledge.
- Breaking down silos to democratize information across teams.
- Leveraging AI and advanced analytics to uncover patterns, predict risks, and enhance decision-making.

Discover how integrating expertise with technology can strengthen organizational resilience, improve efficiency, and secure a competitive edge in the GovCon world.

Professional Biography

With more than two decades of experience supporting the US Government, Ms. Patel has extensive knowledge of business, software and systems engineering as well as leadership and customer success in the public sector.

Prior to Unison, Ms. Patel served as the VP & GM of Public Sector at Immuta and the President of Vulnerability Research Labs, LLC. She also spent 10 years with Lockheed Martin in various roles across the corporation.

She received her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Master of Business Administration from the University of Kentucky. She also earned a Master of Science in Systems Engineering from The George Washington University.

Session 4: 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm; Room: LaCava 305



Presenter: Gina McDonald – Managing Director, Industry Specialty Services, Nonprofit & Grantmaker Advisory at BDO

Session Topic: Preparing to Manage Federal Grants - What to Expect and How to Prepare

Meet the Speaker Interview: <https://youtu.be/9-sJxLYkITA?si=lQhTTkm-zSBsIXr->

Managing Federal grant funding can be time intensive and complex but there are steps organizations can take to ensure the appropriate fiscal staff structure, systems, policies, and internal controls are in place prior to taking on this type of funding. This session is designed for nonprofit organizations who are new to managing Federal awards or thinking about applying and will also address how “for-profit” grant recipients can get prepared.

Professional Biography

Gina works closely with a variety of nonprofit organizations to assist in building their internal fiscal capacity. She is often part of a team dedicated to building long-term client relationships and providing one-on-one client service customized to each organization’s needs.

Gina’s 28 years of experience, including 17 years auditing nonprofits, provides the framework required to stay up-to-date as the rules and regulations for nonprofit accounting and reporting evolve and become more complex. Much of her work focuses on translating the technical into relatable terms and guiding nonprofits in continued compliance, as well as helping board members and organization leaders understand their financial results, using that knowledge to drive efficiencies and make informed business decisions. Gina’s expertise in evaluating the effectiveness and operation of internal controls and in financial policies and procedures adds another layer of value to assisting nonprofits in building and strengthening their fiscal infrastructure.

She also enjoys developing and conducting trainings on a variety of technical accounting and other matters affecting nonprofits. Gina is an instructor for the Certified Nonprofit Accounting Professional (CNAP) program, a national comprehensive training comprising nonprofit financial reporting, internal controls, budget development, governance and the Form 990.

Session 4: 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm; Room: LaCava 325



Presenter: Michelle Currier – Chief Learning Officer at NCMA HQ

Session Topic: Building Meaningful Connections: Strategies for Networking Engagement

This session will focus on the following:

- Set Clear Objectives
- Research and Prepare
- Craft an Engaging Elevator Pitch
- Be Approachable and Confident
- Actively Listen and Ask Thoughtful Questions
- Be Prepared to Share
- Focus on Building Relationships
- Utilize Social Media

Professional Biography

Ms. Michelle Currier serves as the Chief Learning Officer for the National Contract Management Association leading education, training, and innovative practices for the Association. Prior to joining NCMA, she served as Professor of Contract Management at the Defense Acquisition University (DAU). Ms. Currier brings a wealth of real-world experience from her 46-year career, having served with distinction as a Contracting Officer, Division Chief, Deputy Director Small Business and Director of Contracts at the Naval Research Laboratory, Military Sealift Command, Small Business Administration, Naval Sea Systems Command, and the Army Contracting Command. Ms. Currier has received numerous DAU awards and recognitions, including inductee Hall of Fall, Frank J. Anderson, Jr. Leadership Award, Faculty of the Year, and Distinguished Teacher Designation. Ms. Currier was awarded the Army Superior Civilian Service Medal and Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Award. Ms. Currier was recognized by Inside Business as one of the Top 25 Women in Business in Hampton Roads. Ms. Currier is a recognized speaker coach for TEDxDAU events.

Ms. Currier is a Past National President of the NCMA (2001-2002) and an NCMA Fellow. NCMA has recognized Michelle with the Alvis D. Keen Honorary Life Member Award, the Charles A. Dana Distinguished Service Award, Outstanding Fellow Award, the NCMA Education Award, National Achievement Award and NCMA Volunteer of the Year 2017. Ms. Currier is a frequent presenter at industry and government events and currently serves on the NCMA Board of Advisors. She is a Contract Management Leadership Development Program (CMLDP) mentor and faculty member.

Session 4: 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm; Room: LaCava 375



Presenters:

Joe Hamilton – Managing Partner at Hamilton Project Consulting

Tony Bone – General Manager at CANEA Solutions Group

Session Title: Mastering Risk in Communication & Contract Compliance

This session is a comprehensive learning session designed to equip participants with essential skills for effectively identifying, communicating, and managing risks within contractual relationships. This session explores proven methodologies for clear risk documentation, stakeholder communication strategies, and compliance monitoring techniques that protect organizational interests.



Professional Biography

Dr. Joe Hamilton is the owner of HPC (Hamilton Project Consulting) Dr. Hamilton and his team have successfully managed or been involved with nearly a dozen drug development and medical device projects over the past decade. Dr. Hamilton has also led dozens of BARDA and GOVT proposals securing more the \$7 billion in federal funding for his clients.

During the past ten years HPC has managed dozens of BARDA device and vaccine projects and also worked at BARDA helping the agency to build their framework for project management and project controls to ensure that each awarded contractor provides realistic schedule and budget data so the government better understands delivery risks and updated cost projections.

Dr. Hamilton has served as a speaker at several professional management and PM conferences throughout the world, has been published in both professional journals and newspapers, and has been seen on television during his career as a television reporter with CBS News affiliates. Dr. Hamilton is also a visiting instructor at Elmhurst University in Chicago, teaching future generations of project managers in the art of project management, risk management, project controls and organizational development.

Dr. Hamilton holds a PhD in Organizational Development from Benedictine University, a Master's Degree in Project Management from DeVry University, a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Columbia College and holds an Earned Value Professional (EVP) certification from AACE International.

Mr. Anthony Bone has more than 25 years of expertise in business operations, program management, and strategic planning, working for large "fortune 500" clients and as a seasoned management consultant. He has helped run billion-dollar IT transformation, and systems development programs for multiple U.S. federal agencies including the Department of Defense, United States Coast Guard, FAA, and Department of Education. His consulting experience has included many international projects with Accenture, General Dynamics, Leonardo DRS, and Sanofi just to name a few. He now has the pleasure of representing CANEA, a global management consulting and technology company that for 30 years has specialized in Quality Management Systems and Operational Excellence, as General Manager for North America. He holds a master's degree in project management from George Washington University's School of Business in Washington, D.C. and undergraduate degrees in finance and management information systems from George Mason University's Costello College of Business in Fairfax, VA.

Session 4: 3:45 pm – 5:00 pm; Room LaCava 335



Presenter: **Bill Walter**– Managing Director at Forvis Mazars

Session Topic: **Cost Accounting Standards - What's New?**

Meet the Speaker Interview:

<https://youtu.be/hhYjb5TUoQQ?si=eC1Pr83wJa3pHBux>

This session will present a brief history and overview of the Cost Accounting Standards (CAS). Bill Walter will discuss recent activities of the "new" CAS Board, DCAA and DCMA guidance and recent court decisions that impact CAS.

Professional Biography

Bill has more than four decades of experience in the government contracting industry. Prior to joining the firm, Bill was an auditor for the Defense Contract Audit Agency and also held executive-level positions with one of the largest service providers to the Department of Defense.

Bill's extensive background in the application and interpretation of rules, regulations and standards applicable to government contractors includes the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR), individual agency supplements and the Cost Accounting Standards (CAS). His experience and perspective provide Forvis Mazars clients with sound guidance regarding real business challenges and a diverse portfolio of solutions.

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In a world that's changing faster than ever, our purpose acts as our 'North Star' guiding our more than 300,000 people — providing the context and meaning for the work we do every day. We help digital pioneers fight data piracy; guide governments through cash-flow crises; unlock new medical treatments with data analytics; and pursue high quality audits to build trust in financial markets and business. In other words, working with entrepreneurs, companies, and entire countries to solve their most pressing challenges.

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We believe a better working world is one where economic growth is sustainable and inclusive. We work continuously to improve the quality of all our services, investing in our people and innovation. And we're proud to work with others – from our clients to wider stakeholders – to use our knowledge, skills and experience to help fulfill our purpose and create positive change.

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- Every second of every day, an aircraft carrying RTX technology takes flight.
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- 1 billion gallons of fuel have been saved by our increasingly efficient aircraft engines.
- ≈50% of the world's population is protected by our defense products.
- 11 million air travel passengers are supported every day by our safe and efficient aviation systems.
- 70% of the airborne communications for the U.S. and allied nations are supported by our technology.

Collins Aerospace specializes in advanced structures, avionics, interiors, mission systems and power and control systems that serve customers across the commercial, regional, business aviation and military sectors. Pratt & Whitney designs, manufactures and services the world's most advanced aircraft engines and auxiliary power systems for commercial, military and business aircraft. At Raytheon, the foundation



of everything we do is rooted in our values and a higher calling – to help our nation and allies defend freedoms and deter aggression. We bring the strength of more than 100 years of experience and renowned engineering expertise to meet the needs of today’s mission and stay ahead of tomorrow’s threat. Our team solves tough, meaningful problems that create a safer, more secure world.

Our values – which span across the enterprise – drive our actions, behaviors and performance with a vision for a safer, more connected world. We prioritize safety in every aspect of our work. We act with integrity and do the right thing. We embrace diverse perspectives and treat others the way they want to be treated. We honor our commitments, expect excellence and take pride in our work. We share insights, learn together and perform as a team. We experiment, design, build and transform with speed and agility.

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BAE SYSTEMS

BAE Systems, Inc. is headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia, employing more than 35,000 people with operations in 30 U.S. states, the UK, and Sweden. BAE Systems, Inc. is part of a global defense, aerospace and security company with approximately 89,600 employees in more than 40 countries.

BAE Systems, Inc. ranks among the top 10 prime contractors to the U.S. Department of Defense and delivers a range of products and services for air, land, sea and space, as well as advanced electronics, intelligence, security, and IT solutions and support services.

Electronic Systems serves defense and commercial markets offering a broad portfolio of vehicle and mission critical electronic systems from electronic warfare to navigation systems, electro-optical sensors, digital engine and flight controls, precision guidance and seeker solutions, next-generation military communications systems and data links, persistent surveillance capabilities, space electronics, and electric drive propulsion systems.

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BAE Systems employees proudly design, produce, and deliver some of the world’s most advanced, technology-led solutions to protect those who protect us in a high-performance, innovative culture.

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McCarter guides companies through the complexities of contracting with the Government. From commercial manufacturers and service providers to traditional aerospace and defense contractors, any company doing business with the US Government, state agencies, or foreign buyers is presented with tremendous opportunities . . . and a maze of regulations, statutes, and policies. As prime contractors or subcontractors, selling to any government supply chain is rife with regulatory landmines in this highly complex arena.

McCarter's Government Contracts lawyers help clients avoid trouble, resolve problems, secure opportunities, and benefit throughout the business lifecycle. By listening to our clients' wants, understanding their needs, and applying our vast years of regulatory proficiency and business savvy, our team can adeptly and efficiently analyze, assess, and, if need be, avoid, complex government contracts issues for companies of all sizes in all sectors of industry who sell to government agencies.

Our adaptive practice covers a range of industries, including construction, defense and aerospace, education, federal research, healthcare, information technology, software, and transportation.

We guide our clients through the unique challenges involved in federal, state, and municipal government contract acquisition and trade regulations, including FAR, DFARS, ITAR, EAR, and OFAC sanctions programs. We provide practical and shrewd litigation experience in the areas of bid protests, contract claims, and False Claims Act (FCA) defense. Clients benefit from our team's proactive development and implementation of innovative, tailored, and comprehensive corporate compliance programs to satisfy demanding statutes and regulations.

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Commercial Engines and Services manufactures jet engines for commercial airframes. Aerospace engines power aircraft in all categories: narrowbody, widebody and regional, which includes engines sold by CFM International, a 50-50 non-consolidated company with Safran Aircraft Engines, a subsidiary of Safran Group of France, and Engine Alliance, a 50-50 non-consolidated company with Raytheon Technologies Corporation via their Pratt & Whitney segment. This includes engines and components for business aviation and aeroderivative applications as well. Commercial provides maintenance, component repair and overhaul services (MRO), including sales of spare parts.

Military manufactures jet engines for military airframes. Our military engines power a wide variety of military aircraft including fighters, bombers, tankers, helicopters and surveillance aircraft, as well as marine applications. We provide maintenance, component repair and overhaul services, including sales of spare parts.

Systems & Other provides avionics systems, aviation electric power systems, turboprop engines, engine gear and transmission components and services for commercial and military segments. Additionally, we provide a wide variety of products and services including additive machines, additive materials (including metal powders), and additive engineering services.

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We've worked with government contractors ranging in size from startups to Fortune 100 companies in industries such as manufacturing, nuclear energy, professional services, biotech/pharmaceuticals, defense, and software. These companies work with a vast array of federal agencies, including:

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- Army Corps of Engineers
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
- Coast Guard
- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
- Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)
- Department of Defense (DOD)
- Department of Energy (DOE)
- General Services Administration (GSA)
- Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Homeland Security
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- Navy
- Tricare

We pride ourselves on offering unparalleled expertise across the regulatory compliance landscape including:

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- Contractor Purchasing System Review (CPSR)
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- FAR Compliance & Training
- Federal Grant Compliance
- Incurred Cost Submission
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- Procurement Transformation

Capital Edge works as a cohesive **Team**, treating each other and our clients with **Respect, Compassion**, and the utmost **Integrity**. We **Dedicate** ourselves to providing our clients with the **Expertise & Knowledge** they expect while delivering the highest standard of **Quality**, to enhance our clients' experience, and continue to solidify Capital Edge as the industry leader. Visit us at <https://capitaledgeconsulting.com/>



Founded in 2018, Hive Systems was created with one goal in mind: making cybersecurity approachable. For those not in the industry, it means helping you understand all the ways that cybersecurity impacts you. For those who are, or those familiar with cybersecurity, it means accelerating your journey in a way that creates the most impact on reducing risk. But no matter who you are, we'll always talk about cybersecurity in a way that makes sense - [check out our ACT blog](#) to see how.

We also wanted to build a different kind of cybersecurity firm that not only delivered great services, but that also had a positive impact on organizations of all types. Founded by two Virginia Tech graduates, we aim to embody "Ut Prosim" - the university's motto, meaning "That I May Serve." That's why we've committed our time, effort, and knowledge to improving cybersecurity awareness, education, and the security of everyone through our outreach initiative - [Hive Helps](#).

Passion

We love cybersecurity and it impacts everyone. We speak about it in an approachable way that's tailored to whoever we're talking to at that moment. Our team delivers new and innovative ways to reduce risk in pursuit of cybersecurity excellence. In a dramatically shifting landscape, we are constantly engaged with the latest news, emerging technologies, and pursuit of continuous education.

Precision

We are consistent in delivering the best value to our clients and customers. Our work reflects a shared understanding of the problem and we are perspicacious in applying it to our work. Everything we do, from scratch notes to final deliverables reflects our commitment to high quality.

Equity

We believe everyone should be seen, heard, valued, and empowered to succeed. Being open to diverse perspectives fuels innovation, deepens connections between people, and makes us a better company.

Trust

Our success and our reputation are driven by our ability to deliver on our promises without compromising what we stand for. We continuously improve by blaming problems, and not people, because people are the backbone of any business – including ours. We are honest and transparent with our clients, our customers, and our team members so that no matter what challenges we face we do so openly, honestly, and together.

It won't come as a surprise, but our name takes its inspiration from honey bees. Hive Systems highlights the intrinsic relationship between the hive and the colony it supports. In the world of business, the hive is the structure around which an organization operates, and the colony is the employees that make it buzz. With 20,000 species of bees in the world, and up to 80,000 bees in a colony, every hive is unique - just like your organization. Puns aside, a colony cannot survive without its hive, and a hive is useless without a colony.

Even though a colony's main goal is to create honey while continuing to grow the hive, every member of the colony is also accountable for protecting the hive. No member is above this crucial responsibility. Through diligent and thoughtful planning, Hive Systems integrates with your team to help build a secure structure for your company to help you do what you do best.

And although we've created [our services and products](#) to stand alone, they are ultimately designed to connect and build off each other like the layers of a honeycomb. This provides the protection, security, and peace of mind you need as your company grows.

Hive Systems delivers the structure of security to support the power of your company.

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At BDO, culture is the first order of business. We succeed when we cultivate a conscious and caring corporate culture that puts people at the center of everything we do.

In essence, the business of our business is to help people thrive every day. This mindset powers our growth by supporting the development of our people, the success of our clients, and the betterment of our communities. It means taking an expansive view of what's possible, and committing ourselves to achieving exceptional outcomes. At BDO, we are cultivating a culture where our professionals thrive in their work of providing market leaders with insight-driven perspectives and assurance, tax and advisory services, helping companies take business as usual to better than usual.

With more than 1,100 government contracting clients ranging in size from emerging businesses to Fortune 100 companies, and over 200 professionals dedicated to recipients of federal funds, BDO is an established leader in accounting, advisory, and consulting services for the government contracting industry. Our professionals include former government officials and industry executives, experienced auditors and longtime advisors providing insightful perspectives and experiences across a broad range of challenges and contexts. We serve clients at any stage of the contract lifecycle, from the initial pursuit of federal funds to contract closeout.

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LinQuest develops custom software applications to support the acquisition, operation, and testing of complex DoD and commercial systems. LinQuest applications support mission planning; decision support; logistics; and modeling, simulation, and analysis of cutting-edge systems and subsystems

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