

**2011 Annual Meeting and Conference
Speaker Information**



Mike Schwisow

Director of Government Relations - Columbia Basin Development League

Mike is the Director of Government Relations for the Columbia Basin Development League. Mike coordinates the effort to focus attention and promote actions to address the extreme consequences to the region's economy of the depletion of the aquifer in the Odessa Ground Water Management Area. Mike is also a lobbyist who represents the Washington State Water Resources Association, the association of the state's irrigation districts and serves on the Columbia River Policy Advisory Group, which advised Ecology of the implementation of the Columbia River Water Management Program. Mike is a Ritzville native, Cougar and former Deputy Director of the Washington Department of Agriculture.



Hugh D. Spitzer

Attorney - Foster Pepper PLLC

Hugh Spitzer is a public finance lawyer at Foster Pepper PLLC who has served as bond counsel on most types of public financings, including revenue bonds, local improvement district financings and general obligation bonds. He also regularly assists local governments in developing inter-local agreements for joint projects, and represents municipal entities in negotiations with private sector service providers and developers. Hugh teaches local government law and constitutional law at the U.W. Law School, and has published widely on public finance, taxation, public contracting and related topics. He received his B.A. from Yale University in 1970, his J.D. from the University Of Washington Law School in 1974, and received a Masters of Law from the University Of California Law School at Berkeley in 1982.



James W. Zigler

Senior Counsel - VanNess Feldman

Jim Ziglar has over 40 years of experience in law, finance, management, and public policy. He provides strategic business and policy advice to a broad range of clients on issues relating to energy and natural resources, health care, public infrastructure finance, and homeland security.

Mr. Ziglar retired in 2008 as President and Chief Executive Officer of Cross Match Technologies, Inc., a leading provider of biometric technologies. Before joining Cross Match Technologies, Inc. in August 2005, Mr. Ziglar was a Managing Director and Chief Business Strategist at UBS Financial Services, Inc. in New York.

Mr. Ziglar had over 16 years of experience in investment banking, including 10 years with UBS, prior to departing in 1998 to serve as Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate. From August 2001 until his

retirement from federal service in December 2002, Mr. Ziglar served as the last Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Before rejoining UBS in 2004, Mr. Ziglar was Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at The George Washington University Law School, and a Resident Fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Institute of Politics. Mr. Ziglar practiced law from 1973 to 1980, providing legal services for public infrastructure, health care, and water and power projects.

In addition to his positions as Commissioner of the INS and as Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate, Mr. Ziglar has served as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science, as a law clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Harry A. Blackmun, as a congressional and public affairs officer at the Department of Justice, and as an aide to the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee

Derek Sandison**Director – Washington State Department of Ecology**

Derek is Director of the State of Washington's Office of Columbia River, which oversees water supply development efforts within Washington's portion of the Columbia River Basin. He served the previous five years as Central Regional Director of the Washington State Department of Ecology. His 34 years of combined public and private sector professional experience include 14 years as the Senior Vice-President of a northwest consulting firm and 12 years in local government. While with Ecology, Derek has managed a number of large water projects including the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Columbia River Basin Water Management Program, Lake Roosevelt Incremental Releases Project Supplemental EIS, Odessa Special Study, and Yakima Basin Water Enhancement Project Basin Study.

Wendy Christenson**P.E., Technical Projects Programs Manager – US Bureau of Reclamation**

Wendy Christensen was appointed to the position of Technical Projects Program Manager for the Columbia-Cascades Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation in May 2008. She began working for the Bureau of Reclamation's Technical Service Center in Denver in 1990 and transferred to the Pacific Northwest Construction Office in 1991 as a Civil Engineer. She then transferred to the Columbia-Cascades Area Office in 2007. Wendy earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Colorado State University in 1990 and a Master of Science in Engineering Management from Washington State University in 2002.

Craig Simpson**P.E., Manager-East Columbia Basin Irrigation District**

Craig Simpson has been with the District since 1995. He worked as a consulting engineer for ADA Engineering in Poulsbo, Washington prior to joining the East District as the District Engineer. Mr. Simpson attended the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and Washington State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. He is a registered professional engineer in Washington State. Mr. Simpson served as the President of Class XXV of the Washington Agriculture and Forestry Leadership Foundation. He is on the Board of Directors for the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and is the Vice President of the Washington State Water Resources Association. He is also a member of the Columbia River Policy Advisory Group and a director on the board of the Northwest Irrigation Operators. Mr. Simpson has served the District in the position of Secretary-Manager since May 1, 2007.

Wolfgang Opitz**Assistant Treasurer, State of Washington**

Wolf Opitz grew up in Everett, Washington, has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Washington and his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. He was a research scientist with the Battelle Memorial Institute in Seattle from 1986 to 1988 before joining the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM) to do population forecasts, analyze health care costs, and analyze the economic impacts of various industries on the state's communities. He was Budget Director for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services from 1994-1998 where he developed and implemented a \$10 billion biennial budget. He returned to OFM in 1998 as a Senior Budget Assistant to the Governor for K-12, higher education, and workforce training then served as Deputy Director at OFM from 2000 to 2009 where he worked on state wide forecasting, budget, accounting, information system, labor relations, contracting, facility oversight and risk management issues. In January 2009 State Treasurer Jim McIntire appointed him Assistant State Treasurer where he now works with a talented professional staff to manage the state's borrowing, investments, and cash.

Ryan Patterson**Bureau of Reclamation, - PN Regional Office, Boise**

Photo and information to follow