

STATE ADMINISTRATION AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PENSION PLANS

GUEST SPEAKERS – MARCH 6, 2018

Luke Martel – National Conference of State Legislatures

Luke Martel is the Group Director of the Employment, Labor & Retirement Program at the National Conference of State Legislatures in Denver, Colorado. He has been with NCSL since 2007, and his present research work focuses on state pensions and retirement system policy. At NCSL he has also worked on several other fiscal issues, including state budget policy, state tax policy, and state economic development initiatives. In his work at NCSL, he provides information to legislators, legislative staff, and members of the media, and testifies before legislative committees. Prior to joining NCSL, Mr. Martel served as a legislative aide in the Texas House of Representatives. Mr. Martel holds a B.A. degree from Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas and a J.D. degree from Texas Wesleyan University School of Law in Fort Worth, Texas. He is licensed to practice law in Colorado.

Keith Brainard – National Association of State Retirement Administrators

Keith Brainard is Research Director for the National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA). He is an appointed member of the Texas Pension Review Board. Previously, Mr. Brainard served as a fiscal analyst for the Texas and Arizona legislatures, and as manager of budget and planning for the Arizona State Retirement System. Mr. Brainard has also served two non-consecutive terms as an elected member of the Georgetown, Texas city council.

Joshua Franzel – Center for State and Local Government Excellence

Joshua Franzel is the President and CEO of the Center for State and Local Government Excellence, having served in research positions with the Center since 2007. He also is director of policy research for the International City/County Management Association. Previously he worked for both the Delaware and Florida Legislatures and was a Presidential Management Fellow with the International Trade Administration and the Office of Management and Budget. His publications and research have focused on state and local government management, public finance, public pensions and other public funds, infrastructure, health care financing, demographics, public health, and government innovation. Mr. Franzel has taught graduate level courses on state and local government and urban policy at American University in Washington, DC. He holds a Ph.D. in Public Administration (& Policy) from American University.