



# GIOA CONFERENCE AGENDA 2026



## Park MGM

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

4:00 PM-6:00 PM EARLY REGISTRATION FOR **GOVERNMENT ATTENDEES ONLY**  
**PRESIDIO 1**

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Wednesday, March 11, 2026

PRE-CONFERENCE (**FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENDEES ONLY**)

7:30 AM-8:00 AM REGISTRATION / **PRESIDIO 1**  
BUFFET BREAKFAST / GRIFFITH 1-6

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 8:00 AM-8:30 AM (CPE .5 Credit-Personal Development)**

**BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE GOVERNMENT PEER-TO-PEER / PRESIDIO 2-3**

**Moderator: Hubie White** – GIOA Past President, Chief Investment Officer, City and County of San Francisco

**ADVANCED GOVERNMENT PEER-TO-PEER / PRESIDIO 4-5**

**Moderator: Shawn Nydegger** – GIOA President; Director of Investments, Idaho State Treasurer's Office

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 8:30 AM-10:00 AM (CPE 1.5 Credits-Finance)**

**THE KISS INVESTMENT PROGRAM / PRESIDIO 2-3**

With government investment program's special stewardship over taxpayer funds, a time-tested approach is to Keep It Simple and Systematic (KISS). Simple certainly doesn't mean rudimentary, but it's an understandable and systematic approach to the three primary objectives of safety, liquidity, and income.

**Speaker: Rick Phillips** – GIOA Founder, Chief Investment Strategist, Meeder Public Fund

**Moderator: Hubie White** – GIOA Past President, Chief Investment Officer, City and County of San Francisco

**ABCP'S ROLE IN CASH MANAGEMENT / PRESIDIO 4-5**

A current look at how ABCP fits into today's public-sector short-term investment toolkit.

**Speaker: Richard Smither** – Senior Relationship Manager, Northcross Capital

**Moderator: Eric Ajlouny** – GIOA Corporate Liaison Director; Director, RBC Capital Markets

**10:00 AM-10:30 AM REFRESHMENT BREAK / BALBOA**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 10:30 AM-11:45 AM (CPE 1.25 Credits-Finance)**

**FROM START TO FINISH / PRESIDIO 2-3**

In this session, we will discuss effective cash management practices to ensure the entity is performing these functions while minimizing costs, protecting the funds entrusted to them from risks and maximizing interest income while preserving principal.

**Speaker: Laura Glenn**, CFA – Director, Institutional Liquidity Management, RBC Global Asset Management (GAM)

**Moderator: Jason Carini** – GIOA Secretary; Rogers County Treasurer

**AGENCY CMBS 101 / PRESIDIO 4-5**

This session reviews Agency CMBS for government investors. We'll explain Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac's Guaranteed CMBS programs. Takeaways include how to analyze structure, collateral, prepayment risk, and use disclosure tools. We'll finish with a discussion on policy, compliance, and benchmarking considerations for adding Agency.

**Speaker: Nicholas Sferranza** – Executive Director - Agency CMBS & SBA, StoneX Financial Inc.

**Moderator: Claude Seide** – GIOA Corporate Liaison Director; Head of Rates & Securitized Products, Siebert Williams Shank



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**11:45 AM-1:00 PM LUNCH / GRIFFITH 1-6**

**Diamond Sponsor Introductions**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 1:00 PM-2:15 PM (CPE 1.25 Credits-Finance)**

**AI-DRIVEN INSIGHTS / PRESIDIO 2-3**

Public sector investors are navigating increasingly complex markets, heightened regulatory scrutiny, and growing demands for transparency. In this session, CWAN will explore how artificial intelligence is reshaping investment analysis, risk management, and reporting for public sector portfolios.

**Speakers:** *Greg Whipple – Director of Asset Owner Solutions, Clearwater Analytics*

**Moderator:** *Karen Adams – GIOA Board Member at Large; Treasurer-Tax Collector, Merced County*

**NEXT ERA OF CASH MANAGEMENT / PRESIDIO 4-5**

Global and U.S. regulators are introducing sweeping changes that will reshape the liquidity and capital landscape for large banks. This session will also explore how recent monetary policy changes from the Federal Reserve may impact future liquidity, helping firms better align with their short-term liquidity and cash investment strategies.

**Speaker:** *William Goldthwait – VP, Client Portfolio Strategist, State Street Investment Management* **Mark Zdunek, CPA - SVP, Global Public Sector Market Manager, Liquidity Management Services, Citibank**

**Moderator:** *Hubie White – GIOA Past President, Chief Investment Officer, City and County of San Francisco*

**2:15 PM-2:45 PM REFRESHMENT BREAK / BALBOA**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS: 2:45 PM-4:00 PM (CPE 1.25 Credit-Finance)**

**WHY INVESTMENT PLANS MATTER / PRESIDIO 2-3**

This session will review the ins and outs of creating a dynamic investment plan that works for your organization. The session will include investment policy, cash flow analysis, portfolio component strategies, and reporting tools that will streamline your investment decisions. It is about Safety, Liquidity and Return.

**Speaker:** *Deanne Woodring – President and Senior Advisor, Government Portfolio Management*

**Moderator:** *Brett Sekula – GIOA Treasurer; Investment Officer, City of San Antonio*

**SO, YOU WANT TO BUY CORPORATE BONDS AND INSURANCE FUNDING AGREEMENT BACKED NOTES / PRESIDIO 4-5**

Whether you are a seasoned professional that has purchased corporate bonds for years, or a novice government portfolio investment manager, this session is designed for you. Want to add corporate bonds to your portfolio, but have some hesitations? Learn more about the fundamentals of evaluating corporate bonds and insurance funding agreement backed notes and the role they can serve in your investment program.

**Speakers:** *Stephen Bennett, CFA, CTP – Vice President, Mischler Financial* **Sean Hayes – Managing Director & Global Head of Syndicate, BMO Capital Markets** **Lance Doherty – Assistant VP, Institutional Capital Markets, Pacific Life** **Doug Bushell – Corporate VP, Product Manager, Spread Lending, New York Life**

**Moderator:** *Arthur Whitten – GIOA President-Elect; Director, Washington State University*

**Pre-Conference Concludes**

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**3:00 PM-4:00 PM EARLY REGISTRATION FOR CORPORATE ATTENDEES**

**PRESIDIO 1**

**5:30 PM-7:30 PM WELCOME RECEPTION TERRACE POOLSIDE**

**FOR ALL ATTENDEES**

**(ENTRANCE ON CONFERENCE LEVEL)**

Join us for a casual evening poolside with scrumptious food and drinks.

Mingle and meet up with friends, both old and new.

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# GIOA CONFERENCE AGENDA 2026



**Thursday, March 12, 2026—All Attendees**

**8:15 AM-9:00 AM REGISTRATION-PRESIDIO 1**  
**BUFFET BREAKFAST / GRIFFITH 1-6**

**All General Sessions in PRESIDIO 2-5**

**9:00 AM-9:15 AM**

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS, RECOGNITION OF CGIP AND INVESTMENT POLICY CERTIFICATION**

***Rick Phillips*** – GIOA Founder, Chief Investment Strategist, Meeder Public Funds

***Shawn Nydegger*** – GIOA President; Director of Investments, Idaho State Treasurer's Office

**9:15 AM-10:30 AM (CPE 1.25 Credit-Economics)**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

With 2025's tariffs, sticky inflation, and Fed cuts, what will 2026 bring? We will discuss the potential impacts of a new Fed Chair, a more "dovish Fed", K-shaped economy, slowing labor conditions, midterm elections, and other important events.

***Speaker: Christopher Thornberg, Ph.D.*** – Founding Partner at Beacon Economics

***Moderator: Rick Phillips*** – GIOA Founder, Chief Investment Strategist, Meeder Public Funds

**10:30 AM-11:00 AM REFRESHMENT BREAK / BALBOA**

**11:00 AM-12:00 PM (CPE 1 Credit-Finance)**

**FEDERAL AGENCY MARKET UPDATE**

This session will discuss the business fundamentals of the Federal Home Loan Bank System and provide details about the drivers of supply and demand for the multi-trillion US\$ issuance program of FHLB Consolidated Obligations. The FHLB Office of Finance will share insights into the System's debt funding practices and other relevant market commentary.

***Speaker: Denise de Bombelles*** – SVP, Global Investor Relations, Federal Home Loan Bank Office of Finance,

***Ed Bridge*** – Head of Funding, FHLB Office of Finance, ***Apama Ramesh*** – CEO, FHLB Office of Finance

***Moderator: Shawn Nydegger*** – GIOA President; Director of Investments, Idaho State Treasurer's Office

**12:00 PM-1:30 PM LUNCH / GRIFFITH 1-6**

**1:30 PM-2:30 PM (CPE 1 Professional Development)**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: STRONGER THAN YOUR STRENGTHS**

Most leaders rely on what they do best—but in today's high-stakes, high-accountability environments, strengths alone aren't enough. In this fast-paced, practical session, Spencer reveals how the most effective leaders identify blind spots, reduce drag, and expand their leadership range. Learn how to evolve with purpose, lead with clarity, and turn limitations into levers for long-term impact.

***Speaker: Spencer Horn*** – President, Altium Leadership

***Moderator: Rick Phillips*** – GIOA Founder, Chief Investment Strategist, Meeder Public Funds

**2:30 PM-3:00 PM REFRESHMENT BREAK / BALBOA**

**3:00 PM-4:00 PM (CPE 1 Credit-Economics)**

**INTERSECTION OF GEOPOLITICS AND MACRO**

Everyone is affected by geopolitical events. At its simplest, geopolitics can impact the price of oil, gas, energy, cobalt, etc. At its more complex levels, geopolitics shapes international relations, global trade, and our economy. It affects the Federal Reserve and therefore interest rates.

***Speaker: Peter Tchir*** – Head of Macro Strategies, Academy Securities



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**Moderator: Tonya Dazzio** – GIOA Cofounder, Director, Advisory Services, Meeder Public Funds

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## EVENING RECEPTION

5:30 pm-8:00 pm

Join us for food, drinks, and dancing in Park MGM's speakeasy club, **ON THE RECORD**.

**Wear your favorite band/singer t-shirt!**



## Friday, March 13, 2026—All Attendees

**8:15 AM-9:00 AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST / GRIFFITH 3**

### 9:00 AM-10:00 AM (CPE 1 Credit-Personal Development)

#### **PEER-TO-PEER DISCUSSION FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENDEES / GRIFFITH 1-2**

Always a popular session! Take this opportunity to discuss what you've learned at the GIOA Conference with your peers from around the country. We will be chatting about best practices and other important information to take back home. Make sure to bring your Investment Policy and investment reports for reference.

**Moderator: Shawn Nydegger** – GIOA President; Director of Investments, Idaho State Treasurer's Office

### 9:00 AM-10:00 AM (CPE 1 Credit-Personal Development)

#### **PEER-TO-PEER DISCUSSION FOR CORPORATE ATTENDEES / GRIFFITH 4**

Take this opportunity to discuss your perspective on with government investment programs and trends you are seeing in the marketplace.

**Moderators: Eric Ajlouny** – GIOA Corporate Liaison Director; Director, RBC Capital Markets, **Claude Seide** – GIOA Corporate Liaison Director; Head of Rates & Securitized Products, Siebert Williams Shank

**GIOA CONFERENCE CONCLUDES**

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**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR AT THE PARK MGM!**  
**MARCH 10-12, 2027**

**Thank you, Diamond Sponsors!**

