

**PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES**  
PRESESSION ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW LEGISLATORS  
NOVEMBER 30, 2010

BRIEFING ON PUBLIC EMPLOYEES TOPICS

**James R. Wells** was appointed Executive Officer by the Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) Board in May 2010. Prior to his appointment, Mr. Wells spent 4 years as the Deputy Superintendent for Administration and Finance for the Department of Education and served as the PEBP Chief Financial Officer prior to his appointment to Deputy Superintendent. Mr. Wells received a bachelor of science in business administration from the University of Nevada, Reno, and is a Certified Public Accountant in the State of Nevada. He has over 18 years of governmental accounting experience.

**Dana K. Bilyeu** is the Executive Officer of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) of Nevada. Prior to her appointment as the Executive Officer, Mrs. Bilyeu served for eight years as the System's Operations Officer. Preceding her employment at PERS, Mrs. Bilyeu was PERS' legal counsel in the Nevada Attorney General's Office. In 2006, Mrs. Bilyeu was nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the Senate to the Social Security Advisory Board which is an independent, bipartisan board appointed by the President and the Congress. In 2010, Mrs. Bilyeu was nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate to the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, overseeing the Thrift Savings Plan for the federal workforce. She received her juris doctorate from California Western School of Law and her bachelor of arts from the University of Arizona.

**James W. Penrose** is an attorney licensed to practice in Nevada (since 1983) and California (since 1982). He is a partner in the Dyer Lawrence Law Firm in Carson City, which serves as counsel to the Nevada State Education Association (NSEA). NSEA's various affiliate organizations represent teachers and school support staff employees in Las Vegas, Reno, and throughout Nevada. The firm also represents firefighters, police officers, correctional officers, and health care workers. Mr. Penrose's practice is devoted primarily to litigation, and he has been involved in a number of high-profile cases before the Nevada Supreme Court. Mr. Penrose was previously employed as a Staff Attorney for the Nevada Supreme Court, and as a Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel in the Legal Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau. He is a graduate of the University of California, Riverside and the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento.

**Dan Tarwater** is the Human Resources Director for the City of Las Vegas and began work for the City in 2009. Mr. Tarwater has over 30 years professional experience in Human Resources. He previously served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of North Las Vegas for 7 years and worked in the private sector for Sierra Health Services as their Corporate Human Resource Director for 12 years. Mr. Tarwater received a bachelor's degree in education and counseling from the University of Missouri in Columbia. Mr. Tarwater has served as the Chief Negotiator with 11 bargaining units in the Las Vegas Valley.