

PRESENTERS' BIOGRAPHIES

PRESESSION ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW LEGISLATORS
DECEMBER 6, 2012

BRIEFING ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM TOPICS

Doug van Aman joined the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development as a Regional Director in June 2012 after nearly 30 years as a marketing executive in the information-technology industry. In addition to providing leadership for the northern office of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, his responsibilities include rural economic development programs, marketing and communications, and administration. Most recently, Doug was chief marketing officer of a Reno software company. He previously held executive positions at Sun Microsystems, Microsoft, and Apple accounts as managing director and general manager of the Northwest and Silicon Valley regional operations. Since 1989, Doug also has owned a consulting practice, which has had significant engagements with Hewlett-Packard, eBay, Sun, Levi Strauss & Co., and other blue chip companies.

Claudia Vecchio is the Director of the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs and brings more than 20 years of marketing experience to her post. During her career, Claudia served as State Tourism Director for the Ohio Division of Travel and Tourism where she reimaged the brand, introduced experiential marketing, and launched social networking on behalf of the statewide travel industry. She also helped bring life to a fledgling brand as Vice President of Marketing/Communications for the Branson Convention and Visitors Bureau. Claudia's experience also includes managing domestic and international launch campaigns for a number of major consumer brands and acting as an economic development marketing consultant for states and communities.

Michael J. Stewart is a Chief Principal Research Analyst with the Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau. He began his legislative service career in 1996 following two and one-half years with the Elections Division of Nevada's Office of the Secretary of State. Michael has been the primary staff contact in dozens of topic areas including government affairs, natural resources, reapportionment and redistricting, elections, ethics in government, and transportation. He holds a master of science degree in geography, a bachelor of arts degree in political science, and a bachelor of science degree in geography—all from the University of Nevada. He is also a 2001 graduate of the Legislative Staff Management Institute, sponsored by the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

Kelly S. Richard began working in the Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau during the 2005 Legislative Session as a Research Analyst and was later promoted to Senior Research Analyst. She has served as a policy analyst for the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor and the Senate Committee on Transportation. Kelly graduated from the University of Nevada with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a master's degree in business administration.