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 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 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.

STEVE HILL
is the director of the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) appointed by Governor Brian Sandoval in October of 2011. Under his leadership, GOED structured “Moving Nevada Forward”, the plan to diversify Nevada’s economy for a variety of industries, including Aerospace and Defense, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Energy, Logistics and Operations, Information Technology, Health Care, Mining, and Gaming and Hospitality. Steve is a founder of Silver State Materials, a concrete, sand and gravel supplier in the Las Vegas area since 1987, purchased by CalPortland in 2008. He served as CalPortland’s senior vice president, as well as chair of Service 1st Bank of Nevada, and commissioner on the Nevada Commission on Economic Development. Steve is a past chair of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Las Vegas. He has also served as chair of government affairs for the Las Vegas Chamber, the Associated Builders & Contractors, and Associated General Contractors. In recent years, Steve served as a member of the Nevada Savings and Government Efficiency (SAGE) Commission; the Clark County Growth Task Force; the Trauma System Development Task Force; the Regional Transportation Commission’s Regional Fixed Guideway Citizens Advisory Committee; the Clean Water Coalition; the legislative Interim Advisory Committee on Air Quality; and as chairman of the Governor’s Construction Liability Insurance Task Force. He received a degree in mechanical engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.
**Paul Thomsen** is the director of the Governor’s Office of Energy. He has served as president of the board of directors of the Geothermal Energy Association; chairman of the United States Clean Heat and Power Association; and as an industry expert to the United States Department of Energy, Geothermal Technologies Program, and Blue Ribbon Panel. Paul has served as the president of the Nevada Geothermal Council and sat on the boards of the Economic Development Authority of Nevada, Nevada Mining Association, and Nevada Lung Association. Before joining the Governor’s Office of Energy, he worked for the law firm of Lionel Sawyer and Collins, United States Senator Richard Bryan, and United States Senator Harry Reid. Most recently, Paul worked in the geothermal industry for Ormat Technologies. He received a bachelor’s degree in political science and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Nevada, Reno.

**Deonne Contine** is the director of Nevada’s Department of Taxation appointed by Governor Sandoval in November 2014. Prior to her appointment, Deonne served as the chief deputy executive director for the Department since 2012. She began her legal career with a clerkship in the 8th Judicial District Court and later served as a senior deputy attorney general. During her tenure at the Attorney General’s office, Deonne represented several state agencies before the Nevada Supreme Court, including the Department of Taxation. She has two reported tax cases in which she successfully obtained reversals of District Court decisions that had been issued against the Department of Taxation. Deonne is a native Nevadan who worked as a legal secretary in the San Francisco Bay area before returning to college and earning her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley and her Juris Doctor from the Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas in 2005.

**Russell Guindon** is a principal deputy fiscal analyst for the Fiscal Analysis Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) since September 1999. He is responsible for supervising the staff as well as the research and analysis related to revenue and taxation for the Senate Committee on Revenue and Economic Development and the Assembly Committee on Taxation. Russell began his career as an economist with the State of Nevada in March 1994, working for the budget division of the Department of Administration until joining the Gaming Control Board in April 1996. He earned his bachelor of science degree in economics and political science from the University of South Dakota. Russell continued his postgraduate studies in economics at the University of Kansas and pursued his doctorate degree in economics at Indiana University, completing all requirements for the degree except for the dissertation.
**Michael Nakamoto** began his career with the LCB in 2005, working as an Assembly attaché during the 2005 Session, and joined the Fiscal Analysis Division as a deputy fiscal analyst in November 2005. He has served as committee staff for the Assembly Committee on Taxation since 2007 and will continue to staff the Committee during the 2015 Session. Michael graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with bachelor of art degrees in political science and economics.

**Joe Reel** is a deputy fiscal analyst and joined the Fiscal Analysis Division of the LCB in January 2008. He has served as committee staff to the Senate Committee on Taxation since the 2009 Session and for the 2015 Session will staff the Senate Committee on Revenue and Economic Development. He started his career with the State of Nevada in 1994 as a public service intern with the research and analysis bureau, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). Joe also worked as an economist at DETR from 1995 until 2006. He then served as the director of research and business development for the Nevada Commission on Economic Development from 2006 to 2007. Joe earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Nevada, Reno.

**Kelly Richard** is a principal research analyst with the LCB in Carson City, Nevada. She has been with the Research Division since 2004, providing staff assistance to the Senate and Assembly Committees on Commerce and Labor and the Senate Committees on Transportation and Economic Growth and Employment. In between sessions, she has assisted legislators in studying such diverse topics as affordable housing, child welfare and juvenile justice, and community colleges. Prior to her legislative service, Kelly worked in government affairs and regulatory compliance for a workers’ compensation insurer. She is a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno where she received her bachelor of art degree in political science in 2003 and a master’s degree of business administration in 2006. Kelly recently participated in the National Conference of State Legislatures’ Legislative Staff Management Institute.