



Tim Keller
State Auditor

State of New Mexico
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
Elected for Better Government

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State Auditor Tim Keller Announces New Executive Staff Members

SANTA FE, NM – State Auditor Tim Keller announced today that new members will be joining his executive team at the Office of the State Auditor. Sanjay Bhakta joins the office as Deputy State Auditor and Ruby Ann Esquibel as Government Accountability Officer (GAO).

“As State Auditor, I am committed to making government work better for all New Mexicans. I am grateful to be joined in this effort by the new executive team,” said Keller. “Bhakta and Esquibel bring essential experience to the Auditor’s office and will provide strong leadership as we work together to combat fraud, waste and abuse to protect public funds.”

Please see their biographies below:

SANJAY BHAKTA

Sanjay Bhakta comes to the State Auditor’s Office from the Department of Finance & Administration (DFA). While at DFA, he served in various capacities such as Chief Financial Officer, Administrative Services Director, and acting Local Government Division Director.

Prior to joining the DFA, Bhakta worked at the NM State Auditor’s office from 2004-2012. He started as a Senior Auditor and progressed to Audit Supervisor and finally Audit Manager in 2011.

Prior to joining state government, Bhakta had a diverse career in the private sector. He worked as a Staff Auditor with Amin Parikh & Co., Chartered Accountants, in Baroda, India from 1981-1984. He then worked for four years as the Internal Audit Manager for Metro Group, a manufacturing concern in Lagos, Nigeria.

Bhakta is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA). Sanjay received his bachelor’s degree in Advanced Accounting & Auditing from SPU in Vidyanagar, India and master’s degree in Managerial Accounting & International Banking from MSU in Baroda, India.

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RUBY ANN ESQUIBEL

Ruby Ann Esquibel is a native New Mexican and served from 2011 to 2015 as a Principal Analyst at the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) working on health policy and finance, and previously worked several years with the LFC overseeing policy and finance in the transportation, natural resources, general government and education areas.

Esquibel has 25 years of experience working in the public sector and has held positions including Health Policy Coordinator at the New Mexico Human Services Department, Special Assistant to the Secretary at the Department of Health, Education Analyst with the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress, and Administrator with the City of Fort Worth's Employment and Training Department.

Esquibel holds a master's degree in public affairs from the LBJ School at the University of Texas in Austin, and a bachelor's degree, cum laude, in political science from the University of New Mexico.

To contact Bhakta or Esquibel, please call 505-476-3800.

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