

October 2 | Cyber Forum | Speaker Bios

[Cheryl Herrschaft](#) is the VP, Continuity of Operations Program Manager for WSFS Bank, where she leads initiatives in Business Continuity, Disaster Recovery and Workplace Safety. With over twenty years of experience in risk and business continuity management, Cheryl has led multiple initiatives aimed at strengthening operational resilience practices. Cheryl is dedicated to the development and implementation of comprehensive cyber resiliency strategies, focusing on threat awareness, incident response and recovery. Cheryl has played a pivotal role in improving WSFS's ability to withstand, and recover from cyberattacks, fostering a culture of cyber resilience by integrating cybersecurity measures with proactive recovery planning, helping not just to survive but thrive in the face of cyber challenges.

[Robert Eastwood](#) is Senior Vice President, Chief Information Security Officer at WSFS Bank. He has more than 25 years of experience in the information security field, including 22 years at WSFS, most recently as Vice President, Information Security Officer, where he developed and executed a multi-year strategic plan for Information Security. He also holds a number of professional certifications and memberships in the Information Security, IT and financial services fields.

[John Carlson](#) serves as the senior vice president of cybersecurity regulation and resilience at the American Bankers Association (ABA). Prior to joining the ABA, Carlson served in a variety of leadership roles in cybersecurity, operational risk, regulatory compliance, public affairs, strategic planning, and management at several private sector companies and associations and US Government agencies. Private sector roles include Amazon Web Services (global financial services industry lead for security assurance), Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center (chief of staff), BITS/Financial Services Roundtable (executive vice president), and Morgan Stanley (managing director of operational risk). Public sector roles include Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (director of bank technology), U.S. Office of Management and Budget (budget analyst), and Federal Reserve Bank of Boston (senior analyst). Carlson received a Master of Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a BA from the University of Maryland.

[Ernest Dunn](#) is a Mid-Atlantic Regional Partner at GuidePoint Security. Ernest has over 20 years of experience in information security and networking. Over the course of his career, Ernest has focused on network and security technologies from a variety of vendors. He has extensive cybersecurity experience building strategies, performing assessments and delivering solutions for medium and large organizations from various verticals, including, education, financial, retail, medical, utilities and government. Ernest has years of experience and a deep understanding of government and industry regulations, such as, PCI, HIPAA, FISMA, SOX, GLBA, and NERC/CIP, and has helped many organizations achieve or maintain compliance. Ernest has been with GuidePoint since the start of 2017. Prior to GPS, Ernest was with Presidio, a 3B+ infrastructure VAR, for almost a decade in security and services leadership roles. Ernest has a B.S. in computing security and technology from Drexel University.

[Gary Thompson](#) is a Senior Risk Specialist, at Philadelphia Federal Reserve with over 27 years of experience working in Information Technology. He is a technologist who over his career focused on improving remote access capabilities, security culture and pc operations. Gary's background includes experience in information security and networking, executing security training and awareness programs and business line security consultant programs. Mr. Thompson has a master's degree in Cyber Security from University of Maryland and a B.S. in Information Technology Management from Eastern University with several professional certifications and memberships (CISSP, CISA, Security + and Azure Fundamentals).

Michael B. Benardo is the Associate Director leading the Anti-Money Laundering and Cyber Fraud Branch in the FDIC's Division of Risk Management Supervision. Previously, he served as Chief of the Cyber Fraud and Financial Crimes Section where he led a team of highly skilled staff responsible for developing policy, guidance, examination resources, and training related to cyber fraud and financial crimes; analyzing financial sector threats and vulnerabilities and sharing information with relevant stakeholders; and administering the background check program related to applications submitted to the FDIC.

Mr. Benardo began his career at the FDIC in 1990 in the Jackson, Mississippi field office, and he gained extensive bank examination experience in the Gainesville, Florida field office. He also served as a key member of the FDIC's Year 2000 project team from 1997 through the century date change.

Prior to his employment with the FDIC, Mr. Benardo spent six years working in the commercial banking industry. He worked in a variety of areas including several assignments in bank operations.

Mr. Benardo has a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of South Florida. He is also an active participant in the FDIC's Mentoring Program and the PRIDE Employee Resource Group. He was the 2019 recipient of the FDIC Annie D. Moore EEO, Diversity, and Inclusion Award.

[Mark Tierney](#) is the CTO of SEI Sphere. He has over 25 years of experience in information technology within the financial services domain. Mark has managed global teams in DevOps, data center and network operations, corporate IT and Help Desk operations, and various other technology departments. Most recently Mark has built an IT managed services arm within SEI to assist clients in areas of cybersecurity, risk, network services, and cloud operations and security. Prior to SEI, Mark served as Surface Warfare Officer in the US Navy. Mark holds CISSP and CCSP certifications.